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NEWS, 4A

Daily American

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 | DAILYAMERICAN.COM

SOMERSET COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

UNITED FLIGHT 93 CRASH 25 YEARS LATER



The scene at the United Flight 93 crash site in a field near Shanksville on Sept. 11, 2001. DAILY AMERICAN FILE PHOTO

Fire chief proud of how community came together

Clark recalls events of Sept. 11, 2001

Madolin Edwards
The Daily American
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sept. 11, 2001, started out just like any other day for Jim Clark. He had a day off and was home with his 3-year-old daughter.

Clark turned on the TV and saw the twin towers in New York City on fire.

"I thought it was unbelievable," he said. "Then my pager goes off for a large aircraft down in Shanksville. I thought 'they tried to get us all.' I called my wife and said meet me out front. Take Jess. I gave her a kiss and said, 'I'll see ya when I see ya.'"

Clark, now Somerset Regional Volunteer Fire Department chief, was at that time a member of Somerset County's Hazmat (Hazardous Materials) Team.

"Hazmat considers possible threats of who knows what," he said. "My first thought was 'What are we going to be up

See **CLARK**, Page 3A



Diane Ginter, president of the Pennsylvania Fallen Firefighters Foundation, speaks during the Aug. 6, 2026, groundbreaking for the Pennsylvania Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the Remember Me Rose Garden in Stoystown.

BETH MILLER/DAILY AMERICAN

"It wasn't perfect, but I am damn proud of everything everyone responding did that day."

Jim Clark, Somerset Regional Volunteer Fire Department chief



Mark Miller helped his cousin, Somerset County Coroner Wallace Miller, Sept. 11, 2001, with the crash and its aftermath of United Flight 93 near Shanksville.

MADOLIN EDWARDS/DAILY AMERICAN

Miller came to his cousin to help after 9/11 tragedy

Madolin Edwards
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Sept. 11, 2001, started out as a day just like any other for Mark Miller, vice president of support services at Somerset Hospital. Then he walked into the physician's lounge. The doctors and hospital CEO Mike Farrell were gathered around the television.

"I went into the physician's lounge, and they were glued to the television watching the planes crashing into the twin towers," Miller said.

Just minutes after a plane flew into the Pentagon, Farrell got a phone call.

"He called the code yellow. The managers came to the conference room," Miller said. "He said a plane came down in a field near Shanksville. He was speaking factually about what happened."

The managers were told to prepare for an undetermined number of casualties. Nurses and doctors both on and off duty came in. The Materials Management Department of the hospital had extra supplies and equipment ready.

At 11:30 a.m., word came that there were no survivors.

His thought then was "What's Wally doing?" Wallace Miller, his cousin, was the Somerset County coroner. Mark Miller called Wally, who asked him to help his dad, former county coroner Wilbur Miller, answer the phones.

"He asked me to get him a phone because his was dead. I was on the Republican state committee and called chairman Eileen Melvin and told her Wally needed a phone," he said.

See **MILLER**, Page 3A



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Volume 119 | No. 51
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