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News From Around PA
PA Superior Court has upheld Northampton County DA John Morganelli’s policy barring illegal immigrants charged with minor crimes from benefiting from a first-offender program that would lessen their chances of deportation.

The final phase of the Flight 93 National Memorial – the Tower of Voices -- will be completed by September 9th. The 93-foot-tall tower is being installed near the entrance and will feature 40 tubular metal wind chimes, one each for the 33 passengers and seven crew members who died. Controversy still surrounds the Flight 93 Memorial design. The Tower of Voices is a perfect example: The crescent shaped tower is cut at an angle at the top so that its crescent arms reach up into the sky. Crescent topped minarets are a daily sight across most of the Islamic world. Is this really a proper marker for the victims of Islamic terrorism?

HB 111 would end judicial elections in PA. A bipartisan commission would choose judges and justices to serve on state Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth courts.

News from National Scene
The American Medical Association declined to reaffirm its longstanding opposition to doctor-assisted suicide, instead voting to study the question further.

In California a bill that would require California public universities and community colleges to provide abortions drugs up to 10 weeks of pregnancy at their student health centers and require schools to cover the cost of abortions in student health insurance plans has passed a critical committee vote.

In February 2019, United Methodist delegates from around the world will meet in St. Louis in a special convention to vote on the “One Church Plan.” This would remove long-standing language from the Book of Discipline that bans “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals” from ordination. It would give Methodists in the U.S. a local option on such questions.

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson has reinstated combat pilot Colonel Leland Bohannon after he was found “guilty” of discrimination by an Equal Opportunity investigator for refusing to sign a certificate of appreciation for a same-sex couple. When his religious accommodation wasn’t granted, Bohannon asked a higher-ranking officer to sign instead. That wasn’t good enough for the same-sex couple!

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