



Franklin County churches unite to ‘Ignite’ young people

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United Flight 93 tribute



Officials take part in a ceremony transferring Newark Airport’s Gate A17 sign over to the National Park Service on Aug. 15. Flight 93, which departed from Gate A17 on Sept. 11, 2001, was hijacked and crashed in a Pennsylvania field, killing all 44 people on board. PHOTOS BY JULIAN LESHAY GUADALUPE/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Newark Airport gate sign sent to Shanksville 9/11 memorial

Colleen Wilson NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK

The final resting place for Newark Liberty International Airport’s Gate A17 sign will be in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The sign was preserved by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey when Newark’s old Terminal A closed in 2023. The sign will live on as a memorial for Flight 93, the United Airlines flight that departed from Newark’s Gate A17 on Sept. 11, 2001, en route to San Francisco before it was hijacked and crashed in a Pennsylvania field, killing all 44 people on board. After the new Terminal A opened, the sign was carefully removed and stored by Port Authority officials. It will be on display at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania, under the auspices of the National Park Service. The sign was handed off to the National Park Service from the Port Authority during a ceremony that took place at Newark Airport on Aug. 15.



The face of Betsy Keene, curator for the Flight 93 National Memorial, is seen reflecting off the Gate A17 sign.



LEFT: Adam Shaffer, chief of interpretation for the National Park Service, passes a flag from the Flight 93 Memorial to Aidan O'Donnell, general manager of New Jersey airports for Port Authority, during the ceremony. RIGHT: The Gate A17 sign will be on display at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.



U.S. scales back human rights report

Daphne Psaledakis and Humeyra Pamuk
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump’s administration has scaled back a key U.S. government report on human rights worldwide, dramatically softening criticism of some countries that have been strong partners of the Republican president. Among such nations are El Salvador and Israel, which rights groups say have extensive records of abuses. Instead, the widely anticipated 2024 Human Rights Report of the U.S. State Department sounded an alarm on the erosion of freedom of speech in Europe and ramped up criticism of Brazil and South Africa, with which Washington has clashed on a host of issues. Any criticism of governments over their treatment of LGBTQ+ rights, which appeared in Biden administration editions of the report, appeared to have been largely omitted. The report’s section on Israel was much shorter than last year’s edition and contained no mention of the severe humanitarian crisis or death toll in Gaza. More than 61,000 people have been killed in the Gaza Strip, the Gazan health ministry says, as a result of Israel’s military assault after an attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas in October 2023. The report was delayed for months as Trump appointees altered an earlier State Department draft dramatically to bring it in line with “America First” values, said government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. The report introduced new categories such as “Life” and “Liberty,” and “Security of the Person.”

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PA House and Senate seem as divided as ever

Ian Karbal, Emily Previti and John Cole
Pennsylvania Capital-Star

After a flurry of activity Aug. 12 at the Pennsylvania Capitol, it’s unclear if lawmakers are any closer to ending the budget impasse that has lasted more than six weeks past the constitutionally mandated June 30 deadline. With both the Democratic-controlled House and GOP-led Senate holding floor sessions that stretched into the evening, disagreements that had largely been conducted behind closed doors have been dragged into the open.

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