

Heroes on Flight 93

JianHang Xiao



"Our Nation will eternally honor the heroes of Flight 93."

One of the hijackers said he had a bomb.

I can imagine the intimidated eyes and grieving faces of all the passengers and flight attendants.

They realized that the only way to survive was to resist.

They called relatives and friends to tell them what was happening. They found out that other planes had been hijacked and crashed into the World Trade Center. They realized the hijackers would probably crash their plane into a building as well. They realized that the only way to survive was to resist.



Benches at Shanksville carved by the children of the Spring Valley Bruderhof School to honor Flight 93 passengers and crew. They also created a nearby "Peace Barn."

I am touched by the bravery of the passengers on Flight 93, one of the planes hijacked on September 11, 2001. It is the only plane that did not reach its target.

The terrorists used knives to stab passengers and get control of the plane.

They used all kinds of items to fight back. They used cutlery, carts, wine bottles, scalding water, and fire extinguishers to beat the terrorists. The passengers fought valiantly to overcome the hijackers. But they could not control the plane.

The plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. Everyone on the plane was killed.

Even though the plane crashed, I was deeply moved by the passengers uniting together to fight the terrorists. The intended target of the plane was either the Capitol Building or the White House. Both of those buildings are important political structures for the country. The Capitol Building is the meeting place for lawmakers. The White House is the place where the president and his family live. Can you imagine if the hijacked plane had crashed into one of those buildings?

The passengers learned that their flight had been turned into an attack weapon. They took a chance and tried to stop it. They sacrificed their own lives so that the terrorists could not succeed in their goal. They are heroes.

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JianHang Xiao was born in 1989 and raised in China. He has lived in New York City since 2010. He is currently a student in the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP) at New York City College of Technology where he studied the events of 9/11 and watched the film, "Flight 93," directed by Paul Greengrass.

