



CITY OF KENNER

News Release

E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2017

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF PAN AM CRASH TO BE REMEMBERED AT SUNDAY MASS

Kenner, LA. – Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn, District 2 Councilman Mike Sigur and former Kenner Police Chief Nick Congemi are among the officials who will attend a Mass on Sunday at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Rivertown marking the 35th anniversary of the Pan Am 759 crash in the city.

Following the Mass, which begins at 10:30 a.m., all are invited to go outside to the memorial to the crash under the bell tower for a few moments of reflection and prayer, said Father Richard Miles. The public is invited to attend.

Flight 759 took off in a severe thunderstorm on July 9, 1982 and crashed in the Morningside Park subdivision, about half a mile east of the runway, shortly before 5 p.m. All 146 people on board the plane died as well as eight people in the subdivision.

Zahn said yearly events like Sunday's Mass are important – both for the families of victims and for the city. "Remembering this horrible crash and those that lost their lives is a way we can continue to honor their memory," the mayor said.

Sigur and Congemi said some friends and family members of crash victims gather in the city every year. "At least every year we get some family members who come to town and then get together and they share memories of their loved ones," Sigur said.

Congemi, who is now chief of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway's police force, said the visitors have become very special to both him and Sigur.

"These people have become part of my family," he said. "I believe this is all part of a healing process, and I think it's important for us to stay in touch."

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