

# ROSE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

*“To remember, lest we forget.”*

Sue Casey • [www.remember-me-rose.org](http://www.remember-me-rose.org)

*A national opportunity to remember the fallen and celebrate life, liberty and freedom through roses. On September 11, the ARS asks its members to signify their continued belief in our American traditions by giving a single rose in a bud vase tied with red, white and blue ribbons to family, friends and neighbors.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage... What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”*

“Remember Me” Rose Garden is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a living tribute, affirming life and honoring the spirit of those who died on September 11, 2001. A “Remember Me” Rose Garden will be created in New York City, the Pentagon and near Shanksville, PA.

The eighth of eleven roses to be named and newest “Remember Me” Rose is 'Wings of Courage'. It honors the memory and spirit of the crew and passengers of American Airlines Flight

11, the first of two planes to hit the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. 'Wings of Courage' is a beautiful rose, butter yellow in color with a halo of white pedals. It has 25 to 30 petals and grows 3 feet tall by 2-½ feet wide. The rose is mildly scented and can have up to 30 blooms at one time. The late John Clements of Heirloom Roses hybridized 'Wings of Courage'. The bit of irony is that prior to Heirloom Roses, John was with the FAA for 28 years as an Air Traffic Controller and, years later, he would hybridize the rose that would honor the crew and passengers of the first plane to hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Staying with tradition for the last few years, 'Wings of Courage' was announced at Portland's Best Rose Show on June 12, 2011 in Portland's

own International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park.

In her own words, Alyson Low, sister of Flight 11 Flight Attendant Sara Low, describes her thoughts in suggesting the name for the Flight 11 rose.

*“Wings of Courage' came to mind very quickly when I started thinking about a name for the Flight 11 rose that would best characterize the heroes on board that plane. The most well-known acts of courage are those of Betty Ong and Amy Sweeney, who made phone calls to American Airlines employees on the ground, informing them of the events unfolding on the flight and setting in motion the process that would identify the perpetrators of the worst attack on American soil in our history. Less familiar to many are the brave acts of the other members of the crew, which included my sister, Sara Elizabeth Low. They worked powerfully as a team to relay to Betty and Amy the seat numbers of the hijackers, the rushing of the cockpit, and the injuries to two fellow flight attendants and a passenger in business class. As they walked up and down the aisle to monitor the situation in the cockpit and update Betty and Amy, they also tended to their passengers, keeping them calm and reassured. Although those with seats in first and business classes had witnessed firsthand the atrocities committed by the hijackers as they took over the plane, there were no sounds of hysteria or chaos in the background of Betty's call, indicating that the*

'Wings of Courage'

Louise Clements of Heirloom Roses



*passengers, too, were maintaining strength and dignity in the face of the unimaginable. The crew and passengers on board that flight were the first to fight back against all that the terrorists stand for, responding with compassion for one another, with resourcefulness in alerting others, and with grace in a horrifying situation. Without question, the heroes of American Airlines Flight 11 represent what we would all hope to find in ourselves in such an inconceivable circumstance, and that is courage."*

When I think of the courage shown by those on Flight 11 in the face of their dire fate, along with what I know of the courage of those who were on board Flight 93, which crashed into a field in Somerset County, PA, I can't help but think I can do whatever I need to. These people and all the heroes of September 11, 2001, give me courage. For me it's the simple act of stepping out of my comfort zone, whether it's asking for money for "Remember Me" Rose Garden, standing up in front of people and giving a talk about the garden, or writing an article that I hope will touch people.

We started the Flight 93 Capital Campaign on April 25, 2011 to finance the second and third phases of the garden. We welcome donations of cash, labor, materials, whatever you would like to give to help make the garden a reality. In June the Flight 93 Garden site was cleared; work began on a walking trail which will give visitors an opportunity to walk completely around the 14.966 acres of property. The garden design, which is in the shape of a compass rose, will be

staked out for the placement of the 40 Hero Rose Beds. In addition, a Hero Rose Bed will be built; all of this ready for the Open Garden Weekend planned for September 9-11, 2011. Visitors to the Flight 93 Garden site will be able to walk around the property to get an idea of what the Garden design will be like. Members of the Shanksville Community and "RM" Board Members will be there to answer questions and provide information on the Garden.

The Flight 93 site is the first of three planned Gardens to be located at sites near Shanksville, PA, New York City, NY and Washington, DC. As the Flight 93 Garden becomes a reality, doors will begin to open for the other two locations.

On July 14, 2011, the Portland Royal Rosarians with Portland Fire & Rescue had a rose ceremony at PF&R Station 24 planting a 'Firefighter' rose. "Remember Me" Rose Garden donated twenty 'Firefighter' roses to the PF&R Stations to honor Portland Firefighters.

Join us on Facebook and or visit our website with a fresh look at [www.remember-me-rose.org](http://www.remember-me-rose.org).



'Firefighter', 'Soaring Spirits' and 'We Salute You' courtesy Edmunds Roses.  
'The Finest', 'Forty Heroes' and 'Patriot Dream' courtesy Bailey Nurseries, Inc  
'Wings of Courage' courtesy Heirloom Roses.  
'Survivor' courtesy Rich Bear.

