



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brooke Neel, 814-893-6552 brooke_neel@partner.nps.gov
Stephen Clark, 814-893-6531 stephen_m_clark@nps.gov

First Responders to Speak on July 22 At Flight 93 National Memorial

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. – Flight 93 first responders Louis Veitz, John Weir, and Stacy Schmitt will be the featured guests at a Flight 93 Speaker Series event on Saturday, July 22, at Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County.

Veitz, Weir, and Schmitt were among the first people on the scene after Flight 93 crashed near Shanksville on September 11, 2001. Veitz and Schmitt were officers with the Pennsylvania State Police, and Weir was an executive with PBS Coal, which owned part of the crash site.

The three men will give their unique perspectives of that day at two sessions on July 22, scheduled for 1 pm and 3 pm. The events are open to the public free of charge and will be held in the Learning Center, adjacent to the Flight 93 Memorial Visitor Center.

The moderator will be Tom McMillan, a member of the board of directors of the Friends of Flight 93 and author of the book *Flight 93: The Story, The Aftermath and The Legacy of American Courage on 9/11*.

New this year, the Flight 93 Speaker Series is a joint effort of the National Park Service and Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial. The summer long series is presented by Somerset Trust.

The fourth and final Speaker Series event of the summer will be held on August 19 and 20 and will feature Flight 93 family members Deborah Borza (mother of passenger Deora Bodley) and Calvin Wilson (brother-in-law of First Officer LeRoy Homer).

ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Established in 2009, the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is the official non-profit supporting partner of Flight 93 National Memorial. The Friends focus on awareness, education, volunteer support, preservation, and stewardship. The Friends of Flight 93 is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit, donations to which are tax deductible. To learn more about the Friends, make a donation to support the memorial, or become a member, visit www.Flight93Friends.org.

ABOUT FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

On September 24, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Flight 93 National Memorial Act. The Act created a new national park unit to commemorate the passengers and crew of Flight 93 who, on September 11, 2001, courageously gave their lives thereby thwarting a planned attack on our nation's capital. The memorial is near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where Flight 93 crashed with the loss of its 40 passengers and crew. For more information on Flight 93 National Memorial visit www.nps.gov/flni.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

More than 22,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at: www.nps.gov.

###