



A Day Like
No Other

On the morning of September 11, 2001, four commercial airliners were hijacked shortly after takeoff in a planned attack against the United States. Two of the flights were deliberately flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, resulting in the loss of 2,792 lives, including plane crews and passengers, building occupants, and rescue workers. A third plane was flown into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, taking the lives of 125 in that building, and all 64 on board the plane. A fourth plane, Flight 93, did not leave the airport on schedule. After a forty-one minute delay on the runway, the flight left Newark (NJ) Airport at 8:42 a.m. and began its journey to San Francisco. But at 9:36 a.m., as the Boeing 757 was nearing Cleveland, Ohio, it abruptly changed course, turning southeast toward the nation’s capital. Shortly before 10 a.m. it was observed flying low and erratically over southwestern Pennsylvania. Just after 10 a.m. the plane crashed, at an estimated speed of more than 500 miles per hour, into a reclaimed strip mine at the edge of the woods in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Emergency responders arriving at the scene minutes after the crash found no survivors. All thirty-three passengers, seven crew members, and the four hijackers were killed.

Story of Heroism

In the hours and days that followed, an astounding story about what happened on board Flight 93 was revealed. When the terrorist-hijackers took over the plane, passengers and crew began telephoning friends, family members, and emergency dispatchers to report the incident. Through these phone calls, those on board Flight 93 learned about the horrific events unfolding at the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon.

As their phone conversations reveal, the passengers and crew of Flight 93 realized that their plane, too, was part of the planned attack. This realization led to a collective decision by the crew and passengers to stop the terrorists from achieving their goal. The story of the heroic actions of the crew and passengers of Flight 93 later was confirmed when the contents of the many mid-air telephone conversations and the cockpit voice recorder were reviewed. All forty of the passengers and crew have been lauded as heroes.

While the nation mourned the loss of life on that day, the selfless actions of the crew and passengers evoked respect and appreciation from people around the world. Speaking at the Flight 93 Memorial site on September 11, 2003, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton said:

We are never going to know the answers to all the questions we have about this day in 2001, and the terrorists who changed our lives. But we do know that three airplanes hit their targets, while the fourth did not. We have bits and pieces of what we believe took place on board Flight 93. The strongest evidence ... is in the existence of this crash site in the woods of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, instead of the White House or the U.S. Capitol. Because of their actions, we will never have to know what would have happened to our seat of government had the hijackers succeeded.

Passengers and
Crew of Flight 93

Christian Adams	Georgine Rose Corrigan	Lauren Grandcolas	Nicole Carol Miller
Lorraine Bay*	Patricia Cushing	Wanda Green*	Louis J. Nacke, II
Todd Beamer	Jason Dahl*	Donald F. Greene	Donald A. Peterson
Alan Beaven	Joseph DeLuca	Linda Gronlund	Jean Peterson
Mark Bingham	Patrick “Joe” Driscoll	Richard Guadagno	Mark “Mickey” Rothenberg
Deora Bodley	Edward Porter Felt	LeRoy Homer, Jr.*	Christine Snyder
Sandra Bradshaw*	Jane Folger	Toshiya Kuge	John Talignani
Marion Britton	Colleen L. Fraser	CeeCee Lyles*	Honor Elizabeth Wainio
Thomas E. Burnett, Jr.	Andrew Garcia	Hilda Marcin	Deborah A. Jacobs Welsh*
William Cashman	Jeremy Glick	Waleska Martinez	Kristin White-Gould
(crew members indicated by *)			

A Temporary Memorial Is Created

Almost immediately after the crash, visitors began arriving in Somerset County to see the place where the path of Flight 93 ended. Realizing the public’s need to visit here, to search for understanding and to pay respect, local officials and volunteers created a temporary memorial on a hilltop overlooking the crash site. Here, visitors may gaze over the grassy fields, visually following the flight path of the plane to the crash site, an area now planted with grass and enclosed by a fence. Over 200,000 visitors have come to this temporary memorial in its first two years.

Because many visitors to the site have questions about the events that transpired here on September 11, 2001, a group of local residents organized to staff the temporary memorial. These volunteers, known as “Ambassadors,” have familiarized themselves with the facts surrounding the event, and are ready to answer questions, give driving directions, and most importantly, provide a human point of contact for the thousands of visitors who continue to come to the site each week.

Progress Toward a Permanent Memorial

On September 24, 2002, the *Flight 93 National Memorial Act* (P.L.107-226) was passed by Congress and signed by the President, creating the Flight 93 National Memorial. The purpose of the memorial is to honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93 and their courageous actions to thwart an attack on our nation's capital. The National Memorial will be managed as a unit of the National Park System. A task force of Flight 93 families, community members, subject experts, and the National Park Service is working with a Federal Advisory Commission to make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and

At the temporary memorial visitors see a 40’ long section of fencing which has become a collage of flowers, flags, handwritten messages, artwork, and tributes of every description. The array of painted rocks, crosses, plaques, ball caps, patches, flags, and angels left at the site, and the journals in which visitors may write their thoughts, are a heartfelt record of the nation’s feelings about this event and the heroes who were aboard Flight 93.

Items left at the temporary memorial are being cared for by volunteers and staff of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County. Items needing to be removed from the weather are taken to the Somerset Historical Center to be cleaned, catalogued, and stored. The Flight 93 Collection, already numbering over 12,000 objects, eventually will be turned over to the National Park Service. For more information about the collection, contact the Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County at (814) 445-6077.

Visiting the Temporary Memorial

- The temporary memorial is located on a very windy hilltop. Most visitors find the site much colder than the place from which they came. The memorial is not lighted at night.
- Somerset County has adopted the following policies regarding the site: (1) no solicitation, concessions, brochures, signs, or advertisements are permitted; (2) overnight parking or loitering at the site are prohibited; (3) planting of trees, flowers, or shrubs will not be allowed; and (4) no structures are to be installed at the site.
- The Flight 93 Temporary Memorial is a place for quiet reflection and expressions of respect. Help maintain the dignity of the site by not smoking or bringing pets, food, or drink into the memorial area.
- Visitors may write their thoughts or simply record their visit in bound books or on comment cards provided at the temporary memorial. These books

- and comment cards will be archived as part of the Flight 93 permanent collection. Please do not write on memorial tributes left by others.
- Groups planning to place large tributes at the site or organizing programs to be held there are asked to contact the Chairperson of the Temporary Memorial Committee of the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force (814) 443-4557.
 - The Temporary Memorial is located on private property. Please respect the owner’s rights by not trespassing beyond the shale area of the memorial and the paved parking areas.
 - The crash site itself, located about 500 yards south of the temporary memorial, is accessible only to family members of those killed on Flight 93. Somerset County Sheriff’s deputies are on duty at the site 24 hours per day.

Driving Directions

From Somerset: from Exit #110 of the PA Turnpike, follow signs for Rte. 281 north. Take Route 281 north 9.5 miles to US 30 at Stoystown. Travel 2.4 miles east on US 30 to Lambertsville Road. Travel 1.7 miles on Lambertsville Road to Skyline Road. Travel 1 mile on Skyline Road to the Temporary Memorial.

From Route 30 East: Turn left on Buckstown Road, 25 miles west of Bedford. Travel 3 miles on Buckstown Road to Skyline Road. Travel 1 mile on Skyline Road to the Temporary Memorial.

From Route 30 West: Turn right on Lambertsville Road, 2.4 miles east of Stoystown. Travel 1.7 miles on Lambertsville Road to Skyline Road. Travel 1 mile on Skyline Road to the Temporary Memorial.

