



Promoting a Lasting Partnership Between Azerbaijan and America

1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20004 • T +1 202.756.4544 • F +1 202.756.7554
info@azerbaijanamericaalliance.org • www.azerbaijanamericaalliance.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flight 93 Memorial visitor center groundbreaking ceremony due in part to the generosity of Azerbaijan

The 12th anniversary of 9/11 will be highlighted by the groundbreaking of the Flight 93 Memorial Visitors Center; representatives of the Azerbaijan America Alliance, a significant donor to the memorial will be attending to pay their respects

Shanksville, Pennsylvania—September 10, 2013: Thanks in part to the generosity of the nation of Azerbaijan, US officials have raised more than \$40 million and started construction of a memorial to honor the 40 people who perished 12 years ago on September 11 when their terrorist-controlled plane crashed into a meadow near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Anar Mammadov, Founder of the Azerbaijan America Alliance, attended the ceremonies this week at the site of the memorial, which will feature a new visitor center and a symbolic Tower of Voices with 40 wind chimes, each representing a person lost in the crash of United Airlines Flight 93. The money has already made possible the construction of the park's Memorial Plaza, a Wall of Names, 40 Memorial Groves, a Field of Honor, and major reforestation of the landscape in rural western Pennsylvania at the site of the crash.

"I am pleased today that I can give a special thanks to Mr. Mammadov, who is the founder of the Azerbaijan America Alliance," said King Laughlin, vice president of the Flight 93 National Memorial Campaign. "Mr. Mammadov and the Alliance have given tremendous support to this project and to its construction and we extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to him and the nation of Azerbaijan for that."

"It shows us that this story is not one just about Pennsylvania and not just about America, but it's really a worldwide story for anyone who is touched by the story of Flight 93 and who cares about freedom and liberty and that this place will always stand for that."

At Tuesday's groundbreaking for the new, 6,800-foot visitor's center, Mr. Mammadov and other dignitaries in attendance -- among them US Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell -- helped locate the center's walls by driving in surveyors' stakes. The massive fundraising effort for the memorial, which is scheduled to be completed in 2015, included efforts from former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and led to contributions from more than 110,000 individuals, foundations and corporations. The nation of Azerbaijan made a significant donation.

"Azerbaijan is strongly supporting U.S. in the war on terror and I believe that through Azerbaijan's involvement in Flight 93 Memorial will strengthen mutual understanding and respect between the people of Azerbaijan and America," said Mr. Mammadov, founder of the Azerbaijan America Alliance.

More than 2 million people have already visited the site, which is now part of the National Park Service and covers more than 2,200 acres of what used to be farmland and strip mines 75 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

En route to San Francisco from Newark, N.J., the plane was the fourth to crash on September 11, 2001. The heroic actions of the seven crew members and 33 passengers prevented the hijackers from carrying out their plans to fly the plane into the US Capitol building or the White House.

###

Contact:

Algirde Pipikaite

Info@azerbaijanamericaalliance.com

+1 (202) 756-4546