

The people on Flight 93 were in big trouble. But they did not know it yet. At 9:25 A.M. on September 11, 2001, most of them had settled in for a long flight. They had just left New Jersey. They were not expected to reach California for hours. They didn't know that their lives—and the lives of many others—were in terrible danger.

² That day, terrorists attacked the United States. The terrorists took over three planes. They crashed two into the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. They flew the third straight into the Pentagon. (The Pentagon is an important government building in Washington, D.C.) Now four more terrorists sat on Flight 93. They planned to take over this plane too.

³ The terrorists pulled out red scarves. They tied them to their heads. Then they moved forward. They forced their way into the cockpit. Using box cutters as knives, they hurt or killed two of the crew. In minutes, they took charge of the plane.

⁴ The passengers were terrified. They thought the men had a bomb. Some passengers pulled out their cell

phones. They called home to say goodbye to their loved ones. During these calls, they heard about the other plane crashes. Word spread quickly through the plane. Soon everyone knew what was going on. The terrorists planned to kill them all. They planned to fly the plane into some important building on the East Coast.

⁵ This news could not have been worse. The people on Flight 93 now knew that their lives were about to end. No one would have blamed them if they just gave up. After all, what could they do? The men in the red scarves seemed to have all the power.

⁶ But the passengers did not see it that way. They vowed not to go down without a fight. They hoped to win back control of the plane. They knew their chances were not good. But even if they failed, they could at least keep the plane from hitting its target.

⁷ And so they tried to control their fears. Talking softly, they began to make plans. The terrorists must have sensed something. They told people to move to the back of the plane. Moving back was fine with crew member Sandy Bradshaw. It put her close to the plane's kitchen. On her cell phone, she told her husband she was going to use a coffeepot as a weapon. "We are here in the back trying to get hot water to throw on them," she said.

⁸ Tom Burnett called his wife, Deena. "We're going to do something," he told her.

This wreath was made to honor the people who died on Flight 93.