

Honoring the Memories of 9/11

By Tina Norris Fields

DAR member, PJ Steeby, brought her own personal story of September 11, 2001 to share with the Job Winslow Chapter, NSDAR, at the September 19, 2026 meeting in Traverse City. Her planned itinerary that day included flights from Detroit to Washington, D.C., and on to New York.

That isn't how it worked out. American Airlines Flight 11 and United Flight 175 had struck both towers of the World Trade Center in New York while her flight was still en route to Washington, D.C. American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon within moments of all the passengers from her flight being escorted by armed guards out of the airport building. Standing on the sidewalk, she heard the explosion and felt particles of debris in the air and on her skin.

The brave passengers of United Flight 93, took that plane down ind Shankssville, Pennsylvania, very near PJ's childhood home.

PJ shared many items from her large personal collection of memorabilia, as she honored the people who dies on those planes and in the attacked buildings, as well as the heroes who risked their own lives racing to save others, and the many whose lives have been cut short over the years due to toxic exposure at ground zero.

As painful as the memories are for all of us who lived trough that day and its aftermath, we honor the fallen as we resolve anew that we will never forget - not in 25 years, not in 50 years, not in 100 years - not ever.

Bittersweet though it is, thank you, PJ for being our bright spot.



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