

CBS News

Jul 17, 2006 11:07 am US/Eastern

Flight 800 Crash Still 'Surreal' 10 Years Later

Heidi Snow Lost Her Fiance In The Disaster



[Maurice DuBois](#) Reporting



(Left) Heidi Snow spoke with Maurice DuBois of CBS News about how she has coped since the 1996 disaster.
(Center) Heidi Snow with ACCESS Advisory Board Member, Governor George Pataki at the Flight 800 Memorial Service
(Right) Heidi Snow's fiance Michael was killed in the crash of TWA Flight 800

(CBS) SHIRLEY, N.Y.

Ten years ago, Heidi Snow's fiancé Michael was killed, along with 229 others, when TWA Flight 800 exploded over the waters off Long Island.

She spoke with Maurice DuBois at the TWA Memorial in Shirley about how the crash changed her life. Snow said she likes the memorial because it's a place where victims' family members and loved ones can meet and honor those they lost. "It feels sort of like home to me," she said. Snow said that for many families, the memorial feels safe and meaningful.

After the crash, Snow started an organization called Access -- a support network for anyone who has lost a loved one in any air disaster, not just Flight 800. For Snow, the whole experience seems surreal. "I see these names... and it's sort of as if we are a family now," she said.

She called her lost fiancé "a very courageous and really sharp, beautiful person." Snow said that in the hours after the crash, she knew Michael would never come back, but she remembers having hopes that he might swim in to shore. Sometimes she still bursts into tears thinking about her loss, she said. Snow said she never knew she had the kind of inner strength it took to get through the tragedy.