

9 "Tom," she cried, "sit down. Be still. Be quiet. Don't draw attention to yourself." She hoped that someone in charge would step in and take back the plane.

10 But Tom knew that would not happen. "We can't wait, Deena," he told her. "If they are going to run this plane into the ground, we're going to do something."

11 Jeremy Glick felt the same way. He and Mark Bingham also made final phone calls to their families. "It doesn't look good," Bingham said. He also said, "In case I don't see you again, I love you all." Glick told his wife that the passengers had taken a vote. They had agreed to attack the terrorists.

12 Todd Beamer could not reach his family. Instead, he got through to a phone company official. Her name was Lisa Jefferson. Beamer asked her to tell his wife and sons that he loved them. Then he told Jefferson of the plans to make a run at the terrorists.

13 "Are you sure that's what you want to do, Todd?" Jefferson asked him.

14 "It's what we have to do," he said. Beamer began to pray. Jefferson joined in. Then Jefferson heard Beamer say, "Are you guys ready? Let's roll."

15 "They're doing it! They're doing it!" crew member CeeCee Lyles told her husband over the phone.

16 "I've got to go," Elizabeth Wainio said, ending her phone call to her stepmother. "They're breaking into the cockpit. I love you. Goodbye."

17 No one will ever know just what happened next. The flight recorder picked up some sounds. Dishes crashed. Trays fell. A man screamed. From the ground, people saw the big plane rock from side to side. Then it fell from the sky.

18 No one survived the crash. The four terrorists died. So did the passengers and crew. But the plane did not reach its target. The terrorists had most likely been aiming for the White House or the Capitol. If the plane had crashed there, the loss of life would have been enormous. Hundreds of people would have died. Many leaders would have been killed. That's what the terrorists wanted. And that's what would have happened if the heroes of Flight 93 had not been so brave. In the darkest moments of their lives, they showed what it means to have uncommon courage. 🦋