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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Flight 93 National Memorial*

**FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL TASK FORCE CHAIR JOINS  
FAMILIES OF FLIGHT 93 IN SUPPORT OF MEMORIAL DESIGN**

(Somerset, PA, July 31, 2008) – Flight 93 National Memorial Task Force Co-Chair Jerry Spangler today renewed a call for an end to attacks by critics of the Memorial’s design, most recently issued by Flight 93 family members at a news conference in early May.

“This small group of individuals continues to misread and misrepresent the design. The Flight 93 National Memorial is a uniquely American commemoration to 40 heroes who fought for freedom and the defense of our nation’s capital,” said Spangler.

Spangler said Task Force members, as always, are ready to stand up in support of the winning design that was chosen from more than 1,000 entries through a completely open and democratic selection process. “We, like so many Flight 93 family members, citizens of this community and from around the country, believe further debate on this issue is pointless.

What truly continues is overwhelming support for building this Memorial as designed.”

Flight 93 family members held a news conference in Pittsburgh May 1 to dismiss claims that the Flight 93 National memorial glorifies Islam and the terrorists who took over the plane on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

“We said then and continue to say, ‘Enough’,” commented Patrick White, whose cousin, Louis “Joey Nacke II, was one of the Flight 93 passengers. White also serves as Task Force Co-Chair, as well as Vice President of the Families of Flight 93.

White said the Family of Flight 93 organization’s board of directors unanimously voted its support for the chosen Memorial design in 2007. “This design will not be changed based upon the idea that someone sees crescents everywhere,” he added.

Joanne Hanley, Flight 93 National Memorial National Park Service Superintendent said that she regrets the Memorial design critics’ position, but it is a distortion of the facts.

“The design is a memorial landscape formed from the shape of the land, direction of the United Flight 93 flight path, and location of the impact site creates a place of remembrance and reflection that forever honors the 40 heroes that defeated terrorism aboard Flight 93.

“The National Park Service and the Flight 93 Memorial partners have carefully and thoroughly investigated all claims about the Memorial’s design. Renowned scholars and academics in mathematics and religion all agree there is absolutely no merit to any of the dissenters’ claim,” Hanley added.

The Flight 93 National Memorial Task Force is a broad-based, inclusive organization made up of individuals from the community, region and across the United States, including Flight 93 family members, as well as Flight 93 partner group representatives. The Task Force was formalized by creation of the Flight 93 National Memorial Act in 2002 (Public Law 107-226).

The permanent Flight 93 National Memorial will serve to honor the heroism, courage and enduring sacrifice of the 40 passengers and crew of Flight 93. It will tell the story of the extraordinary acts of the 40 passengers and crew, and will be a place for individuals to learn about the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and find meaning and inspiration in their experience.

### **About the Flight 93 National Memorial**

On Sept. 24, 2002, Congress passed 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 Sept. 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 heroic forty passengers and crew.

The Flight 93 National Memorial project made history as the first national park designed entirely through an open, public design competition. The year-long, international competition received more than 1,000 submissions created by professionals and members of the general public.

A diverse jury comprised of family members, community representatives, and design professionals chose the winning design because it most completely exemplifies the mission of the memorial: “A common field one day - A field of honor forever.” The final design for the Flight 93 National Memorial was created by Paul Murdoch Architects of Los Angeles and Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects.

The winning design was announced on Sept. 7, 2005, in Washington, D.C. The design can be viewed online at [www.honorflight93.org](http://www.honorflight93.org). When completed, the National Park Service will continue as the steward of the Flight 93 National Memorial. A dedication of the permanent Memorial is planned for September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011.