

September 14, 2005

On September 11, 2001, our loved ones sacrificed themselves for our country. In the past week, we were fortunate to announce the selected design for the Flight 93 National Memorial. We view this memorial as a befitting tribute and celebration of their lives. Unfortunately, we continue to receive comments and questions from others who seem to be misinformed regarding a portion of the selected design to memorialize the 40 passengers and crew of Flight 93.

The Crescent of Embrace is a portion of a 2,200 acre memorial that will reside near Shanksville, PA at the crash site and current temporary memorial.

The Families of Flight 93 support the selected design of the Flight 93 National Memorial. Paul Murdoch Architects has created a lasting tribute to our loved ones' heroism, but more importantly will provide all people, regardless of race or religion, a healing place for generations to come.

A great deal of time and effort has gone into this initiative. Family members have been instrumental in all aspects of the design process, including developing the Memorial Mission Statement; serving as co-chair of the oversight committee responsible for the design competition; holding seats on the Federal Advisory Commission and actively participating in the design competition's Stage I and Stage II Juries.

Since the announcement of the Memorial design, we have welcomed Paul Murdoch and his team into our family and have had the opportunity to discuss this naming issue at length. We know this design was not intended to hold any religious undertones nor desecrate, as some have said it does, the memory of our loved ones. We strongly support this design and the design team.

It was Paul Murdoch himself that mentioned to family members that refinements may need to be made to the design. We are supportive of his wishes, but remain steadfast in our support of it. We are confident in Paul's ability to memorialize our loved ones. With our continued input and support, this memorial will be built.

The most important lesson we can learn from the passengers and crew of Flight 93 is that positive action must be taken in the face of adversity. We must not be distracted, but instead remain positively focused on the acts of the heroic strangers who came together to avert a larger disaster on September 11. When completed, this Memorial will give us all a place to remember their deeds and offer the country a place of healing.

The Families of Flight 93