

Family Assistance Foundation Symposium 2008

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Good Morning,

Carole and I are pleased to have been invited to address the Family Assistance Foundation 2008 Annual Symposium. We lost our daughter on Pan Am Flt. 103, Dec. 21, 1988. Presently I serve as Board Chairman for the families group, Victims of Pan Am Flt. 103 and as the families Representative to the TSA-ASAC (Aviation Security Advisory Committee). Today I would like to briefly review the activities we have participated in while representing the families during the nearly twenty years since the bombing.

It was with mixed emotions that I accepted the chairmanship position which had previously been occupied by outstanding leaders. The VPAF103 was organized February 19, 1989. For all but one year I had been a Board member, Vice-president or Treasurer. This board over the years has been a dedicated group of highly capable and energetic people who refused to let the murderers of our loved ones escape justice.

Our first group activity was a mass lobbying effort and rally on the 103rd day, across from the White House. The officers met with President Bush. Three or four family members crossed the threshold of every Senator's office. We had several trips to the U.K. of which I was a member. We also sent a group to Germany (as the Berlin wall came down) and to Malta when the President, PM Thatcher and Gorbachev were there. The purpose of the trips to London and Lockerbie were threefold: first, to form a partnership with the U.K. families; second, to create a media blitz keeping the bombing in the public eye forcing the government to act; and third, to discuss and agree upon an appropriate Memorial site in Lockerbie.

Meetings with the British Transport Ministry began a process of reviewing their airport and airline safety procedures. But meetings with the German officials made it clear that we needed to find a way to bring political pressure to bear in Germany. It never was the success we desired. Congress passed off to the White House our issues. President George H. W. Bush signed an executive order creating the President's Commission on Aviation Security And Terrorism. Again, we testified and monitored each public meeting. The final recommendations surprised us. It resulted in an extremely adamant and forceful report.

Our next fight was to get the recommendations included in legislation. This was tough, we made many trips to Congress, crossing every doorstep of all 100 Senators and 435 Representatives. Our efforts were rewarded with the passing of the Aviation Security Act of 1990. It stood until 9/11 before being updated.

We have had many meetings with the State Dept. In the beginning we averaged 20 to 25 family members to each meeting. Early on, our focus was to revise the way

Consular Affairs treated victims or victims' families in time of disaster. Carole and I participated in creating training videos for the Consular Affairs and also for airline personnel. Colin Powell was very helpful to us in securing a Libyan agreement to settle with the families.

Carole and I, along with other family members, lobbied Transportation to implement the changes required by the Aviation Security Act. There was a lot of resistance to change.

We also wanted the investigation to move forward. We felt we needed to meet with the Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. So, when I and other VPAF103 officers had a meeting with Deputy Secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger, we expressed our frustration with the AG. As our meeting was ending, Frank Moss, from the State Dept. came in and said "a car is waiting to take you to see the AG". We spent over an hour with the AG and his Assistant, Robert Mueller, III, who also has been a big help over the years. He is now the Director of the FBI.

November 14, 1991 two Libyan intelligence agents, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamén Fhimah were indicted in the US and Scottish courts. This began a long hard trip for us. We worked with our friends in the Senate, especially Kennedy, Lautenberg, the FBI and State Dept. to bring them to trial.

On January 21, 1992 the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon Libya to surrender the suspects. It took years of work with the State Dept. and the United Nations. It was not until April 5, 1999 that Libya handed over the two Libyans for trial in the Netherlands. After a nine month trial (86 court days) January 31, 2001 we saw a verdict convicting Megrahi but freeing Fhimah.

Carole and I, along with other VPAF103 families, worked with the Congress for two years for the right to sue Libya. The Anti-Terrorism Bill became law on April 24, 1996 and included an exclusion to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act permitting Libya to be sued. On April 29, 1996, the Plaintiffs' Committee filed action against Libya. We met several times with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who also had been a supporter while serving as the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.

We met twice at the White House with National Security Advisor Sandy Berger securing the support of the Administration. We were unable to secure an oil embargo, but our efforts did pay off. I was in the home of Chief Inspector George Esson, near Lockerbie, when he said indictments were near. I no sooner returned home and I had to fly to New York for the U.S. and Scottish announcements.

Our attorneys were able to reach a Settlement Agreement providing for a three part payment to the families. Within a few days the U.N. lifted its sanctions on Libya, thus freeing up the first payment. Carole and I had a private meeting with President George W. Bush on the day after he lifted U.S. sanctions on Libya, allowing the second payment to the families. The President stated he "still had reservations about removing Libya from the List of Terrorist Nations." We asked if and when he would do so, he

would do so to the benefit of the families. This did not happen. The State Dept. allowed the removal of Libya from the list without Libya making the final payment. We still are fighting this injustice.

Last year we were able to get Congress to stop President Bush from receiving a Libyan Ambassador or providing funds for an American Embassy in Libya. Assistant Secretary of State Welsh will be meeting in London with the Libyans this week to again try to settle the issue.

On our trips to the U.K. we were able to secure from the Lockerbie Trust a commitment to provide stones for a Memorial Cairn. We raised the money to provide for construction and future maintenance. It took us two years to secure an Act of Congress to allow it to be erected in Arlington National Cemetery. President Clinton was present at the groundbreaking in 1993 and at the dedication in 1995.

Twice I introduced Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff at our annual Dec. 21st Memorial Service in Arlington Cemetery. We are planning a two day event for this year as it will be the 20th Anniversary of the bombing of Pan Am Flt. 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Our son, Glenn III, who you see is reading victims' names at the memorial service, over the years has become an asset and now is serving as a board member of the VPAF103. We are seeing many of the younger members taking over the leadership roles. Our President, Kara Weipz, is another following in the footsteps of her father, Bob Monetti. Now our granddaughter is becoming involved. Here she is participating in last year's Memorial Service.

How can I talk about what we have been doing for the past twenty years in just twenty minutes? There is just so much we have been doing. We are happy to talk to you later.

Now Carole would like to put a personal touch as to what we have been doing with our lives while trying to keep the memory of Beth alive.