NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Many lived and died in service of others

The people lost or missing in the attacks were precious to their friends and loved ones. Some of their stories:

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Who they are

Missing in collapse of World Trade Center

Timothy Haskell, 34, a New York firefighter had just gone off duty when two hijacked airliners crashed into the World Trade Center. He called his girlfriend, Gabrielle Sanders, by cellphone to tell her he would be going to the scene. She begged him not to go, but he said he had a job to do. Four days later, his brother Kenneth, also a firefighter, learned that Timothy's body had been pulled from the rubble and identified. "We're all praying for those other families," said their sister, Dawn Haskell-Carbone. "I just can't imagine not knowing. At least (Kenneth) came out of the building whole." But Timothy's brother Thomas Haskell, also a firefighter, is still missing in the debris.

Dan McNeal, 29, lived his life by the Jesuit motto "A man for others," said his mother, Kathryn. She wasn't surprised to learn that he was the last person to leave the 104th floor offices of Sandler O'Neill & Partners, where he worked as a banking analyst. "He would want to make sure everyone else got out," she said. McNeal, who grew up in Towson, Md., joined the company 15 months ago. "He loved the people. He loved the work," his mother said. "He wanted to work in that company because it's an ethical company. His whole life was always 'do things right.' "

McNeal graduated cum laude from Boston College with a degree in finance, then earned an MBA magna cum laude from Georgetown University. He was proud of his Jesuit education, his mother said. McNeal was to walk his sister, Kathleen, 27, down the aisle at her wedding next week. He helped her pay for her wedding dress and planned to contribute money for her honeymoon. "The wedding will go on because that's what he would want," Kathryn McNeal said. "He just lived his life for other people. But this has just shaken us to our very core. We are trying to remember that even though there's evil in the world, there are some very very good people."

Robert Parks, Jr., 47, of Middletown, N.J., was a bond broker for Cantor Fitzgerald Securities on the 105th floor of the north tower. He joined the firm three months ago. "He was the sports trivia guy on Wall Street. When somebody didn't know something, especially about baseball, he'd be the guy they'd call," said his brother, Dave. Parks played basketball and football at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City. He graduated from St. Peter's College and received an MBA from St. John's University. He coached the youth league teams of his two children, who are active in high school sports. "He was fun-loving, full of energy. He lived for his kids," his brother said.

Taimour Khan, 29, who came to the USA from Pakistan as a child, worked for Carr Futures on the 92nd floor of the north tower. He was a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany.

Navy personnel at the Pentagon

Christopher Burford, 23, of Hubert, N.C., grew up near Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base. He liked playing pool and basketball and racing his car down local roads. He took a break after graduating from high school, then joined the Navy. "He had a big party after he got out of training," said Charlene Stanfield, a former neighbor.

Lt. Eric Allen Cranford, 32, of Drexel, N.C., was a helicopter pilot and did a tour in the Persian Gulf before being stationed at the Pentagon. "He loved it. That's what he dreamed of," his brother, Bradley, said of Cranford's naval career. A political science and economics major at North Carolina State University, he had been married just over a year to his childhood sweetheart, Emily, a human resources director for a nursing care facility. "He died doing exactly what he loved," his brother said.

Cmdr. Robert Edward Dolan, 43, of Florham Park, N.J., graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1981. He worked in the Navy's operations and plans office and was due to be promoted to captain. He escaped another terrorist attack last year when the ship he commanded refueled in Aden, Yemen, shortly before the USS Cole docked there. "He was a surface warfare officer extraordinaire," said a friend, Cmdr. Frank Thorp. "He was a true war fighter."

Electronics Technician 1st Class Ronald John Hemenway, 37, of Shawnee, Kan. "Ron is an ideal son, father, husband, brother, and sailor," his family said. "We are very proud of him and all of his accomplishments. ... We appreciate the support of family, friends and the Navy."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Allan Noeth, 30, of Jackson Heights, N.Y., was an illustrator and draftsman who put together briefings for officers in the Navy command center. His true love was painting. One day, while walking down Pentagon corridors past portraits of previous chiefs of naval operations, he noticed that some were not originals but prints. "He took it upon himself in his spare time to repaint these paintings so the Pentagon would have actual oil portraits, said Cmdr. Frank Thorp, spokesman for Adm. Vern Clark, chief of naval operations. Noeth had finished one portrait of a 19th century admiral. "He was an extremely good artist," Thorp said.

Civilians at the Pentagon

Terry Lynch of Fairfax, Va., was a consultant at the New York consulting firm Booz-Allen & Hamilton. He served as an aide to Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., for 15 years. He also worked for former congressman John Buchanan, R-Ala.

Jack Punches, 51, of Clifton, Va., was a retired Navy captain who came back to work at the Pentagon. Asked why he returned, Punches always said, "Because I love it," Cmdr. Frank Thorp recalled. "He always had a smile on his face."

Charles Sabin, 55, of Burke, Va., was the senior financial resources officer in the Defense Intelligence Agency's comptroller office. A former Army captain, he had worked at the Pentagon for less than year. Sabin, who leaves two sons, loved to play golf and fish and was planning for retirement. "He was going to stay here and just enjoy life," said Fred Sabin, his brother.

United Flight 93 Newark-San Francisco

Wanda Green, 49, of Linden, N.J., was a flight attendant. She worked for United Airlines for 30 years, had a lifelong passion for flying and dreamed of seeing the world. Green's mother, Aserene Smith, called her daughter the night before the ill-fated flight to find out what time to expect her at the family's home in Oakland. "She had just cut the light and she was in bed," Smith said. "I said, 'OK, I'll see you tomorrow. I love you.' " Green leaves two children.

Marion Britton, 53, and **Waleska Martinez**, 37, were longtime Census Bureau employees in the agency's New York regional office. They were headed to a conference on automation near San Francisco. Britton, assistant regional director, leaves two brothers. Martinez, an automation specialist, leaves her parents, two brothers and one sister.

United Flight 175 Boston-Los Angeles

Louis Neil Mariani, 59, of Derry, N.H., retired from *H.P. Hood* in Boston 10 months ago. He and his wife were headed to his daughter's wedding in California, but they took separate flights, and he boasted that he had gotten a much better fare.

"He gave me a kiss and said, 'I'll see you 1 or 2 minutes after your plane,' " Ellen Mariani recalled. The wedding went on as scheduled Saturday. "Neil would have wanted it that way," his wife said.

As a guard on the basketball team for Massachusetts Maritime Academy in the 1970s, **John "Jay" Corcoran** was never the best player. "(But) he was the most popular kid on the team," said Skip Thompson, his former coach. "His teammates are full of Jay Corcoran stories. He was a fun guy. He loved to have a good time. He kept everybody loose." Corcoran, 45, was celebrated by former teammates at Saturday's homecoming football game against their arch-rival, Maine Maritime Academy. He was remembered before the game with a moment of silence. "He was a good engineer and a guy who did whatever he did with enthusiasm," teammate Mark Dumais said. A merchant marine, Corcoran was returning to California to rejoin his crewmates on American Ship Management's *APL Thailand*, where he was first assistant engineer.

American Flight 11 Boston-Los Angeles

Sara Low, 28, of Batesville, Ark., left her home state 3 years ago intent on seeing the world. Hired as a flight attendant by American Airlines, she was determined to gain enough seniority to fly international routes.

She often worked extra shifts, including Flight 11. "She felt like planet Earth was her home, and she was comfortable living in it," family spokesman John Belew said. "She was a beautiful, vibrant woman with a lust for life and adventure."

Low lived in Dallas and New York before moving to Boston three years ago. She shared a Beacon Hill apartment with two other flight attendants. "She was very

Correction

USA TODAY is committed to accuracy. To reach us, e-mail editor@usatoday.com or call 800-872-0001.

Jude Larson and his wife, Natalie, were not aboard American Airlines Flight 11, which crashed Sept. 11 at the World Trade Center. The Associated Press erroneously included them among the victims, and both are alive.

David Pruim, who is missing in the collapse of the World Trade Center, was a senior vice president of AON Corp. The company and his title were incorrectly reported Tuesday.

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decisive and very strong. She was the one everyone went to," said Amy McFarland, her college roommate.

Brian Dale, 43, of Warren N.J., finally settled down and got married 4 years ago. He and Louanne Baily, whom he had known for years while both worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers, had three children. Dale played football for Dartmouth College, where he earned an MBA and went to work on Wall Street. In 1991, he graduated from the University of Michigan law school and started an investment firm, Blue Capital Management.

"He was a very high achiever and very successful," said his brother, Kevin Dale. "But his joy was his family. His kids gave him incredible joy." Dale was a big man, 6-foot-2 and 240 pounds, his brother estimated, and he had a personality to match. "He was very smart and funny. He had a huge capacity for laughter," his brother said. "The worst sin for him was to let someone else down."

American Flight 77
Washington-Los Angeles

Wilson (Bud) Flagg, and his wife, **Darlene (Dee)**, both 62, of Millwood, Va., had just attended the 40th anniversary reunion of his graduating class at the Naval Academy in Annapolis. Flagg was a retired rear admiral from the Naval Reserve and a pilot with American Airlines for more than 30 years before retiring at age 60. He was decorated for his service in the Vietnam War, serving three tours of duty piloting F-8 Crusader fighters. "He had more time in the F8 Crusader than any single pilot, about 3,800 hours," said Ted McClard of El Paso, a fellow F-8 pilot. "He probably had over 100 combat missions and about 500 carrier landings." Dee was his high school sweetheart in Long Beach, Calif., and they were married after his graduation. Since retirement, they tended their Angus cattle ranch, Daybreak Farms, in Millwood.

Robert Penninger, 63, of Poway, Calif., was an engineer with people skills. A program director with BAE Systems, he loved gadgets and things with wheels. He was known for his big Gold Wing motorcycle and his collection of the latest stereos and computers. But he also had a keen wit and an ability to explain technical subjects in a simple way.

Friend Susan Dong said Penninger made regular visits to a coworker with brain cancer and "was a role model in helping engineers understand how to relate with other people." He cheated death once before, surviving a collision between his bike and a Mack truck. He leaves a wife and daughter. His son, John, died earlier this year.

Norma Lang Steuerle, 54, of Alexandria, Va., was a clinical psychologist specializing in counseling families, couples and children. "She was a lovely mom, a lovely wife, and a very talented clinician," said Karen Larson, a colleague. She and her husband were core members of a dinner/book club that formed 20 years ago as a kids' play group. Steuerle leaves a husband and two daughters. She was on her way to Japan to rendezvous with her husband, who was on a business trip in Asia, and one daughter, who lives in Japan.

Contributing: Adell Crowe, Jeanette Brown and wire services

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