

George W. Bush Presidential Library

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Folder Title: 09/11/2001 Fund - Deena Burnett
Letter

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Letter	[Deena Burnett Letter] - [page 2] - To: POTUS - From: Deena Burnett	1	08/29/2002	P6/b6;

COLLECTION TITLE:

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FOLDER TITLE:

09/11/2001 Fund - Deena Burnett Letter

FRC ID:

9695

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Sibby - Linda gave me the letter today to determine what response is possible. Could you ask someone to note the highlighted language and give me some perspective on the suit, its effects, and what we should respond?

August 29, 2002

Mr. President,

I have enclosed a transcript of the four telephone conversations I had with my husband while he was aboard UAL flight 93 on September 11, 2001. The transcript was written from the notes I took during our conversations.

It has been said the flight was comprised of ordinary people, there was nothing ordinary about Tom Burnett. He in short, was exceptional. His phone calls were the only clear and concise example of gathering information, assessing the situation and working to resolve the problem. Everyone else called to say good bye and spoke of dying. It is his voice heard on the cockpit voice recorder leading the charge against the hijackers and yelling instructions to the passengers and crew. The world can credit whomever they like for the courage displayed that day, but were it not for Tom Burnett, the circumstances of flight 93 would have been very different, and perhaps the circumstances of your own family.

I am sharing this with you because Tom believed you to be an honorable man. I was quite surprised when he decided to support you at the onset of your campaign for president. When I asked why, he replied, "I believe him to be forthright. He has the resources that President Reagan and his father had...don't worry about Bush, he'll come into his own, and he'll restore dignity and honor to the position of the President." As my husband was very intuitive, I followed his lead in supporting you and have never been disappointed.

His death has driven me to continue what he started: an effort to put everyone else first and myself last. I have established the Tom Burnett Family Foundation and have already raised thousands of dollars toward the development of children's bereavement camps and college scholarships. Our website will be up and running on September 4.

I also travel throughout the country speaking to thousands of people each month encouraging them to be motivated by Tom's last words to me, "We're going to do something." I ask them to get out of their seats and do something by volunteering, voting, supporting the war effort, being aware of our leaders and the decisions they make, loving their families and having faith in God. (It's really a very good speech, you should hear it some time).

Mr. President, I am also driven to help further the war on terrorism. Tom's parents and I along with hundreds of other families have filed a lawsuit against entities who fund terrorist organizations. I know it may put you in a somewhat difficult position to help us and I offer my apology. However, it is always just and noble to do what is right, regardless of the consequences. With the help of our government, this lawsuit could benefit our country. We could put a strong hold on the financial support of terrorism therefore strangling the movements of terrorist organizations. I hope we can count on your support, whether it is publicly known or not.

As families of 9/11, we relied on the position taken by Mr. Feinberg that we would be able to file lawsuits against foreign governments, individuals and organizations without compromising our ability to accept the government compensation fund. To reverse that position, would be unjust and unfortunate to the families who are depending on the financial assistance. We are patriots of this nation and like you, want to do what is right for our country and for the support of our military troops. There are men and women who are fighting for their lives, doing all they can to end terrorism. It is certainly our responsibility to do the same.

In the words of my husband, Tom Burnett, "What we accomplish in life, our pursuits, our passions, echo in posterity through our children, our neighbors, and in our souls... The struggle to preserve life enriches all of us, and our humanity is fortified by the process. To deem life important, and to act, affects all of those that bear witness to it."

I am positive that our working together would be beneficial to the war effort and to the morale of our country. Please let me know how I can help.

Sincerely,

Deena Burnett

(b)(6)

Tom + Deena Burnett phone conversations
UAL flt 93

6:27 a.m. (pacific time)

cell phone call:

Deena: Hello

Tom: Deena

Deena: Tom, are you O.K.?

Tom: No, I'm not. I'm on an airplane that has been hijacked.

Deena: hijacked?

Tom: Yes, They just knifed a guy.

Deena: A passenger?

Tom: Yes.

Deena: Where are you? Are you in the air?

Tom: Yes, yes, just listen. Our airplane has been hijacked. It's United Flight 93 from Newark to San Francisco. We are in the air. The hijackers have already knifed a guy, one of them has a gun, they are telling us there is a bomb on board, please call the authorities.

He hung up.

6:31 I call 911

6:34 The phone rang in on call waiting, Tom's cell phone.

Deena: Hello

Tom: They're in the cockpit. The guy they knifed is dead.

Deena: He's dead?

Tom: Yes. I tried to help him, but I couldn't get a pulse.

Deena: Tom, they are hijacking planes all up and down the east coast. They are taking them and hitting designated targets. They've already hit both towers of the World Trade Center.

Tom: They're talking about crashing this plane. (a pause) Oh my God. It's a suicide mission... (he then tells people sitting around him)

Deena: Who are you talking to?

Tom: My seatmate. Do you know which airline is involved?

Deena: No, they don't know if they're commercial airlines or not. The newsreporters are speculating cargo planes, private planes and commercial. No one knows.

Tom: How many planes are there?

Deena: They're not sure, at least three. Maybe more.

Tom: O.K....O.K....Do you know who is involved?

Deena: No.

Tom: We're turning back toward New York. We're going back to the World Trade Center. No, wait, we're turning back the other way. We're going south.

Deena: What do you see?

Tom: Just a minute, I'm looking. I don't see anything, we're over a rural area. It's just fields. I've gotta go.

He hung up.

6:45 a.m.

Tom: Deena

Deena: Tom, you're O.K. (I thought at this point he had just survived the Pentagon plane crash).

Tom: No, I'm not.

Deena: They just hit the Pentagon.

Tom: (tells people sitting around him "They just hit the Pentagon.")

Tom: O.K....O.K. What else can you tell me?

Deena: They think five airplanes have been hijacked. One is still on the ground. They believe all of them are commercial planes. I haven't heard them say which airline, but all of them have originated on the east coast.

Tom: Do you know who is involved?

Deena: No

Tom: What is the probability of their having a bomb on board? I don't think they have one. I think they're just telling us that for crowd control.

Deena: A plane can survive a bomb if it's in the right place.

Tom: Did you call the authorities?

Deena: Yes, they didn't know anything about your plane.

Tom: They're talking about crashing this plane into the ground. We have to do something. I'm putting a plan together.

Deena: Who's helping you?

Tom: Different people. Several people. There's a group of us. Don't worry. I'll call you back.

6:54

Deena: Tom?

Tom: Hi. Anything new?

Deena: No

Tom: Where are the kids?

Deena: They're fine. They're sitting at the table having breakfast. They're asking to talk to you.

Tom: Tell them I'll talk to them later

Deena: I called your parents. They know your plane has been hijacked.

Tom: Oh...you shouldn't have worried them. How are they doing?

Deena: They're O.K.. Mary and Martha are with them.

Tom: Good. (a long quiet pause) We're waiting until we're over a rural area. We're going to take back the airplane.

Deena: No! Sit down, be still, be quiet, and don't draw attention to yourself! (The exact words taught to me by Delta Airlines Flight Attendant Training).

Tom: Deena! If they're going to crash this plane into the ground, we're going to have do something!

Deena: What about the authorities?

Tom: We can't wait for the authorities. I don't know what they could do anyway.

It's up to us. I think we can do it.

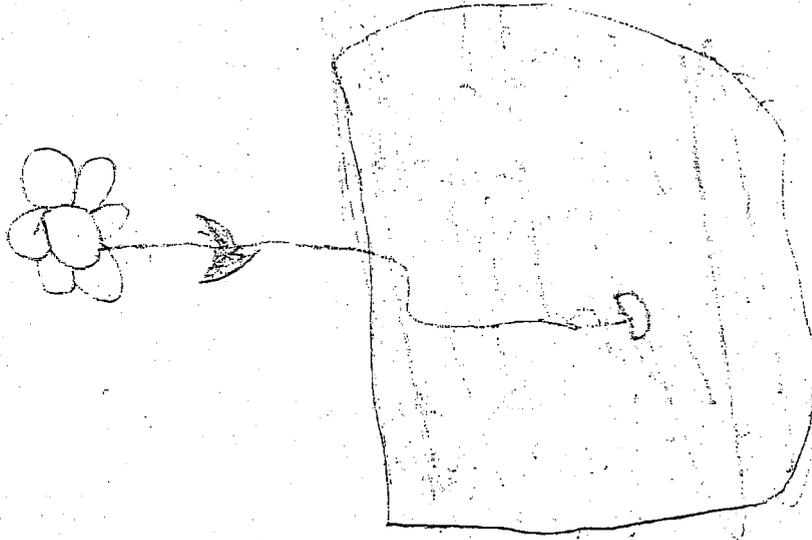
Deena: What do you want me to do?

Tom: Pray, Deena, just pray.

Deena: (after a long pause) I love you.

Tom: Don't worry, we're going to do something.

He hung up



a drawing from
 Anna (the artist)
 (attached)



Deema (38) Halley(6) Madison(6) Anna Clare(4)

To:

President Bush

From:

Deema Burnett
wife of Tom Burnett
WAL # 93
9-11-01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: 9/17 TIME: 5:08

TO: Brett

FAX: _____

FROM: Patricia

PHONE: (202) 456-2632 FAX: (202) 456-6279

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): _____

Comments:

Pls. respond asap to Harriet
& let me know it is done.
Thanks!

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