

In the Shadow of a Badge: A Memoir about Flight 93, a Field of Angels, and My Spiritual Homecoming

Author Lillie Leonardi



ABOUT *IN THE SHADOW OF A BADGE*

Former law enforcement professional Lillie Leonardi has always lived with her feet planted in two separate worlds—the metaphysical and the physical. *In the Shadow of a Badge: A Memoir about Flight 93, a Field of Angels, and My Spiritual Homecoming* takes readers on a dramatic journey of what happens when Leonardi's two distinct realities intertwine.

During her work at the Flight 93 crash site in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and as a result of the fateful events of September 11th, 2001, Leonardi was forced to confront her connection to the divine—something she has struggled with since youth. Her stirring personal account of the 12 days she spent acting as an FBI liaison carries readers into a world that combines the factual and logistical with the angelic and mystical.

After witnessing what she describes as a “field of angels” during her first hours at the crash site, Leonardi must finally reconcile the opposing sides of her life. Readers walk with her through the diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), experience the guilt and fear that grip her, and share in the remarkable transformation of her soul as she discovers that forgiveness—of self and others—can be the best remedy.

As an inspiring example of what it means to be called to service, Leonardi shows that it's never too late to find your spiritual path and life's purpose.



Release Date: February 25, 2013
Price: USA \$19.95/\$19.95 Canada
Format: 5"x8" Hardcover
ISBN 13: 978-1-4019-4238-0

ABOUT LILLIE LEONARDI

After serving for more than 25 years and as a result of medical issues related to her Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnosis, Leonardi retired from law enforcement and now endeavors to pursue her lifetime passion for writing.

From 1998 to 2010, Lillie was employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Pittsburgh Division as its Community Outreach Specialist. During her tenure with the FBI, Lillie's primary focus and research related to violence prevention. She also worked under the auspice of the United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Pennsylvania, and served with a prestigious group of instructors. Lillie provided training on various subjects including community policing, crime prevention, cultural diversity, hate crimes, responding to a major incident, threat assessment, and violence reduction.

On 9/11 and in the following days, Lillie was utilized by the FBI to address law enforcement, government, and social service agency representatives assisting with evidence recovery and preparations for two Flight 93 memorial services. She not only served as primary liaison to the United Airlines Humanitarian Response Team—presenting at daily briefings and interacting with surviving family members—but also escorted families to the crash site for the memorial services. Post 9/11, Lillie was the contact representative for three projects relating to Flight 93.

Prior to her career with the FBI, Lillie worked as the lead law enforcement officer on two college campuses in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1984, Lillie was appointed to serve as the first female police officer with the City of Arnold, Pennsylvania.



www.LillieLeonardi.com

Contact: Lillie Leonardi, lleonardi@verizon.net | 724.889.7762

In the Shadow of a Badge: A Memoir about Flight 93, a Field of Angels, and My Spiritual Homecoming

Author Lillie Leonardi

The following is an excerpt from *In the Shadow of a Badge: A Memoir about Flight 93, a Field of Angels, and My Spiritual Homecoming* by Lillie Leonardi, published by Hay House. *In the Shadow of a Badge* was released February 25, 2013 and is available in bookstores and at Amazon.com, BN.com, and HayHouse.com.

Chapter 3

A FIELD OF ANGELS: SHANKSVILLE

On the field, the shimmer of light began to grow off to my left until it was almost blinding. I turned and looked at it more directly, and it began to evolve into a foggy white mist. The mist then began to move, swirling in patterns of spectacular white light. Then, before my eyes, the mist took shape. To my amazement, there at the left of the crash site stood what appeared to be a legion of angels.

There were hundreds of them, standing in columns—a field of angels, emerging from the realms of the mist. I recognized them as archangels, wings arched up toward the sky. Each of them appeared to be dressed in warrior garments, like a legion of Roman centurions from centuries past. They were standing vigil, gazing at the surrounding perimeter. The looks on their faces were intense yet gentle. Calming. They stood like soldiers guarding their ground in preparation for the next battle. They appeared ready to receive the next command from their leader. And they clearly had a leader—for he stood majestically in front of them all.

This archangel stood with confidence, radiance, and an aura of leadership. The saber in his hand angled toward the ground in resting mode. I knew instantly this had to be Michael, for in my Catholic upbringing the archangel Michael had always been depicted as the warrior. He was also known as the guardian of law enforcement.

These celestial beings were so numerous that their features began to blend together. The pureness of their beauty—and the radiant light surrounding them—was overwhelming to me. Each was unique, and all were beautiful. I marveled at the image of these lovely creatures. They looked just as they were depicted in the frescoes Michelangelo painted in the Sistine Chapel some 500 years ago.

As I gazed at the angels, my mind slowed its pace. I paused at each new motion they made. With each movement, a detail was forever etched in my memory. It was as if there was a sketch artist inside my mind's eye preserving all the minute details with an indelible pen.