

Medals from Congress honor victims of 9/11 attacks Presented on September 11, 2014

Edited by Ronald E. Fischer

Three Congressional Gold Medals were awarded Sept. 10 in Emancipation Hall in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center to honor the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



Speaker of the House John Boehner, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate leader Harry Reid and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell award the Congressional Gold Medal to the three 9/11 memorials.

Members of Congress gathered in the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday (September 10), together with relatives of those who died in the 9/11 attacks to pay tribute to the heroism displayed that day. The Medals were authorized under the Fallen Heroes of 9/11 Act, Public Law 112-76. The congressional representatives presented three special medals awarded by the U.S. Congress, one to the police and firefighters who died in responding to the attacks on the World Trade Center, another to those who died responding to the attack on the Pentagon, and a third to the passengers who fought back against those who hijacked United Airlines Flight 93, causing it to crash in a Pennsylvania field. "And our loved ones on United Flight 93, armed with the knowledge that the nation, our nation was under attack, took fate into their own hands and fought, and most likely saved this very building we're standing in today," said Gordon Felt, President of the Families of Flight 93. One of the medals will be permanently displayed at each of the 9/11 memorials.

The Medals made for the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and for Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania.



Obverse and reverse of the World Trade Center medal

The World Trade Center Medal's obverse (heads side) features an abstract representation of two towers. The abstract lines flowing downward symbolize loss while the lines moving upward represent rising above, hope, and deliverance from that loss. This configuration also suggests the World Trade Center's Twin Towers. The numbers 93, 77, 175, and 11 represent the four planes involved in the tragic events of 9/11 and are positioned as if on a clock, representing the times of the crashes. The words "Always Remember" are set upon a stone wall similar to the wall that bears the names of the victims at the memorial.

The reverse (tails side) features a single rose protruding from an edge at the top, an echo of the memorial in New York where a white rose is placed through the name of each victim on his or her birthday. The inscription reads: *WE HONOR THE THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE FROM MORE THAN 90 COUNTRIES LOST AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN THE ATTACKS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. MAY THEIR MEMORY INSPIRE AN END TO INTOLERANCE.* The design also includes a bald eagle standing sentinel and clasping branches of laurel signifying an eternal honoring of those who perished in the tragedies.

The obverse of the World Trade Center Fallen Heroes' medal was designed by Artistic Infusion Program artist Joel Iskowitz and executed by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Jim Licaretz. The reverse was designed and executed by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Phebe Hemphill.



Obverse and reverse of the Pentagon medal

The Pentagon Medal's obverse depicts the rebuilt façade of the Pentagon where Flight 77 crashed. The angle of view is the angle of the flight path. A single candle and a small bouquet of flowers and greens signify a sacred memorial at the site. The American flag flies overhead in a united and patriotic embrace.

The reverse features 184 stars on a raised border around the edge of the design, one star for each of the victims of the tragedy. The inscription reads: *WE HONOR THOSE ON FLIGHT 77 AND THOSE IN THE PENTAGON WHO PERISHED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICE AS WE UNITE IN MEMORY.* The design also features a bald eagle standing sentinel and clasping branches of laurel signifying an eternal honoring of those who perished in the tragedies.

Hemphill designed both sides.



Obverse and reverse of the Flight 93 medal

The medal's obverse features the hemlock groves behind the boulder at the Flight 93 Memorial, a simple reminder of loss and healing.

The reverse features 40 stars on a raised border around the edge of the design, one star for each victim. The inscription is *WE HONOR THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF FLIGHT 93 WHO PERISHED ON A PENNSYLVANIA FIELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. THEIR COURAGEOUS ACTION WILL BE REMEMBERED FOREVER.* The design also features a bald eagle standing sentinel and clasping branches of laurel signifying an eternal honoring of those who perished in the tragedies.

The obverse of the Flight 93 medal was designed and executed by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Joseph Menna, and the reverse was designed and executed by Ms. Hemphill.

Bronze medal versions went on sale Sept. 11. The three-inch medals are \$39.95 each plus \$4.95 for shipping and handling.

Sources: http://www.numismaticnews.net/article/medals-honor-victims-of-911-attacks?et_mid=691768&rid=238198997#sthash.75WxZ0A8.dpuf

<http://www.coinnews.net/2014/09/11/medals-honor-fallen-heroes-of-september-11-2001/>