

Roof will honor Flight 93 Hanover barn painters plan Sept. 11 memorial

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ANGIE MASON Daily Record/Sunday News

Christine Barnes remembers the drive she and her husband, Tim, took to her native Michigan on Christmas Eve in 2005.

They were teasing each other on the trip from Hanover, she said. But then they stopped in Somerset, to visit the crash site of United Flight 93, one of the planes hijacked Sept. 11, 2001.

"The minute we got there, it (was) just instantly somber," she said, noting the site has "a certain sweet spirit."

She kept watching news related to plans for the Flight 93 Memorial and found herself frustrated with the "bureaucracy" slowing the movement down.

"I said, 'We can put up a memorial faster than they can,'" she said she remembers telling Tim. "He said, 'Why don't we?'"

The Barneses, who operate **Barn Painting** and Advertising Inc., decided they could use the skills they apply at work to create their own memorial. They're holding a contest to find a design for a mural, which they hope to paint on a yet-to-be-selected barn rooftop.

The couple is looking for a barn near the crash site or along the road that leads there, he said. Once a design is selected, a graphic designer will make it proportional to the barn roof, he said.

Since beginning to publicize the plan last week, Tim Barnes said, the business has heard from three interested barn owners willing to donate a rooftop for the project. He doesn't anticipate finding a barn to be a problem and said the biggest hurdle would be working with the municipality of the chosen barn on any zoning or permit issues.

The design and the barn will likely be chosen at the same time around the end of April, he said, "so we can move ahead to get approval for barn and picture all at the same time."

Christine Barnes said they decided to use the roof of a barn, rather than one of its sides, so that the image could be seen using satellite mapping programs.

"Then people can Google it or satellite map it from anywhere," she said. The couple hopes to begin painting in late summer and have the project completed before Sept. 11. The work will be done for free.

"It's kind of a way to add to what's up there now," Tim Barnes said. "Remind people of what happened." Reach Angie M Reach Angie Mason at 771-2048 or amason@ydr.com.

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