

# Black pilots salute own Was 1st Officer on doomed flight

(Special to the NNPA)-  
The Organization of Black Air-  
line Pilots (OBAP), at its annual  
in meeting in Atlanta, paid trib-  
ute to LeRoy W. Homer Jr., the  
first officer of United Airlines  
Flight 93,  
which  
crashed  
in Penn-  
sylvania  
during  
the Sept.  
11th ter-  
rorist at-  
tacks.



A  
video  
presenta-  
tion that  
featured photos of Homer was  
shown during the recent tribute  
in which he was honored by  
Delta Airlines Captain William  
T. Thompson, who delivered a  
stirring reading of "High  
Flight," a much-loved poem  
among aviators. His wife, Melo-  
die Homer, received a \$5,000  
gift from the organization for  
the LeRoy W. Homer Jr. Foun-  
dation, established to encourage  
and support young men and  
women who wish to become  
professional pilots and pursue  
aviation careers.

"OBAP wishes to continue  
his legacy by pledging our sup-  
port for this foundation," said  
OBAP president, and UPS air-  
line Captain Bob Brown.  
"LeRoy dedicated his life to  
aviation, and he was very sup-  
portive of programs that gave  
youth opportunities to pursue  
careers in aviation

The organization also rec-  
ognized achievements among  
its members and those in the in-  
dustry. Corporate honorees in-  
cluded Delta Airlines executive  
Michael Young, who received  
the Presidential Excellence  
award for more than a decade  
of support, and Delta Captain  
John Bailey Sr., who was given  
the Distinguished Service  
Award.

In officer elections, mem-  
bers re-elected Brown as presi-  
dent, and Karl Minter, a United  
Airlines captain, was re-elected  
vice president.