

FIELD NOTES

October 31, 2022 – Fall Edition



FLIGHT 93 FAMILY LEGACY FUND

The Friends organization added *Families of Flight 93 Legacy Fund* on the donate page as an option for donors.

Donations received in the fund in 2022 is over **\$3,000.00.**

Total Funds Available in the Families of Flight 93 Legacy Fund

\$183,864.60



FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Submitted by Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial

HEROES' WALK 2022

The Heroes' Walk 2022 was a successful event this year! The Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial raised almost **\$60,000.00** with the help of walk participants, sponsorships, partnerships, and active donors who donated towards the Western Overlook. Thank you to family members Patrick White, Kiki Homer, Emily Schenkel, Ken Nacke and Gordon Felt for volunteering your time to speak at the walk as well as the Ambassador Recognition Program. We had almost **221** walk participants who joined us all in person!

We had over **200** virtual participants who tuned in virtually! Visit <https://fb.watch/g5l6GsqrYq/> to virtually watch the Heroes' Walk 2022.

THE FRIENDS PARTNERED WITH FORBES TRAIL BREWING TO HOST A NEW EVENT, PINTS FOR PARKS

This year the theme of National Public Lands Day was **GIVING BACK TOGETHER**. Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial, the non-profit partner to Flight 93 National Memorial teamed up with the Forbes Trail Brewery to raise pints and funds for enhancements to the Western Overlook at Flight 93 National Memorial. Enhancements to the overlook include an area where Park Rangers can do interpretation and help visitors understand the historical significance of the space as well as beautification to provide a space where visitors can sit and reflect on the events that occurred on the site over 21 years ago.

Friends invited the public to join them on **Saturday, September 24 beginning at 2:00 PM at Forbes Trail Brewery** where head brew master Mike Fahy has brewed a special **Giving Back Pale Ale**. The Friends have **raised almost \$3,000** towards the Western Overlook enhancements!

Proceeds from the sale of this brew are donated to the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial and the Western Overlook project.

- *Musicians donated their time for the event were Bam and Jeff Perigo, Allison Borek, Stan Supraniwicz and Chris Daugherty.*
- *Smoky Trail BBQ food truck had a variety of food items for sale and sold out!*
- *The Friends had a rendition of the Western Overlook enhancements for participants.*
- *The brewery is child and pet friendly.*
- *Chairs and blankets were allowed for extra seating and comfort.*
- *Event shirts, hats and stickers were available at the brewery.*



FAMILIES TO RUN IN THE NEW YORK MARATHON TO BENEFIT THE FRIENDS (UPDATES)

On November 6, 2022, 10 Flight 93 family members will run the New York City Marathon. This year runners are sponsored by the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial who will be the benefactor of the funds raised. The marathon runners are directing the funds raised towards the Western Overlook Project at the Memorial site. The area has quite a bit of historical significance not only as the area where families had their first look at the crash site, adjacent to this area is where the crime scene investigation was conducted.

Visit our homepage at www.flight93friends.org to help reach the goal of \$25,000!

Family members who are running have raised over \$31,500.00 towards the Western Overlook project!



Contact the Friends

Donna Gibson
P.O. Box 911
Shanksville, PA 15560
724-472-7933
dgibson@Flight93nationalmemorial.org
www.flight93friends.org

WESTERN OVERLOOK ENHANCEMENTS

The Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial have raised almost \$82,000.00 towards the Western Overlook project.



A MESSAGE FROM GORDIE FELT

With every year that we distance ourselves from September 11, 2001, I am concerned that memories of the day will continue to fade and transition from a shared reality to an historical event. As I made my way down to the Memorial from Central New York again this year, I was filled with an unease knowing that this year's coverage and interest on the part of the media was nearly non-existent as compared to the 20th anniversary of last year. Was the American public forgetting the stories of 9/11, moving on, or worse, choosing not to remember through indifference and distraction?

Upon arrival, it did not take long to realize that though the media's interest was waning, the public was just as eager to hear the stories, share their memories and experience the full impact of the Flight 93 National Memorial. As I look back to the programming for the 21st commemoration of September 11th this year, my heart is filled with gratitude and a comfort knowing that the Flight 93 National Memorial is in good hands. I cannot speak highly enough of the professionalism demonstrated year in and year out by the National Park Service and the Friends of Flight 93 as they prepare for this day. It is a huge undertaking with most of the work taking place behind the scenes starting months prior to September. We are lucky to have such a great team working together to honor our heroes.

With your indulgence, I would like to highlight three aspects of the weekend's events that I especially thought brought great value to all those that attended.

1. The Friends of Flight 93 organized a "Heroes' Walk" this year on September 10th that brought together over 500 visitors and family members to raise funds for the Western Overlook project. It was a wonderful opportunity for visitors to not only share their stories of Sept. 11th and ask questions about the heroes of Flight 93, but also to meet family members that were able to personalize the experience for all those in attendance. Patrick White, Kiki

Homer, Emily Schenkel and Kenny Nacke spoke eloquently of their family connection to Flight 93 in a way that visibly touched everyone in attendance. It is my hope that in future years we can include more family members to continue the process of making the experience personal for all those that choose to listen!

The Heroes' Walk ended at the Memorial Plaza and at that time, our group joined in on a well-deserved ceremony recognizing the long-term dedication of our Flight 93 Memorial Ambassadors. I had the privilege of representing the families in thanking this dedicated group of individuals that, from the earliest days, have been telling the story of our 40 individual heroes of Flight 93 and detailing the importance of their collective actions.

2. Those in attendance at the commemorative service this year had the privilege of meeting a large contingent of the USS Somerset crew that had made the trip from San Diego to Somerset County. These dedicated young men and women had a chance to speak with family members about our loved ones on the Sacred Ground, walk through the Visitor's Center to learn the history of Flight 93 with the intention of taking their impressions back to the USS Somerset to share with the rest of the crew. What made this experience even more impressive was that we had three generations of USS Somerset Commanders on-site for this year's ceremony: Captain Bateshansky, Captain Brown and Captain Brandt, representing the past, current and future commanders of the USS Somerset. This group helped to further secure the close bond that we share with this amazing crew and ship!
3. It rained for our service this year which brought back memories of past September 11th services that were challenging due to weather conditions. Yet, the families, volunteers, NPS staff and hundreds of visitors still came out to pay their respects to our 40 heroes. I have always thought that the inconvenience and discomfort of rain, helps ground us when considering the horror of what our loved one's experience in those final moments and makes the experience more personal.

This year's speakers included Rabbi Jeffrey Meyers of Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Congregation, Flight 93 Ambassador Ginny Barnett, Family Representative Connie Hasenei, Interior Sec. Deb Haaland & First Lady Dr. Jill Biden. Each of our speakers brought personal insights and impressions to our service and did a wonderful job of setting a respectful tone. Following the service and wreath laying, our families processed through the ceremonial gates and were able to spend time on the Sacred Ground. The moments we share together on the Sacred Ground are truly special. More so than anywhere else, on the Sacred Ground we are the families of Flight 93, with a shared history, a shared tragedy. It is during these moments that we can renew our strength to carry the spirit of our loved ones in our hearts throughout the coming year and into the future.



I look forward to seeing many of you at the Memorial.

Peace,
Gordie

- Submitted by Flight 93 Family Member, Gordon Felt

FRIENDS DAY OF GIVING 2022

Each year the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, non-profits throughout the United States make an appeal for donors to consider their organization for year-end giving dollars.

This year, the Friends will make an appeal to our donors to contribute to the Friends of Flight 93 2023 Education Scholarship program. The scholarship program, which was created approximately 10 years ago, provides monetary resources to schools to bring their students to the Memorial to learn about the events of 9/11 and specifically the Flight 93 Story.



Last year the Friends and the National Park Service hosted over 10,000 students with a budget of \$70,000. Up until 2020, this scholarship program was funded by two major donors who no longer support education as part of their pillars of giving.

With the cutbacks in school field trip budgets and the fact that 9/11 is currently not required teaching, we feel an even greater need to be able to continue to offer these scholarships for school students. Watch our website for our day of giving appeal. If you would like to contribute to help educate current and future generations on the Flight 93 Story, please consider directing your year-end donation to the Friends of Flight 93 Education Scholarship Program.



- Submitted by Friends of Flight 93

DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS' TESTIMONIALS & REMARKS 2022

"Dear Flight 93, thank you for an extraordinary act of courage. Thank you for choosing to act. "To lose one's life for My sake will find it." May you live forever in our memories and hearts."

- Tracy Lu

"I'm and my late husband are Founding Members and are proud to be a part of this beautiful Memorial."

- Bonnie Hilsmier

"Thank you for all you all do, to keep the memory alive, of those brave souls, passengers, and crew members, who did all they could to fight back and try to help save a nation-As a retired United Airlines flight attendant, I am so very proud of those extraordinary people-I always have wondered if I could have been so brave! May the nation and the world never forget the people of United flight 93 and the souls on the other planes and those in the buildings, who made the ultimate sacrifice, for all of us."

- Aloha, Dawn Snyder-Seelig

"We honor their sacrifice and remember their bravery."

- Lari Young

"Hayes Kemper was our grandson who passed away at age 16 months. We very much enjoyed our recent visit to the Memorial. Thank you for all you do to tell this encouraging American story."

- Gregory and Shelly Bean

"God bless all who perished along with a small gift to help families cope with such a loss."

- Brett J. Gowans

"We have been to your memorial twice. It is the best Memorial we have ever visited! "

- Kelvin & Joan Schoon

"May those lost rest in peace and may the hearts of their loved ones find tranquility."

- Dianne Stillman-Greene



TESTIMONIALS CONTINUE...

“Participants in the GORUCK Flight 93 Basic Memorial Event on Sept 10, 2022, donated their taxi fare to your organization in support of your efforts to beautify the family viewing area of the Flight 93 National Memorial.”

- Christopher Petrillo

“Hello...today was absolutely fantastic. The kids did a great job. They had the opportunity to walk 21 minutes (for the 21st anniversary) 40 minutes (for the 40 heroes on board) or 93 minutes (Flight 93). We had many students walk the entire 93 minutes!

I am also happy to say that we raised \$288.00 for the Friends of Flight 93 with our Hat and Dress Down Day. Thanks so much”

– Amy M. Shellhammer, United School District, Armagh, PA

