

Mrs Burnett Joins Husband in Calling for Investigation 2.20.09

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## A full review

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To the editor:

Today, I am adding my voice for a full and transparent review of the National Park Service and Flight 93 design selection process that produced Crescent of Embrace. Does it have Islamic symbols or doesn't it? Let's settle this once and for all.

Why do you think Tom Sr. opposed this design? It is pretty simple; Tom Sr. saw the Islamic symbols and knew those symbols did not belong at the crash site of Flight 93.

Tom Burnett Sr. traveled to Pennsylvania last August to attend the Task Force Meeting to voice his opposition to the memorial design. A Family Board member as well as a commissioner accused Tom Sr. being "just like the Islamic terrorists" that killed our son.

Why didn't someone speak up and defend Tom Sr.'s right to voice his opinion?

I believe that the DOI and NPS neglected their most important task which was to secure the crash site. Did they all agree from the beginning that they would take the land they wanted, either by purchase or eminent domain? Was that the agreement, was that the plan?

Yes, I am aware of the friendly agreement with one of the landowners, which I will be following.

Did you know that 90 percent of the remains of the 40 passengers and crew, as well as the hijackers, lie unclaimed in the field and forest surrounding the crash site? This is sacred ground; this is a battlefield and a cemetery.

I shiver when I think of the bulldozers coming to Shanksville.

Who made the decision to acquire 2,200 acres for the Memorial. Who decided it would be a National Park? I don't know, do you?

Last December, Tom Sr. and I had the honor of laying the wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. This took place at more than 200 national and state cemeteries across this country. These wreaths are donated by "Wreaths across America." We met the families whose sons and daughters were killed in Iraq. ...these young heroes were given such a small plot of ground for their sacrifice serving our Country.

I never wanted anything changed at the crash site. Let's leave the site as it was the day the passengers and crew looked down from the plane. Let's not change anything. Let's not disturb their final resting place. Let's honor them.

When our family first traveled to the crash site we all felt we had been there before. We saw what the 40 heroes saw on Sept. 11. I want the future visitors to see the same landscape and experience the same feelings. The site was quiet, solemn and eerie. We heard the wind; we thought we heard Flight 93 overhead. We most certainly felt Tom Jr.'s presence. I wanted the public to come and have those same feelings, remember Flight 93 and remember the 40 abroad that flight. Remember their courage. No one can improve this battlefield and cemetery.

When Tom Sr. returned from Somerset, I looked at the Murdoch design. I imagined myself walking past "The Tower of Voices" to a large area called the bowl. I had recently seen some TV coverage from the Middle East showing Muslims being called to prayer from a minaret to a large open space in a Mosque. The Tower of Voices is

clearly very similar to all the minarets around the world and the crescent bowl area, that contains the crash site, is similar to prayer space in the Mosque's. I urge you to take another look at this design. Does this design contain Islamic symbolism or not?

We should be concerned that there are still designers who want to know who did the "tweaking" of Crescent of Embrace after it was chosen. Some of these designers believe elements of their designs were taken and incorporated into the revised version. Let's clear that up ... Let's listen to them.

Aug. 2, Joanne Hanley, read a lengthy and emotional statement at the meeting. She said her character and patriotism have been questioned and she has endured personal attacks. I do not approve of personally attacking anyone, not Joanne or Tom Sr.

Yes, our family and friends are angry that anyone would compare Tom Sr. with the Islamic terrorists on Flight 93.

When Tom Sr. knew that our son was not coming home, he was determined to find the people responsible for funding the Islamic terrorists. A close friend helped Tom Sr. find Ron Motley. Maybe some of you joined his law suit. Tom Sr. will not rest until those responsible are brought to trial.

The Burnett family has proudly served this country. First, Tom Jr. aboard United 93, Tom Sr. served in Korea, Tom Sr.'s father and uncle were in World War I; three of his brothers served in combat in World War II, and two in the Korean War. Tom Sr. also had two aunts that served their country, one in the Marines and one in the Navy, in World War II. The Burnett's have a history of sacrifice and service.

I am proud of my three brothers; one served on a PT Boat in the South Pacific during World War II, another in Korea with the First Marine's, and the youngest served as an MP with the Army, all in combat.

How many of you know that NPS and Flight 93 hired a full time lobbyist? This lobbyist paid a visit to our congressional representatives to discredit Tom Sr.'s claims?

This lobbyist told them that Tom Sr. didn't know what he was talking about and that he did not see what he saw.

Does the public want their donations for the Memorial going for a full time lobbyist to discredit family members and lobby Congress? I don't think so.

Beverly Burnett, mother of Tom Burnett Jr. who was on United Flight 93

Bloomington, Minn.