

Joe and Linda Remembered - Basil (Butch) O'Connors

Sunday, September 2, 2001, was the last time we saw Joe and Linda. It was during the Historic Festival at Lime Rock Park. We, Diane and me, Joe and Linda, and Walt and Nancy Huber, had dinner at Mizza's (then Brothers) in Lakeville. It was a great evening and we nearly closed the place. As we were driving Walt and Nancy back to their motorhome at the track, we remarked that we had never seen a happier couple. It was pretty clear they had found their respective soulmates.

On Monday, September 10, I received an email from Joe that he wouldn't be making the NNJR Board meeting Tuesday evening as he was flying to California. The next day, was as bad a day as most of us can remember. Right after noon, I received a call from Nancy Huber. She had just heard that Linda was on the plane that went down in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. She asked "How are we going to tell Joe". I replied that Joe already knew; he was also on that plane, Flight 93.

It's hard to believe that 20 years have passed since that day, but the memory is like it happened yesterday. We still miss them both.