

Home > Gresham & East County News > Breaking News

Volunteers gather at a farm field in east Multnomah County to honor the victims of United Flight 93

Published: Saturday, September 11, 2010, 6:52 PM Updated: Saturday, September 11, 2010, 6:53 PM



Steve Beaven, The Oregonian
Follow

Share this story

Story tools

8	0	8 tweets	64
Comment	Recommend	retweet	Share



[View full size](#) Ross William Hamilton, The Oregonian

Elders in Action hosts a harvest day Saturday in east Multnomah County as part of the National Day of Service to commemorate 9/11. Before volunteers pull and pick vegetables to supply Portland-area food banks, they pause to read the names of 40 killed when United Flight 93 crashed into a Pennsylvania field in 2001.

Before the volunteers trudged off to harvest beets and radishes and peppers, they paused for a few minutes beneath the leafy trees at the end of a gravel road.

From pink cards, they read aloud the names of the 40 passengers and crew members who died on Sept. 11, 2001, when **United Flight 93** crashed into a Pennsylvania farm field. Then they observed a moment of silence.

This is how a group of more than three dozen amateur organic farmers spent Saturday morning in east Multnomah County on the ninth anniversary of the terrorist attacks that killed thousands in New York, Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania.

They gathered to pick produce for a nearby food pantry and to

Read more

[Obama marks Sept. 11 with appeal for tolerance](#)

remember the victims of Flight 93, which crashed 60 miles southwest of Pittsburgh after it was seized by terrorists. The flight was on its way from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco when passengers fought back and the hijackers responded by crashing the plane.

The work crew Saturday was coordinated by **Elders in Action** and included volunteers from **AmeriCorps**, a public service organization.

Mark Noonan, who had helped plant the crops at the field in the spring, said that returning on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks was an appropriate memorial for the people who died on Flight 93.

"What struck me as we were out here planting was that it was a really common field, like the one in Pennsylvania," said Noonan, who is 58 and works at Elders in Action. "This seemed very poignant."

The field off Northeast 244th Avenue and Halsey Street is owned by Multnomah County and is part of the county's **CROPS (Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares)** program, in which volunteers work the land to feed the hungry on otherwise unused public property.

The land had been part of a "poor farm," where impoverished residents worked for food and housing.



But Saturday, it was a memorial of sorts. Before the moment of silence, Noonan hung a poster on one of the trees with the names and photos of all the victims, a timeline of the events of 9/11 and a brief summary of what happened on Flight 93.

Each of the volunteers had their own stories about 9/11, memories about where they were and what they saw.