



WE WILL NEVER FORGET

How have we changed?

Woman with ties to Clinton shares story

"He was a good person, Kind,
And loved to surprise people."

Sandra Dahl,
wife of United 93 pilot Jason Dahl,
who is a cousin of former
Clinton Herald photographer Jerry Dahl



Jason Dahl

By Randy Griffith
CNHI News Service

Deborah Borza was praying in church when her cell phone rang with the news her 20-year-old daughter was a passenger on United Airlines Flight 93.

"I dropped the phone and screamed," she said.

Sandra Dahl was at home with family and friends when the call came that her husband had been a pilot aboard Flight 93, causing her to go outside and sit on the hood of her car.

"It just sounded too real," she said. "I just didn't want it to be."

Borza and Dahl are two of the 600 compelling stories told by families, first responders, investigators and others connected to Flight 93 for the National Park Service's oral history project timed for release on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

Flight 93 was en route from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco when it was commandeered by terrorists and aimed toward a target, believed to be the U.S. Capitol, in Washington, D. C. It plunged to earth near Shanksville, Pa., when a group of passengers, alerted to the earlier World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, overpowered the terrorists. Park Service employees Barbara Black, Kathie Shaffer and Donna Glessner conducted the extensive interviews that included the families of the 33 passengers and 7 crew members.

DAHL, continued on 2A

A Clinton Herald Special Report

Sept. 11, 2001, started out as a typical day at Clinton's Lincoln High School. Dennis Duerling, the principal of the school at that time, remembers staff members were just finishing up a morning staff meeting when someone came into the room and told them a plane had flown into one of the Twin Towers in New York.

"Several teachers went back to their rooms to turn on the TV and see what was taking place," he recalls. "The next thing I know, several teachers are coming to me to say another plane has flown into the other tower and reports are the U.S. is under attack. I announced over the PA for all staff to report to the teachers' lunch room. Once there I told them, 'Today, ladies and gentlemen, history is being made.'"

Indeed, it was.

In the years since Sept. 11, 2001, much has changed on both the national and local fronts — everything from security measures that greet us as we board an airplane to the way we look at people of other faiths.

Lives were changed, both by the attacks themselves and the War on Terror that ensued and sent local residents to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Over the past few weeks, we have taken a look at various facets of life in the Gateway area to define how Sept. 11 changed us as a region, interviewing school officials, a Clinton psychologist, the leader of Clinton's Islamic community, and a Clinton High School teacher who was sent overseas as a member of the Iowa National Guard.

All have a unique view about the changes that have occurred in the 10 years since that fateful day.

CHANGES, continued on 3A



"People stepped up for me and my family when I was deployed. I never feared my family wouldn't be taken care of and my wife (Kristina) was phenomenal. She did an amazing job."

Wes Golden, CHS teacher and National Guard lieutenant colonel



A. Albaghdadi, M.D.



Q. Rasheed, M.D., FACC



S. Albaghdadi, M.D., FACC