



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Gander hosts the Memorial Service for the 35th Anniversary of the Arrow Air Disaster.

(Gander, NL – December 12, 2020)

The Town of Gander will be hosting a memorial service to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Arrow Air Disaster on Saturday, December 12th @ 1:00pm. Taking place at the Evangel Pentecostal Church, the service will be closed to the public. A wreath laying ceremony will take place at the crash site following the service.

The Memorial Service will be live streamed on www.rogerstv.com while the wreath laying ceremony will be shown on Rogers TV at a later date.

BACKGROUND INFO:

On the morning of Thursday, 12 December 1985, shortly after takeoff from Gander en route to Fort Campbell, the aircraft stalled, crashed, and burned about half a mile from the runway, killing all 248 passengers and 8 crew members on board. As of 2020, it is the deadliest aviation accident to occur on Canadian soil and the second-deadliest of any accident involving a DC-8, behind the crash of Nigeria Airways Flight 2120 six years later.

The aircraft, a McDonnell Douglas DC-8-63CF, was chartered to carry U.S. Army personnel, all members of the 101st Airborne Division, back to their base in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. They had completed a six-month deployment in the Sinai, in the Multinational Force and Observers peacekeeping mission and were returning home for Christmas

Quotes:

“Gander truly is the crossroads of the world. Unfortunately, there have been many times in our history where this has meant we were witness to terrible tragedies affecting nations around the world. Our American neighbors onboard Arrow Air made a promise to honour their country in the pledges they made, the words they spoke and the bravery they showed. Sadly, all were taken too soon. We will never forget that fateful day and will ensure the sun never fades on their memory in our town.”

Mayor Farwell, Town of Gander

“As we look back on the past 35 years and the many changes that have taken place, I am reminded that one constant is that our community is still known for the kindnesses we have shown, and continue to show, to those in need.

On this sad anniversary, we remember the families of those who were lost in the Arrow Air disaster. We also remember our own residents who quickly stepped in to provide assistance, regardless of the effects that day would have on them.”

Honourable John Haggie
Minister of Health and Communities Services

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