

Dear friend of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,

Our website declares that *“The Never Forgotten Honor Flight is a Not-For-Profit Organization of dedicated Volunteers providing Veterans with closure, gratitude & respect, by flying them to Washington D.C. to visit their memorials.”*

In this monthly letter, we’ve been looking recently at those memorials, particularly at the memorials of the conflicts in which our honored veterans have served. Today I’d like to feature a memorial we visit that speaks of a conflict our NFHF veterans didn’t serve in, but one that reminds us that *“the price of freedom is eternal vigilance”* (Thomas Jefferson). It’s the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.

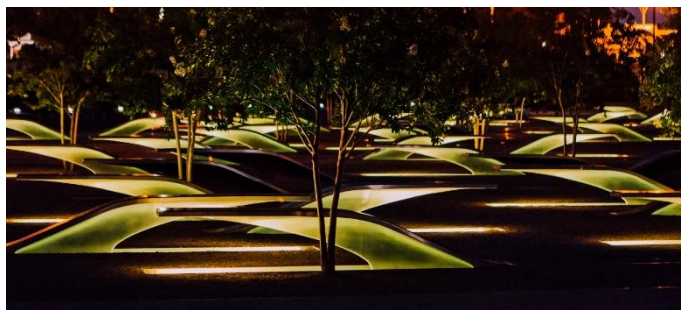
As with the other memorials we visit, this one is filled with symbolic significance. Each of the 184 lives lost when the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 flew into the Pentagon is memorialized with a marker: a cantilevered stainless steel bench inlaid with granite over a pool of flowing water. The markers are arranged by the age of each victim, from 3-year-old Dana Falkenberg to 71-year-old John D. Yamnicky, both of whom were aboard the plane.



The markers are oriented along the flight path of Flight 77 that morning. You can read the names of the 125 victims who were inside the Pentagon as you look at the Pentagon. You can read the names of the 59 passengers as you look in the direction of the plane’s approach. Victims from the same family are identified by a plaque in the water under the bench, bearing the names of all the family members who perished.

The western edge of the memorial is marked by an “Age Wall.” Starting at 3 inches for the youngest victim, the wall grows to 71 inches for the oldest.

The design for the memorial was selected from a field of over 1,100 entries by a panel of architects, family members and public figures including two former Secretaries of Defense.



As terrible as the effects of the attack that day were, they could have been worse. The Pentagon had been undergoing a renovation project at the time of the attack, to provide greater security for those who work there. The area where the plane hit had been cleared of all but about 700 occupants. Had that not been the case, the count of victims would have been much higher.

The 9/11 Pentagon Memorial isn’t tied to any branch of service or to any conflict in which our honored veterans served, but it speaks of an experience we can all relate to. And it reminds us that the fight for freedom continues in our day.

Thank you for your support of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. Here's a snapshot of what we've accomplished so far:

Veterans flown				Waiting to fly			
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,048	1,270	2,800	5,118	0	2	492	494

For the heroes,

Ken Moberg
President
Never Forgotten Honor Flight