



Flight 93 Volunteer Newsletter

December 2007

Volunteer's Artwork Reflected on Ornament

On Tuesday, October 23rd many of you received a beautiful print with calligraphy created by Ginny Barnett reflecting the wildflowers at the crash site. (If you did not, please stop and see me at the office.) Ginny's art was later modified for an ornament to decorate the White House's Christmas Tree. I have asked Ginny to share with you about the creation of her art.

Submitted by Ginny Barnett:

The story behind the words:

REMEMBER September 11, 2001
HONOR the innocent & brave we lost that day
CHOOSE to make a difference
HOPE for tomorrow

As I read the Mission Statement of Flight 93 National Memorial, these are the words that came to mind. I put them to paper in calligraphy wanting to use them on note-cards as a fundraiser for the memorial fund. The painting came later. As you all know, the crash site was backfilled and planted with grass and wildflowers. The painting is my attempt to capture the natural beauty of the crash site in full summer bloom – a living testimony of those words.



NPS Photo



NPS Photo

Ginny Barnett holds the ornament that will represent Flight 93 National Memorial on the White House Christmas Tree.

Soon after developing this, the White House contacted us. They shared their plan to celebrate national parks by decorating the official White House Christmas tree with special ornaments representing each park. They wanted the ornaments to depict the unique aspects of each park. Joanne asked if I might give it a try for Flight 93! I must admit I broke out in a cold sweat and my heart pounded each time I thought about putting brush to ornament! But because of the words above, I already had a semblance of a design. This became the central feature of the ornament.

I decorated the top and bottom with evergreen branches of the hemlock trees that border the field where the crash occurred. A red ribbon weaves in and out of the branches, and carries the message: "Do not be overcome by evil, but

overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21.

My experiences as a Red Cross volunteer in Shanksville and NYC, and now for Flight 93 NM, have taken me on a roller coaster ride of emotions. The words reflect the mission statement and my journey of healing...with its ultimate conclusion: HOPE for tomorrow. These words also reflect the *national* healing that needs to take place and what Flight 93 National Memorial is all about. May we never forget, but also look forward with hope!

Blessings to you all, Ginny

We won't forget Ginny. Thank you for sharing your talent with all of us, so that it may serve as a reminder!

The ornament Ginny painted will decorate the Christmas tree located in the White House's Blue Room. She was invited to the White House, representing Flight 93 National Memorial.

Upcoming Training

Article Submitted by Donna Glessner

The Ambassador Advisory Team is pleased to announce plans for several exciting training opportunities and trips in the coming months. The team developed a list of speakers and subjects to be addressed in these trainings—all with an eye toward improving our understanding of the subject and our interpretation at the site. These sessions will be strictly training—not social events—and open only to our volunteers. We hope you will make every effort to attend these sessions as important (cont. on pg. 2)

December Calendar:

Dec. 4 Ambassador Training #1 with guest speaker *Wally Miller*, Somerset County Coroner @ 6:30 PM

Dec. 25 Christmas Day-Park Office is closed

Message from the VIP Coordinator:

This month I received a thank you card from our very own, *Ambassador Janet Thomas* written to all of you. I would like to share her words:

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the lovely card. You made me smile! I have missed being part of the Ambassador group this year. My surgery was late July and recovery to walking was 3 months. I continue to work at physical therapy and I know I'm getting stronger. I appreciate your warm thoughts and prayers and the many cards you have sent.

Bruce has been the best nurse, cook, limo driver and physical therapy partner. I can't wait to repay all of his good works (He too needs a knee replacement!) Have a wonderful holiday season.

With love,

Janet Thomas



Photo by Chuck Wagner

U.A. Flight Attendant pins left on angels at the Memorial by a family member. (Top to Bottom the stones in the pins represent the years of service of Lorraine Bay, Wanda Green, Sandy Bradshaw, Deborah Welsh & Cee Cee Lyles)

NPS Photography:

Chuck Wagner
Donna Glessner
Leroy Homer image
Courtesy of Melodie Homer

Contributors:

Ginny Barnett
Donna Glessner

December Passenger & Crew Focus

These are biographies that have been provided by Flight 93 family members. This month we will continue with a feature on First Officer, Leroy Homer.



Leroy W. Homer Jr. was the First Officer on United Airlines #93 when the plane crashed in Shanksville, PA on September 11th, 2001. He had been with United Airlines since 1995.

Leroy developed his love of airplanes at a very young age. As a little boy he would accompany his dad to the airport to watch planes take and land. By the time he was sixteen he was licensed to fly small planes. He graduated from the US Air Force Academy, class of 1987, 31st Squadron. Leroy served his country as a captain, flying the C-141 Starlifter for the United States Air Force, both in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Leroy was a genuine, thoughtful, caring individual, who took a real interest in everyone he met, making friends wherever he traveled. Although soft-spoken, his good-natured personality and sense of humor helped him win people over immediately. For those who came in contact with him, their lives will have been forever touched.

Leroy and Melodie (nee Thorpe) met through mutual friends. Their relationship began as a long distance one, Melodie living in California at the time, LeRoy residing in New Jersey. Melodie relocated

to New Jersey, and the two were married on May 24, 1998 in her hometown church, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. From that union, their daughter Laurel Nicole was born October 25, 2000.

LeRoy had many passions in his life. Travel was doubtlessly the biggest one. LeRoy was able to travel all over the world with the United States Air Force. Once LeRoy and Melodie married, they took many more trips together. LeRoy had a love for photography, focusing on taking shots of sunsets on these trips. LeRoy also loved having a family. He strived for the best - for himself, his wife, his daughter, his family and friends.

Remember Leroy Wilton Homer Jr. our hero was born on August 27, 1965, not made on September 11, 2001. We are all very proud of him, his life and everything he was.



Photo by Chuck Wagner

Temporary Memorial from atop dragline Fall '07

Training (Cont. from pg 1)

information will be related at each one.

The first of these events has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 4 at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Shanksville, beginning at 6:30 PM. Our speaker will be Somerset County Coroner Wally Miller. Wally will share the story of his pivotal role on September 11th and the busy months afterward, then be open to take your questions. Please come prepared to participate in this informative session. A schedule of all the planned trainings and trips for 2008 will be included in the January newsletter.