

Flight 93 memorial funds sought

Families of 9/11 victims cite kin's bravery, sacrifice

Thursday, March 10, 2011

By Andrew Miga, The Associated Press



Cliff Owen/Associated Press

Sarah Wainio is hugged by Calvin Wilson Wednesday in Washington, D.C., after she became emotional while talking about her sister, Honor Elizabeth Wainio, who died aboard United Airlines Flight 93.

WASHINGTON -- Families of those who died on United Airlines Flight 93 said Wednesday they hope Congress won't forget the heroism displayed aboard the hijacked flight as it considers giving more federal money for a 9/11 memorial at the crash site in Pennsylvania.

Family members said they're reminding lawmakers that if not for the heroic actions of those on the plane, members of Congress could have been among the victims on Sept. 11, 2001.

"So many times they forget they were the target and that these heroes we are trying to memorialize helped them live another day," said Calvin Wilson of Herndon, Va., a construction company project manager whose brother-in-law, LeRoy Homer Jr., was first officer on the flight.

Flight 93 was traveling from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco when it was hijacked with the likely goal of crashing into the White House or the Capitol, the 9/11 Commission found. Passengers fought back and the plane crashed into a field near rural Shanksville, about 65 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. All 33 passengers and seven crew members died.

"All 40 of those people on that plane made it possible [for members of Congress] to get their job done," said Deborah Borza of Foxfire Village, N.C., whose daughter Deora Frances Bodley, 20, died in the crash. "It was my daughter's honor to die that day so people here

could take care of the nation's business, still. We are still reaping the benefits of that sacrifice today."

Family members are meeting with members of Congress over the next few days to urge approval of the \$3.7 million for the memorial that President Barack Obama requested in his new budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

They will also meet with Obama administration officials.

The memorial's first phase, including a wall with the names of the victims, will be dedicated on the 10th anniversary of the crash.

"It's so bittersweet," Mr. Wilson said. "A lot of the wounds are re-opened that day."

The current phase memorial is expected to cost \$60 million. Congress has already provided \$10 million, Pennsylvania is giving \$18.5 million, and about \$20 million has been raised privately.

Family members said they hope their push for federal funding won't be hurt by the budget-slashing fervor in Congress.

"We work very hard to stay as apolitical as possible," said Gordon Felt of Remsen, N.Y., whose brother, Edward Felt, was a passenger.

The memorial will be about 2 square miles.

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