

# We Will Never Forget



Today, Sept. 11, 2011, the Air Line Pilots Association remembers the terrible attacks that took place in the United States of America 10 years ago. ♦ We recognize the untold bravery of the cockpit crews, cabin crews, and passengers who were aboard United Airlines Flight 175, United Airlines Flight 93, American Airlines Flight 11, and American Airlines Flight 77. ♦ We remain humbled by those on the ground who faced unspeakable horror with unshakable courage. Words are inadequate to honor the first responders, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and so many others who confronted danger without hesitation in the hope of saving others. And we stand united in spirit with the families of the pilots and all those who suffered loss that day, but who continue to face the future with determination to carry on. ♦ On Sept. 11, 2001, we lost our colleagues, our friends, and our family. ♦ On Sept. 11, 2011, the more than 53,000 members of the Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l fortify our commitment to commemorate these fallen heroes by pursuing all action necessary to secure our skies, safeguard our flights, and prevail over those who would do us harm.

9-11 shaped airline pilots' lives this past decade. It's on the forefront of pilots' minds almost as much as the flight number, triggering a response day in and day out.  
Photo by F/O Sean K. O'Connor (Alaska)

## ALPA Remembers 9-11

Under beautiful sunny skies, more than 200 pilots, families, and ALPA staff attended the Association's 9-11 ceremony honoring the fallen flight crews of the four airliners that were used in terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The event took place in ALPA's 9-11 Memorial Garden erected in 2006 in Herndon, Va.

"As we reflect on the 10th anniversary of September 11 and how it changed us, I know that professional pilots will be forever guided by wisdom, moved by compassion, and led by courage," said ALPA's president, Capt. Lee Moak. "We continue to hope for our safety in the air and for the passengers who entrust their lives in us every day.

"Today we remember the crews and passengers of those four flights and the first responders on the ground. They left a heroic legacy of dedication to their professional duties in the face of imminent danger and inexhaustible courage in the face of overwhelming terror. Today serves as a reminder that, although our profession was hit hard, we still stand strong, unified, and resolute."

Following a moment of silence, Capt. Paul Rice (United), a former ALPA first vice president, read the names of the flight crews of United Flight 175 and Flight 93 and American Airlines Flight 11 and 77. He was followed by Capt. Steve Brashear, chairman of United Council 11, who shared his personal experience on the morning of the attacks as captain of a flight headed to Denver.

## Capt. Steve Brashear's Remarks



**Capt. Brashear**

Capt. Moak, fellow pilots, and guests: Thank you for this invitation to speak. It's indeed an honor for me, and one I'm not certain I deserve.

I've been asked to comment on 9-11 from a personal perspective. After 10 years, we have become numbed to it by image after image and voluminous commentary. I would ask that as I speak, you try to recall the utter astonishment and complete disbelief we all felt as the event occurred.

On Sept. 11, 2001, I was flying. It was Flight 1524 from Sacramento to Denver. It was an early departure, 6 a.m., about the time the tragic events were unfolding in New York.

Shortly after leveloff, we began to receive messages on our ACARS printer. I've saved them.

The first one read:

"Possible hijack in progress at NY CTR; EWR, JFK, LGA all shut down due to World Trade Center crash of two large aircraft. Possible United/American. Not sure yet of companies involved. Please limit cockpit access due to this..."

Two minutes later:

"Nationwide ground stop in progress. All aircraft!"

We were stunned. I held the messages between me and my first officer. We read them in silence and disbelief. When I finally spoke, my first words were for the pilots. Slowly and almost under my breath, I said, "They killed the pilots." None of us would fly a plane into a building even with a gun to our heads. "They must have killed the pilots!"

In the next minutes, several more messages were exchanged, and we were diverted to Salt Lake City. Enroute I commented that with the entire nation under a ground stop, we would probably be on the tarmac a long time awaiting a gate and that this could be a long day on board this plane. No sooner



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**Above: More than 200 people attended ceremonies at ALPA's 9-11 memorial.**

**Right: Capt Moak addresses the attendees.**

**Below: Capt. Couette, left, and Capt. Helling place a wreath in front of the memorial.**



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CHRIS MCCARTHY

**Lights showing where the twin towers stood against the New York city skyline.**  
Photo by Capt. Dave Farley (American Eagle)



had I said that than another message came over that said:

“Gate will be available upon landing. Deplane passengers ASAP I have been told.”

That’s when we first became scared. This message made it clear that the event was still in progress, and the extent was unknown. There could be other perpetrators on other airplanes. We landed, deplaned, and went into the terminal. And like every American that day, we positioned ourselves in front of a TV screen and watched the grim truth.

We were in SLC two days before we continued the flight to Denver. Out of 104 passengers who departed Sacramento with us, only 4 returned for the continuation to Denver.

In Denver, we were on the ground only a few hours. The company provided a B-747 to go from hub to hub picking up and depositing employees to get them home. We landed at sunup at IAD. I had a two-hour drive home that I made in silence. My route home goes past the church that my family and I belong to. It was open with a message inviting people in. It was the morning of September 14. I went in. It was empty. I sat in a rear pew and cried.

After that, like all of us, I have had time to contemplate what happened to our brothers and sisters that day. And it caused me to think about what we all do each day.

Vic, Jason, Mike, and LeRoy and their flying partners found themselves unknowingly, unexpectedly, and without preparation on the front line of an attack. In the blink of an eye, they became our fallen comrades and honored heroes. They did not want to be, but they did not get a choice. A cowardly act of evil

enemies took them from us in an instant. Fate called upon them to take the fatal blows of a surprise attack.

If they were here today, they may not recognize many aspects of our profession. Much has changed in the 10 years we have lived without them. But hopefully they would recognize our resolve and devotion to this profession and to our American way of life.

On 9-11, the absolute purest in American spirit came to the surface and eventually prevailed. When our pilots were murdered and their planes were hurled at their defenseless targets, innocent lives were taken from all of us. Yet when passengers rose up on Flight 93, the deadly mission of the terrorists could not be completed. And as the towers collapsed, the firefighters, police, and other rescue workers gave their lives freely to save those they thought could still be saved.

Only the spirit that lives within the citizens of a free nation can cause such a response as we witnessed that day!

It now falls to us, as a tribute to them and in memory of their sacrifice, to live the way they would have lived. And to show each day that the spirit that made people rise up to help their fellow Americans still burns within each of us. We have all had 10 years of life that they did not get. And we must live in a way that shows that the ties that bind us to them—the ties of spiritual and resolute devotion to this profession and our American heritage—cannot be broken, not by time, and not by death!

And finally, to the families: to the spouses, the children, the parents, and the extended families of our fallen brothers and sisters, I would say, do not despair, but find comfort in knowing that on that fateful day you and your lost loved ones became “family” to all of us. Indeed, because of their sacrifice, we have all become “family.” And as “family,” we will never forget!

#### HONORING THE FALLEN

Hundreds of memorials have been erected, including those in New York City; Shanksville, Pa.; Arlington, Va.; and Yardley, Pa., to honor those who lost their lives in the 9-11 attacks. Go to “The Landing,” page 37, to view a few of these memorials.



To view pilot testimonials, a photo slide show of the Herndon Remembrance Ceremony, and more, go to [www.alpa.org/neverforget911](http://www.alpa.org/neverforget911). To view Capt. Brashear’s comments, scan the QR code.



## Together We Are Strong: Reflecting on a Decade of Volunteerism

As a young man walking the streets of lower Manhattan, I would look skyward and be comforted by the presence of the two large towers. As a pilot, the World Trade Center symbolized the end of my day as I navigated toward New York City.

Little did I know that on that clear September morning the tall beacons that directed me in the air would be destroyed by terrorists. I turned on my television to see the twin towers fall, and my heart sank. As I sat helplessly watching the tragic events unfold, I also knew that we are a strong nation and would persevere. Reflecting on the tragic events, I asked myself, "What can I do?"

How can one pilot make a difference? I decided to volunteer and help the pilots and their families affected by the attacks. I remembered that our union had an army of volunteer pilots who helped with various issues, including training, maintaining professional standards, and helping families cope with the many issues at home.

For the past 10 years, I have volunteered with many organizations. One position closest to my heart is serving as chairman of the committee representing our furloughed pilots. Thousands of pilots nationwide were furloughed as a direct result of the attacks. Some are still on furlough 10 years later.

It can be difficult at times, especially when hearing the devastation in the voices of those who lost their jobs. My most challenging moment was during a call from a spouse of one of our furloughed pilots. She relayed to me how her husband had not been able to get a job and that her child needed food. The young mother stated, "Today was the lowest point in my life because of my experience at the Public

Welfare Office." The case worker laughed when this young mother said her husband was an airline pilot. She ran out of the office and never returned.

Fighting back tears, she said people do not understand the low wages starting airline pilots make. I told her that resources were available through the Air Line Pilots Association and that I, along with the rest of the union, would stand strong to assist her. Through our union's assistance program and the selfless donations of our pilots, she was able to feed her family and secure insurance.

It has been 10 years since the attacks on our country, and we are still feeling the effects in the airline industry. Through acts of kindness and the many pilot volunteers, we remain strong.

Volunteerism is one of the threads that weave the fabric of our country, making us a stronger nation. I encourage you to get involved in one of the many organizations that assist pilots who have lost their jobs. Additionally, there are many organizations that use our pilot skills to help others. There is a wonderful feeling of accomplishment and pride one feels when giving back to society in a selfless act of volunteerism.

For some, volunteering may mean folding letters or making phone calls. For others, it might mean donating their spare time or money to help others. All forms and levels of volunteerism are very important to the strengthening of our nation, our airline community, and our pilot group because together we are strong.

Your pilot volunteer,  
Capt. Carl Valeri (*ExpressJet*)

## In Memoriam

Sept. 11, 2001

### United Airlines Flight 93

Capt. Jason Dahl and F/O LeRoy Homer, Jr.; flight attendants Lorraine Bay, Sandy Bradshaw, Wanda Green, Cee Cee Lyles, and Deborah Welsh

### United Airlines Flight 175

Capt. Victor Saracini and F/O Michael Horrocks; flight attendants Robert Fangman, Amy Jarret, Amy King, Kathryn Laborie, Alfred Marchand, Jesus Sanchez (off duty), Michael Tarrou, and Alicia Titus

### American Airlines Flight 11

Capt. John Ogonowski and F/O Tom McGuiness; flight attendants Barbara Arestegui, Jeffery Collman, Sara Low, Karen Martin, Kathleen Nicosia, Betty Ong, Jean Roger, Dianne Snyder, and Madeline Sweeney

### American Airlines Flight 77

Capt. Charles Burlingame, F/O David Charlebois, and Capt. Bud Flagg (a retired American Airlines pilot who was a passenger); flight attendants Michelle Heidenberger, Jennifer Lewis, Kenneth Lewis, and Renee May

**Never Forget**



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ALPA's 9-11 monument and Memorial Garden.



To view the ALPA Remembers 9-11 video, scan the QR code.