

SEPTEMBER 11

YEARS
AFTER

10



Memorials honoring victims rise at the sites of the attacks

KEVIN O'NEILL / STAFF ARTIST

Tomorrow marks the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America.

Elaborate memorials have been constructed, or are under construction, at the three sites where hijackers murdered nearly 3,000 people by intentionally crashing four airliners on that fateful day. Each memorial has a website where you can learn more about the people and events of that day, more about the individual sites or even plan a trip to visit the memorials.

The day's horrors began when Flight 11 slammed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center at 8:46 a.m., followed 17 minutes later by Flight 175 hitting the South Tower. The 9/11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center site in New York still is under construction, but there will be a dedication ceremony tomorrow for victims' families. It will open to the public on Monday, but you must get passes in advance to visit. Passes can be reserved at 911memorial.org, the official website of the memorial.



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InSites

New York City

You can do much more than just get passes at the site. It is a comprehensive look at the attack, the World Trade Center, victims, survivors and the planning and design of the memorial itself.

The site is rich with stunning visuals — photos, architectural renderings, animations, videos, maps and artwork. There's an impressive virtual tour of the memorial that gives you a real appreciation for the complexity and scale of the site.

An interactive timeline of the day of the attacks includes photos, videos and moving audio clips from victims and survivors. Listening to a mother tell her son aboard doomed Flight 93 that he needs to rally the passengers to retake control of the plane because the hijackers are "hellbent" on crashing it — then telling him that she loves him as she hangs up — is just heartbreaking.

Tabs across the top of the page have dropdown menus that allow you to explore different areas. The first one has information and resources to help you plan a trip to the memorial. You can reserve passes, organize group trips, get directions, familiarize yourself with the memorial's features, make special arrangements if you're a 9/11 family member, download a mobile app guide and more.

There also are tabs explaining all aspects of the memorial and museum. They contain information and visuals on the design process, the architects, exhibits and more.

The "Teach & Learn" tab has resources for educators to help explain the significance of that day to students. Remember, most kids in elementary school now were not born yet or were too young to remember 9/11. What has become an indelible moment in the lives of most adults is as distant as Pearl Harbor to grade schoolers.

Finally, there's a section where you can donate time or resources toward developing and maintaining the memorial. For instance, for \$100 you can sponsor a cobblestone, or for \$1,000 you can sponsor a granite paver. Volunteers also will be used in the daily operation of the memorial.

There's much more to the 9/11 Memorial website than I was able to cover here. It's well designed and

Kids and 9/11

Young children don't have the same emotional connection to 9/11 as those who were old enough to remember it. Parents or teachers who want to talk about, or teach, to grade-school-age kids about the tragedy can find resources including lesson plans, activities, videos and more at:

- 911memorial.org/teach-learn
- pentagonmemorial.org/learn/education-materials

easy to use. Good organization and typography combine with strong visuals to make visiting the site an engaging experience.

The Pentagon

Less than an hour after the first plane hit in New York, Flight 77 plowed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Va. The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial was dedicated on Sept. 11, 2008, and is the only one of the three memorials that's been completed. Pentagonmemorial.org is its official website, and it has similar functions to the New York page.

The three main sections of the site allow you to learn about 9/11, explore the memorial and plan a trip to visit the memorial in person. Each section makes good use of text, photos, video, audio and animation to deliver its message. An interactive map and timelines are some of the highlights of the site. There's also a section where you can make donations to help perpetuate the memorial. Like the New York website, the Pentagon Memorial site is well designed and easy to navigate.

Shanksville, Pa.

Just over an hour after the first plane hit, passengers on Flight 93 — alerted to the morning's events via phone calls to and from loved ones — banded together and attacked the terrorists in the cockpit. The hijackers plunged the plane to the ground in Shanksville, Pa. rather than surrendering, crashing 20 minutes short of their intended target — the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The website for the memorial being constructed to honor the heroic actions of the passengers and crew of that flight is www.honorflight93.org. The project still is under construction, but a dedication ceremony is being held this weekend. The memorial is the only one of the three to be part of the National Park Service and also is featured on its website at nps.gov/flni.

Photos, renderings, animations, video and audio are all used to good effect on the site, as on the other sites. However, the Honor Flight 93 site doesn't have the depth and breadth of the other two sites. It focuses on this one aspect of 9/11 without including much about New York or the Pentagon. There's a brief history, details on the memorial and the opportunity to donate on the site.

While all of the memorials have had their troubles with planning and funding, I get the impression from the Internet chatter I came across that this memorial still is struggling to realize its vision. If that's the case, it's a shame because the people on that plane showed that Americans are at their best when things are at their worst.

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