Quarterback’s brother to speak at annual Memorial Service

Had Ted Shoebridge lived, he would now be 64 years old, and long since retired from a playing career in the NFL or major league baseball.

At least that’s the opinion of Shoebridge’s brother,

Tom, who will be the featured speaker at this year’s annual Memorial Service to honor the 75 victims of the 1970 Marshall University plane crash.

The service sponsored by Marshall’s Student Government Association starts at noon Friday, Nov. 14, on the Memorial Student Center plaza on the university’s Huntington campus. That day marks the 44th anniversary of the worst sports tragedy in U.S. history.

Ted Shoebridge was among the victims of the crash, which claimed the lives of 36 players from the team. Also killed were nine coaches and members of the athletic staff, 25 fans and the jetliner’s crew of five.

Gone in an instant were the hopes and dreams of 75 people, including Ted Shoebridge.
“I firmly believe he would have played professional sports—football or baseball,” said Tom Shoebridge of his brother. “He was an outstanding baseball player. I watched the tapes of his last year of football at Marshall and I evaluated him as a player.”

The plane carrying the Marshall University football team home from its game at East Carolina University earlier in the afternoon of Nov. 14 crashed in Kenova near Tri-State Airport—just 45 minutes after taking off from Stallings Field at the Kinston (N.C.) Airport.

The plane, flying in light rain with poor visibility, clipped a tree 66 feet above the ground on a ridge just west of West Virginia Route 75, tumbled while cutting a 95-foot swath across the hillside and slammed into the hillside on the east side of the highway at a speed of 160 miles per hour. Everyone aboard the Southern Airways DC-9 died instantly.

“I was 17 years old at the time. It was a very hard time, to say the least,” said Tom Shoebridge. “My mom and dad kept everything. They [Marshall] sent us his travel bag, his jerseys and his helmet.”

Tom Shoebridge has since donated his brother’s green jersey to The Union Pub & Grill in downtown Huntington and the white jersey—the one he wore against East Carolina—to Marshall to be placed in the university’s new athletic hall of fame, located inside the indoor athletic facility. Ted Shoebridge wore No. 14.

In 1990, 20 years after the crash, Ted Shoebridge’s parents visited Huntington. In an interview with The Herald-Dispatch, they cried openly, still heartbroken by their loss.

As a lifelong football and track coach at Lyndhurst (N.J) High School, Tom Shoebridge said he has given plenty of speeches. But, he admits, this one will be different.

“I’m a bit nervous,” he said. “This is something that is very near and dear to my family’s hearts. It is very important to me and my family. I want to do a representative job.”

Although Shoebridge has been to some of the annual memorial services and attended Marshall’s football victories over the University of Rhode Island and Ohio University this season, most of his family has not. However, a number of family members will attend the service this year, including his wife, a brother and a niece.

Tom Shoebridge said his brother Ted would be very proud of Marshall University if he were alive today—as would his parents.

“My mom and dad are gone, but it would be great for them to see all the wonderful things at Marshall, all the transitions they have gone through,” said Tom, who retired from teaching two years ago. He remains the head boys’ track coach after 36 years, and is a volunteer coach with the football team after 30 years as an assistant coach, including 25 years as offensive coordinator.
To this day, the Marshall University family and the Huntington community still mourn the victims of the tragedy.

At the mere mention of “the crash,” sadness abounds.

“It is sad … it’s very sad,” said Mike Hamrick, Marshall’s director of athletics and a former player for the Thundering Herd. “When you think of those young people who died in the primes of their lives, it gets you right in the gut. It hurts; it still hurts to this day. Many of the surviving family members who are still around have not gotten over it and probably won’t get over it as long as they live. You just wonder, ‘why?’ Why did it happen? Why here? Why to Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia?”

For whatever the reason, the plane did crash. 44 years ago. And, 75 people died. 44 years ago.

Amazingly, the crowds have grown each year at the memorial service, packing the plaza in a reverent manner. To many of those who perhaps knew at least one of the victims, or were Marshall students at the time, or even just lived in Huntington at the time of the crash, these 44 years have gone by quickly.

Joe Wortham, who was a student assistant statistician for Gene Morehouse, the sports information director at the time of the crash, seems a bit surprised that it has been 44 years.

“I stopped counting, probably after the 10th year,” Wortham said. “It doesn’t feel like it has been 44 years to me.”

Wortham has worked at Marshall since the fall of 1966, when he was hired as a freshman student assistant by then-Athletic Director Whitey Wilson just a few months after graduating from Huntington High School.

Wortham knows that he could have been on the plane. He alternated road trips with Larry George, the other student assistant assigned to sports information to assist Morehouse, and Wortham was slated to make the trip. But, he had to take a national exam to get his degree, and the only day it was given was Nov. 14, 1970.

“So, we swapped trips,” Wortham said. “By luck or fate, I didn’t take that flight. Initially, it was an uneasy feeling when you realized it could’ve been—should’ve been—me on that plane. But, I figure in life there is always a reason for everything.”

Some people have suggested that it is time to stop having the services; that 44 years is long enough to mourn.

“No way,” said Duncan Waugaman, president of the Student Government Association. “As long as there is at least one person that is still affected by the plane crash and wants to remember the lives lost from it, we will continue to have it. Marshall University went from a school to a family on November 14, 1970, and we will continue to honor our fallen family members. It’s the least we can do.”

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Robert Meeropol, son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, to visit Marshall University for Rosenberg trial seminar Nov. 11

Robert Meeropol, one of the sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, will share his story with the Marshall University community during a Rosenberg trial seminar sponsored by Marshall University’s College of Health Professions and the college’s Department of Social Work. He will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, in room BE-5 of the Memorial Student Center on Marshall’s Huntington campus.

The Rosenbergs were convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and executed for passing information about the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union.

Dr. Peggy Proudfoot Harman, assistant professor of social work at Marshall and organizer of the event, said this seminar will be the culmination of a semester-long exploration into the implications of the well-known Rosenberg trial by her First Year Seminar (FYS) students.

“My FYS ‘Investigation 101’ students have studied the connection of how social, biological and psychological factors shape human behavior,” Harman said. “From a social work standpoint, Mr. Meeropol’s story is interesting for many reasons, especially when one considers that he and his older brother were abandoned by family members after his parents’ execution until he was later adopted by the Meeropol family.”

Harman, a former federal investigator/mitigation specialist for the Federal Public Defender in Pittsburgh, said Meeropol plans to discuss many themes, which are still relevant today.

“In light of the recent news associated with Edward Snowden, ISIS and acts of terrorism, the issues of national security, patriotism and the death penalty are still topics of great interest to many of us,” Harman said. “As far as we know, Mr. Meeropol is the only U.S. attorney to have had both parents executed and with this in mind, he will bring a fascinating personal perspective to the table.”

Meeropol, now in his 60s, was only six years old when his parents were put to death. Until 2013, he was executive director of the Rosenberg Fund for Children, a public foundation he started in his parents’ honor in 1990. Since retiring from that position, he speaks publicly about his parents’ case less frequently, but he said the opportunity given to him at Marshall University was one he could not pass up.

“When I found out there was a group of young students dedicated to delving into my parents case at Marshall, I saw an opportunity to explore these connections and create a level of interaction I have not had in other campus events,” Meeropol said.
Meeropol said he hopes the Marshall community will see the relationship between what has happened in the past and what continues to happen.

“At the end of this, I want my audience to learn how to explore for themselves,” Meeropol said. “If they listen to everything I say and respond, ‘okay this guy is the fountain of truth,’ then they won’t have gotten the point. If they reject everything I say and then respond, ‘he’s living in a fantasy land,’ then they won’t have gotten the point either. The point I want them to take away is that the truth is rarely simple and oftentimes, keeping an open mind will help us understand things in a way we never thought possible.”

Meeropol also will participate in a morning session with the FYS students. It is open to the public and will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Drinko Library.

The Marshall University Department of Social Work will offer one Continuing Education Unit for licensed social workers for the morning session and two CEUs for the evening session.

Copies of Meeropol’s book, *An Execution in the Family: One Son’s Journey*, will be sold at the evening seminar. They will be available for $10, with proceeds to benefit the Rosenberg Fund for Children.

For more information on the Department of Social Work, visit [www.marshall.edu/cohp](http://www.marshall.edu/cohp) online. To learn more about Meeropol and his work with The Rosenberg Fund for Children, visit [www.rfc.org](http://www.rfc.org) online.

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*Photos:* (Above) Robert Meeropol, son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, will visit Marshall University to discuss the implications of his parents’ execution from a personal, social and political perspective. (Below) Meeropol and his brother, Michael, pose for a photo in the early 1950s, right around the time of their parents’ trial. Meeropol said he hopes the Marshall University community will see similarities between what happened in the 1950s and what is happening today.

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For the second consecutive year, Marshall University will host a series of forums designed for faculty, students and members of the community to discuss the future of higher education funding in West Virginia.

Forums will take place over a one-week span in mid-November at three of the university’s locations. The forums, which are sponsored by the office of President Stephen J. Kopp and the Marshall University Faculty Senate, will again be moderated by Beth Vorhees, news director for West Virginia Public Broadcasting. Each forum begins at 6 p.m. and will run as follows:

- Thursday, Nov. 13, in the Drinko Library on the Huntington campus
- Tuesday, Nov. 18, on the South Charleston campus
- Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant

Legislators and representatives from the governor’s office as well as members of the Higher Education Policy Commission are invited to attend. Each of the forums, which are designed to give the public an opportunity to learn about budget cuts and their impact as well as to ask questions, is open to the public.

Higher education institutions have weathered more than 11 percent in cuts to their state budget appropriations since Fiscal Year 2013, and are anticipating further cuts for Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond.

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Marshall faculty, librarians launch history website and mobile app

Dr. Monica Brooks of Marshall Libraries and Drs. Dan Holbrook and David Trowbridge of the Department of History have announced the public launch of Clio, a website and mobile application for the study of history.

Named after the ancient muse of history, Clio, which can be found online at www.theclio.com, has been built by Trowbridge and students assisting him over the past two years. Clio picks up a user’s location anywhere in the United States and tells them about the history and culture that surrounds them, with a growing database that includes nearly 4000 museums, art galleries, monuments, sculptures, and historical sites. In addition, contributors across the nation are adding hundreds of sites each month, Trowbridge said.

“Clio creates a fascinating journey that illustrates historical events, people, and places across America,” said Jackie Wheeler, one of the students who has worked on the project. “By creating an entry on Clio, you can help to broaden the availability of rich American history and passionately share events, some of which are less known. I have enjoyed being a part of Clio and bringing history to others in a new and wonderful way.”

Clio provides a summary and backstory for each location, along with links to more information, Trowbridge said. Clio can also connect users to relevant books, articles, and websites when they are ready to learn more about any particular topic.

In addition to guiding the public to physical sites such as monuments and museum, Clio includes “Time Capsule” entries that allow users to hold their smartphones up to the modern landscape and see images and videos of historic events that have not yet been commemorated with markers. For example, Clio can guide users to the precise location of a civil rights protest or a labor strike. Users can “feel history” as they stand at that location while viewing images and videos of the event and reading primary source documents and interpretations of the event written by scholars. For example, Clio shows the precise location of sit-ins in Huntington and Charleston, allowing users with smartphones to view images and videos of the sit-ins right where they occurred.

“Clio has given me the opportunity to unearth the historical significance of DuBois High School,” said Hailey Horn, another of the students who has worked on the project. “Clio allows us to bring history to the present, and inform the community members of its importance.”
Clio’s goal is to connect everyone in the United States to the history and culture that surrounds them, Trowbridge said. Each entry can provide a basic summary, detailed backstory, images and audio/video clips, as well as suggested books and articles for those who want to know more. Entries for museums and archives provide addresses, hours, phone numbers, and official websites, along with turn-by-turn directions. Because Clio can pick up a user’s present location, it can always guide them right to the place, he added.

“Clio reaches beyond the textbook, allowing a user to access the history that surrounds us,” said J. Lee Sigmon, another of Trowbridge’s students. “Events, places, and people are brought to the user, [making] Clio perfect for historically-inclined tourists. Launch the App and a region’s history comes alive.”

Students, faculty, and librarians recently filmed a video introduction to Clio, highlighting its capacity to connect users to the history that surrounds them. It is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ydzv9nY-Oo

Clio is available on any web browser or as a free mobile application (“app”) in iTunes and Google Play.

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Officials from Marshall, BridgeValley sign agreement for business degree

Officials at Marshall University and BridgeValley Community & Technical College in South Charleston have announced an agreement that will help residents of West Virginia earn an associate degree and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in a discipline related to business.

Through the agreement, Marshall will accept a maximum of 72 hours of college-level coursework offered by BridgeValley. Such courses may be used to fulfill a portion of Marshall’s general education curriculum, as well as part of a baccalaureate program of study.

“We have worked with Dean Megan Lorenz at BridgeValley for a year on this articulation agreement,” said Dr. Haiyang Chen, dean of the College of Business. “Thanks to her and our people’s hard work, we have a comprehensive articulation agreement between the two institutions. We look forward to working with faculty, staff and students at BridgeValley to make the transfer process as smooth as possible. We are very pleased to make this happen.”

Lorenz, dean of business and legal studies at BridgeValley, said, “BridgeValley’s new articulation agreement with Marshall University provides our graduates an opportunity to seamlessly progress to a four-year degree. Students can begin their college educations locally at
BridgeValley and finish with a fantastic university like Marshall, or enter the workplace in a variety of career paths.”

Students working toward the bachelor’s degree will be encouraged to work with academic advisors to ensure their previous, current and future courses fulfill the requirements of their chosen program of study. Course substitutions may be available upon the approval of the appropriate Marshall University department chair and academic dean.

Upon completion of the Associate in Science degree, participating students will apply for admission to Marshall and must meet all admission requirements prior to acceptance and matriculation. Students who transfer to Marshall will be allowed to transfer courses as specified in the agreement.

The terms of the agreement were approved on Monday, Oct. 27, by the respective administrations of the two schools.

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School of Medicine receives $25,000 gift for Chertow-Keller Family Endowment

The Chertow-Keller Family Endowment, established at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine in 2009, has received a $25,000 gift from one of its original benefactors.

Eileen Keller recently made the gift in memory of her husband, Leonard, who passed away last year.

“We are honored to make this donation in memory of Leonard,” Keller said. “We know that he was committed to the endowment and so proud of our brother Dr. Bruce Chertow and his commitment to find new treatments and a cure for diabetes. We are hopeful that this donation will make a difference and will honor Leonard’s memory.”

The endowment was initially created by Bruce and Janice Chertow, Leonard and Eileen Keller, Wayne and Roselyn Chertow, and their family and friends. Chertow, professor emeritus and former chief of endocrinology,
established Marshall’s endocrinology fellowship training program and served as the lead proponent for creation of the Diabetes Center at Marshall University which now bears his name.

“Eileen’s gift reflects the family’s love for Lenny and his generosity,” Bruce Chertow said. “We are pleased to continue to support Marshall’s school of medicine.”

The funds from the endowment are awarded to an endocrinology fellow or internal medicine resident to attend a professional meeting focusing on diabetes. Additionally, the funds may also be used to assist a medical student who has an interest in endocrinology.

Larry D. Dial, M.D., chair of the department of internal medicine, says support from the Chertow-Keller Family Endowment is extremely helpful in the development of young career endocrinologists.

“In an era of increased challenges for research and education funding from sources like National Institutes of Health and others, scholarly activity continues to be at risk,” Dial said. “It’s only through the philanthropic generosity of supporters like the Kellers and Chertows that we can continue to educate our physicians for the future.”

The School of Medicine established its endocrinology fellowship in 1987.

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Photo: Leonard and Eileen Keller were among the founders of the Chertow-Keller Family Endowment.

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Office Depot recognizes Marshall for green purchasing efforts

Officials from Office Depot Inc. visited the Huntington campus last week to present a special recognition award to Margie Phillips, Sustainability Manager, and Stephanie Smith, Director of Purchasing and Chief Procurement Officer, for the university’s greener purchasing efforts.

“Every year for the past seven years Office Depot has recognized a select group of customers for leadership in greener purchasing efforts,” said Yalmaz Siddiqui, Senior Director of Environmental & Supplier Diversity Strategy at Office Depot. “We are pleased to present Marshall University a Special Recognition for Community Engagement Award for their very proactive efforts to engage internal and external stakeholders in greener purchasing behavior.”
Marshall also was honored at the Office Depot Greener Purchasing Summit and Awards Ceremony Sept. 17.

Phillips said “Green Purchasing” is an important element to achieve sustainable development and to “Be Marshall Green.”

“By choosing to purchase environmentally friendly products, the university helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cut solid waste, preserve natural resources and conserve energy,” she said.

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Photo: From left are Jeff Frazier, Regional Sales Manager at Office Depot; Margie Phillips, Sustainability Manager; Stephanie Smith, Director of Purchasing and Chief Procurement Officer; Bryan Heeb, District Sales Manager at Office Depot, and Penny Shrader, Territory Development Manager at Office Depot.

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McGuire named senior military instructor

Master Sgt. Brandon McGuire has been named a Senior Military Instructor for the Marshall University Army ROTC, according to Lt. Col. Cloyd Lilly, professor and chair of the Department of Military Affairs. He began his duties in July.

A native of Olathe, Kansas, McGuire entered the U.S. Army in 1998 and received his infantry basic and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Georgia. In previous assignments he was located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Richardson, Alaska; Camp Casey, South Korea; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and Fort Riley, Kansas. McGuire has conducted combat operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

He is a graduate of the Warrior Leader Course, Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, the First Sergeant’s Course and Joint Firepower Controller Course.

McGuire’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medial with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Ribbon, Iraq Campaign Medal with bronze star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 bronze stars, Korea Defense Service ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, NATO Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon with Bronze 3, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Expert Infantryman’s Badge and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge.

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Golden Key chapter seeking adviser

The Marshall University chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society is seeking a new adviser. The advisor will work directly with the executive board members as a leadership coach, attend occasional chapter meetings and assist officers as they carry out their responsibilities. The adviser will communicate with and be supported by a member of the Golden Key Staff.

“Though the time commitment is small, the Marshall University chapter is in need of your support,” said Tricia Forbes, associate director, US. university relations, Golden Key International Honour Society.

Golden Key chapters worldwide host community service and personal and professional development events based on the pillars of academics, leadership and service. Advisors are eligible for Golden Key grants and monetary awards, as well as numerous travel opportunities to regional and international summits. Summit locations in 2015 include Washington, D.C. and the Gold Coast of Australia. Anyone interested should contact Forbes at tforbes@goldenkey.org.

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The next issue of We Are...Marshall will be distributed Nov. 12, 2014. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10.