

09-11-04 Flight 93 Memorial Service

During an August planning session in Monroeville, the question was raised, “Has anyone heard of any service to honor the 09-11-01 crash of Flight 93 in Shanksville?” The group discussion and following week’s investigation turned up nothing in way of a formal tribute to those who knowingly perished to save many, and, forever redefined the phrase, “Let’s Roll!”



ALR-(09-11-04)-DSCF0010

Saddened that no service was available for the American Legion Riders to attend, the biker’s resolve and indomitable spirit kicked in. It was then decided. There would be a group memorial service; it would be at the Shanksville crash site; it would be on 09-11-04; and, it would be conducted by the American Legion Riders of Posts 820 (Monroeville) and 117 (Butler)!

Meeting times and locations were arranged so the Riders would be prepared for the day.

Making their last turn toward the crash site, the Riders and their motorcycle mounted, full color guard received a quick but respectful salute from two Pennsylvania State Police Officers, and then proceeded to park, dismount and come together as a group.

A quick look around the parking area found a small number of cars, a few park rangers, a respectable number of other motorcycles and a seemingly endless line of tour buses, but no formal service. All along, the Riders felt that doing their own service was good; now they were sure they were right.



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From the parking area, a visually captivating force of 59 leather-vested representatives of the Riders, proudly displaying their American Legion colors, descended on foot to the crash site.

The Riders solemnly viewed their surroundings and reflected on the somber and tragic event that brought them to a desolate field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Butch McGary, Riders’ Region 2 Director, respectfully placed a Legion Riders flag, permanently emblazoned with Post numbers 117 and 820, in memory of those who bravely gave their lives. To close their ceremony, the Riders joined together in a group prayer, realizing their lives and our Country were safer because someone aboard Flight 93 gave the selfless order, “Let’s Roll!”



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Post 820 Representatives: Ed Balas; Joyce Balas; Bob Banaszak; Terry Banaszak; Cliff Bish; Nancy Bish; Tom Brenkus; Bob Carson; Cindy Carson; Joe Dean; Paul DeMaglio; Bob DeMarcki; Joe DiBattista; Paul Fedele;

Michele Harvat; Bill Hixon; Bill Holby; Steve Horvath; Jennifer Kitchen; Jim Kitchen; Ed Kirby; Mike Lang; Bob Lewis; Ellen Lewis; Willy Lewis; Al Martini; Margie McAndrew; Pat McAndrew; Butch McGary; Sue McGary; Bill Miller; Robert Panuccio; Rebecca Pillage; Tom Pillage; Pebbles Springer; Cindy Snow; Ken Snow; Denise Tuscan; and, Martin Winkler.

Post 117 Representatives: Jon Bunyan; Joni Bunyan; John Burkett; Jennifer Connor; Shane Connor; Bill Evans; Bob Gilson; Doug Gilson; Nancy Gilson; Scott Gilson; Bob McDonald; Lorraine McDonald; Ron Scott; Phil Sleigher and granddaughter, Stephanie; Andy Stewart; Mark Stewart; Charlie Thompson; Frances Vissari; and, John Vissari.

Photo Descriptions/Captions:

ALR-(09-11-04)-DSCF0010-S: Depicts the area reserved for mounting honorariums, tributes, etc;

ALR-(09-11-04)-DSCF0012-S: Photo featuring a white Riders flag marked with Post numbers 820 and 117;

ALR-(09-11-04)-DSCF 0013-S: Honorarium area with Region 2 Director, Butch McGary, in the front right foreground;

ALR-(09-11-04)-DSCF0018-S: Shows the ending group prayer.



ALR-(09-11-04)-DSCF0018