

---

# Healing field honors victims

By [JOHN GIBB](#)

The Parthenon

**Published:** Monday, September 12, 2011

**Updated:** Monday, September 12, 2011 08:09

Marshall University students delayed the start of their weekend to remember the 75 victims of the 1970 plane crash and the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

Students marched up Friday to 20th Street to the Spring Hill Cemetery to place flags at West Virginia's first "Healing Field." The event consisted of speeches, lighting of candles and a moment of silence to remember those lost.

Dennis Poillon, senior marketing major from Stafford, Va., said it "was very touching for me as a student and to be part of this university to come out here and remember the lives lost in the plane crash and the 9/11 events."

Poillon is a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and said, "we lost five of our own men on the plane in 1970 and this event was a great way for students to be part of the university's history, as well as the country's history...healing through 9/11."

Kevin Brady, executive director of the Greater Huntington Parks and Recreation District, said everyone at Marshall has felt a loss even though the plane crash was 41 years ago.

"This event allows people to remember loved ones, as well as honor veterans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan...we also commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks," Brady said.



Glenn Boatright | The Parthenon

Huntington residents at Smith Hill Cemetery, carrying flags for a healing field, put here to remember the victims of 9/11.

Student Body President Ray Harrell, Jr., said, "I have never seen anything like this before and having this "Healing Field" in Huntington is fantastic for our community, as well as the Marshall community."

"I am honored to be representing the Marshall community in honoring the lives lost in the plane crash and 9/11," Harrell said.

Harrell said this event was a good indication that students do want to get involved and wants students to know that volunteer opportunities are out there.

Student President Pro Tempore Adam Fridley said, "The effort that went into this is awe-inspiring and shows resiliency and what it means to be an American, a West Virginian and a son of Marshall."

"This is not just a Marshall thing, it is more of a community thing," Fridley said.

Fridley said he was "thrilled" that the Student Government Association got to be a part of this and it is "absolutely pivotal for students to be involved in something like this."

Huntington Mayor Kim Wolfe said, "tonight was perfect and was absolutely impressive."

Wolfe said he thanks the Marshall community for coming out and "we hope this is an annual event."

In total, 3,000 American flags were placed at the "Healing Field" and Brady said all the flags are being sold to raise money to build a bell tower. Construction on the project will begin soon.

John Gibb can be contacted at [gibb@marshall.edu](mailto:gibb@marshall.edu).