



## **9/11 A Decade Later: Families Of United Flight 93 Victims Yearn For National Memorial**

**May 18, 2011**



*Family members of the victims of United Flight 93, which was hijacked and crashed into a rural field in Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001, want to honor their loved ones through a new national memorial. NY1's Bobby Cuza filed the following report.*

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Ed Felt knew his flight was not the only one overtaken by hijackers. Through phone calls, passengers and crew members aboard United Flight 93 learned about the attacks on the World Trade Center site and the Pentagon.

The hijackers chose to crash Flight 93 as some of the passengers and crew attempted to storm the cockpit.

“They decided to act. They chose not to sit back and allow themselves to be used as pawns,” says Gordon Felt, Ed Felt’s surviving brother.

Now the president of the Flight 93 Families Association, Gordon Felt vividly recalls what the field in Shanksville, Penn. looked like just days after the terror attacks.

“There was really just a crater. When the plane came in, it was traveling 600 mph. It was inverted, when it crashed into the ground,” says Felt.

Recently, members of the Flight 93 Families Association met with the National Parks Service and local authorities to discuss the long-awaited opening of the Flight 93 National Memorial. The \$60 million memorial will tell the story of Flight 93, though many details are still unknown.

“There were some very basic actions that they took that lead us to believe that they acted heroically in a collective venture,” says Felt.

It is that heroic story that the families want to honor through the memorial. Calvin Wilson lost his brother-in-law, LeRoy Holmer, Jr., the first officer on Flight 93, and he feels the story is still overlooked.

“We’re excited about the park opening, but we still feel we need to get that message out there. And we feel we need to push to let people understand who the 40 heroes were,” says Wilson.

The families of the victims say that push is necessary.

“The incident has always taken a backseat to the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and what we try to do is have people realize that we have citizen-heroes who have gone unnoticed,” says Wilson.

Organizers anticipate that the memorial will draw upwards of a half-million visitors per year once it is dedicated on September 10.