

## Towering Voices at 9/11 Flight 93 Memorial

Required Annotations		Student-Created Annotations		Summary / Questions / Reflection	
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Student-created	Required (bold)
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This Sunday September 9, 2018, The National Park Service will mark the dedication of “The Tower of Voices,” a 93-foot high tower of wind chimes that stands in Pennsylvania, at the entrance to the 2,200 square National Memorial Park dedicated to the 40 heroes of Flight 93 who perished on 9/11.

The task of memorializing what occurred on September 11, 2001 has taken many years and many forms. If you’ve had the opportunity to visit the 9/11 memorial in New York and or visit the 9/11 Museum there, you get a sense of the magnitude of the loss as well as the creation of a solemn dignified response that remembers the almost 3000 victims who lost their lives that day.

However, New York’s two World Trade Center buildings were only two of the four planned targets. The other two targets were in Washington, D.C.

American Airlines flight 77 was **commandeered** by the terrorists and flown directly to strike the Pentagon, killing 64 people on board and 125 people in the building. The Pentagon has built its own moving memorial outside the building, consisting of a series of benches flanked by trees commemorating those who died.

The other flight, United Airlines Flight 93 was intended to strike the White House. However, mid-flight over Pennsylvania, passengers and crew members tried to overtake the terrorists and the plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where there had once been a coal strip mine. All 44 people on board (including four terrorists) were killed, but there was no injury to any person on the ground.

In the days immediately following the crash in Pennsylvania, visitors left their own **impromptu** and heartfelt tributes to the murdered. At first individual foundations raised funds for a memorial. However, creating a memorial was complicated by the fact that the crash site was privately owned by PBS Coals, the owner of the prior coal strip mine, and there was a possible need for environmental **remediation** on some of the property. However, two years later, Congress, determined to create a lasting memorial on the crash site, passed the Flight 93 National Memorial Act which enabled the National Park Service together with donors large and small, to secure land for the memorial. At the same time, an advisory board that included a jury of architects, designers, as well as family and community members, created a two-stage international design competition to select the appropriate memorial design.

The design competition’s first phase began on September 11, 2004 and attracted some 1,200 entries from 30 states and 10 countries. From those, five design teams were chosen as finalists. Finally, in September 2005, the winning design was announced: “Crescent of Embrace,” by Paul Murdoch Architects of Los Angeles.

It would take almost a decade to complete the public memorial, which opened to the victims' family members on September 10, 2011. The final piece of the memorial is the Tower of Voices, the 93-foot tower of windchimes which, as mentioned above, will stand at the entrance to the park and will be publicly dedicated to the families this Sunday in advance of the 9/11 anniversary.

The final installation is as much work of land art as memorial: A visitor's center of permanent and temporary exhibits sits at the edge of a giant bowl-like field that looks out at the impact site. From there, a one-mile-long path winds along the edge of the bowl with a long, sloping black wall that marks the edge of the crash site. In the distance are the fields and woods where the final remains of the passengers and crew members rest. Beyond the site sits a **hemlock** grove damaged by the crash, as well as a giant rock that marks the impact site. Only family members are allowed to enter the field.

As the visitors' path winds its way along the edge of the field, benches offer places of **contemplation**, and there are also places to leave personal offerings. Finally, there is 'The Wall of Names,' a series of forty white marble panels each **inscribed** with the name of a murdered passenger or crew member. The wall leads to a wooden ceremonial gate where visitors can stand and look down the actual flight path to the impact site.

In a field outside Shanksville, PA, chimes will sound beginning this Sunday, reminding us of voices tragically lost, of a terrible crime committed, and of the 40 passengers and crew members, heroes all, who having been memorialized, can never be forgotten.

### Questions

1. List the who, what, where, when, and why of the news item.
  - a) Who
  - b) What
  - c) Where
  - d) When
  - e) Why
2. Draw a picture of the memorial based on the text above.