The Legacy Story Project

We must bear witness and give voice

The legacy of Pan Am 103 Lockerbie lies in the memories of those who did extraordinary things in the aftermath of the attack.

If you were directly affected by the December 21, 1988, terrorist attack, we encourage you to share your story. Part of our Foundation’s mission is to gather these narratives and present them on a digital platform. Ultimately, all of your stories will become a part of the Legacy Story Project curated collection.

- **Lockerbie’s Hometown Heroes**, such as [Josephine Donaldson](#), a local woman who cared for two American girls’ memories and joined other women in washing and ironing thousands of items of clothing and decontaminating personal effects to be sent home to victims’ loved ones.

- **First Responders**, such as Lockerbie’s [firefighters](#) who responded with great fortitude, and Police Sergeant and Scoutmaster Drew Young who, with courage and strength, helped to mobilize his community when it was turned upside down.

- **Accidental Activists**, such as [Victoria Cummock](#), a young widow and mother of three who learned how to navigate the political system after her calls for help to U.S. authorities fell on deaf ears. Over time, she and hundreds of others achieved significant legislative and policy gains for victims’ and flyers’ rights in [aviation security](#), [disaster crisis](#) management; [terror-victim accountability](#), justice, and restitution.

- **Champions of Truth, Justice, Accountability Change**, such as [Paul Hudson](#), a victim’s father who became a relentless victims’ and flyers’ rights advocate and achieved numerous victories in aviation safety and security; and [Bruce Smith](#), a victim’s husband and Pan Am pilot who filed the first civil lawsuit against Libya, a catalyst in reforming the Treaty of Sovereign Immunity. He significantly bolstered the Dept. of State Heroes Rewards Program which contributed to the capture of numerous international terrorists and saved hundreds of lives.

**HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY**

Begin by collecting and digitizing the photos, videos, documents, and audio recordings that you would like to include in your story.

Refer to our [Story Telling Guidelines](#) to select prompts and questions designed to assist you in organizing and telling your story. You will have the option of combining your multi-media input with written narrative.

Once our digital storytelling platform launches in February 2022, you will be able to submit your materials directly through the website.

We are available to support you through this process. If you would prefer to be interviewed or need help digitizing, please schedule a help session via email at: [info@pa103ll.org](mailto:info@pa103ll.org) or call (305) 665-6740.
1. Where were you on December 21, 1988?

2. How had you spent your time that day before the crash?

3. How and when did you hear about the destruction of Pan American Flight 103 (Debris falling from the sky, the news media, notified by Pan Am, notified by U.S. or UK authorities)?

4. Did you know any victims? If so, who?

5. How have you personally been involved/affected (Lockerbie resident, victims’ family member, Pan Am employee, a first responder, clergy, investigator, prosecutor, news media, other) How did you react or respond?

6. What became the most challenging or difficult for you during the aftermath of the terrorist attack — both immediate and long-term?

7. What was your experience with the authorities (U.S., UK, Lockerbie, or Pan American Airline)?

8. Did the authorities give you the help you needed (Notification, identification, return of remains, death certificate, return of personal possessions, victims’ support, assistance during the investigation and pre/post criminal trial)?

9. Did you join one of the victims’ groups? Why or why not?

10. Did you get involved in supporting efforts to memorialize the victims?

11. Did you get involved in the activism and advocacy efforts to pursue truth, accountability, and justice?

12. How have the people you met in the global Pan Am 103 Lockerbie community affected your life?

13. What are some of the positive outcomes over the past 33 years?

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**Participation checklist:**

- ✔ Gather photos/materials **NOW**
- ✔ Review & select optional questions and prompts **NOW**
- ✔ Digitize/Schedule help session **NOW**
- ✔ Submit **DEC-JAN**
- ✔ Upload Directly/Launch **FEB-ON**

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In 1988 both U.S. and UK authorities declared the bombing of Pan American Flight 103, over Lockerbie, Scotland, a terrorist attack against America.

On Dec. 22, 1988, European and U.S. authorities, including the CIA, received several telephone calls, by various international groups, claiming responsibility for the attack. Notably, a male caller claimed that the Iranian Guardians of the Islamic Revolution had destroyed the American plane in retaliation for the July 1988 shootdown of Iran Air Flight 655, a commercial Iranian plane, flying in Iranian airspace over Iranian waters, by the U.S. Navy warship *Vincennes*, killing all 290 people onboard.

Immediately the scope of the investigation was broadened beyond the 845-square-mile Lockerbie crime scene to include various international state sponsors of terrorism and dozens of inter-continental suspects.

U.S. authorities have jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute in Federal Courts all crimes onboard U.S. aircraft regardless of location. Criminals are routinely tried and prosecuted in multiple jurisdictions under applicable national and local laws.

14. Why do you think the U.S. and UK didn't take lead investigative responsibility for what was, at the time, the largest terrorist attack in their history and leave it to Scotland's smallest and least funded police force?

15. Based on significant differences between U.S. and Scottish criminal law for admissibility of evidence, witness testimony and sentencing, aside from issuing the 1991 criminal indictments and 2020 criminal charges, why haven't U.S. authorities ever arrested or prosecuted ANY suspects for the mass murder of 190 American citizens and the 69 others aboard a U.S. flagship?

**Compare the following two major U.S. global efforts’ swiftness to pursue justice and accountability for terrorist attacks against America, involving countless individuals, across dozens of U.S. and allied government intelligence, security, and military agencies, to the U.S. efforts after the Pan Am 103 terrorist bombing:**

**A. After the September 11, 2001**, terrorist attacks the United States launched a war on Terror; in 2002-2003, hundreds of suspects were captured by the CIA and held in their secret prison network; and starting in 2002, a total of about 780 detainees were transferred to a detention camp for unlawful combatants at Guantanamo Bay.


Over the past 19 years most of the estimated 780 detainees were released without charges. Currently, there are 39 detainees; 12 have been charged (10 currently await trial and 2 were convicted), with the remaining 27 being held in law-of-war detention.

**B. On September 11, 2012**, there was a coordinated attack against the U.S. Diplomatic post and CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya. Five Americans were killed, including a U.S. ambassador, two CIA contractors, and a Foreign Service officer. Criminal charges were brought against two perpetrators in August 2013. Two suspects were captured in 2014 and 2017, then prosecuted in 2018 and 2019 and sentenced to 19 and 22 years, respectively.