

CORY S. ADAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cory Adams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 60, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cory has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Cory has shown an extraordinary commitment to Scouting as evidenced by earning 45 merit badges. Cory is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Cory's Eagle Scout service project was placing two swinging benches at the ponds located at Duncan park in Savannah, Missouri. Cory performed the majority of the work, and supervised other Scouts, friends and family that helped with the project. This project continued the tradition of community service established by the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cory Adams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 182 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1097 to support National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I am committed to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can grow and prosper in a safe, nurturing, and healthy environment.

As a father of two children, nothing is more important to me than protecting the welfare of all children. Safe, nurturing, and healthy environments are necessary for the well-being of children and their families. All children need to know that they are special and that they are loved by their parents.

By raising awareness of child abuse and neglect, parents and teachers can protect children from the risks associated with abuse and neglect. By supporting National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Congress can take a strong stand against child abuse and neglect.

My heart goes out to all children and families that have experienced abuse and neglect in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to vote for this important resolution that will support the establishment of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

QUESTIONS ABOUT DESIGN OF PROPOSED FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, Tom Burnett, Jr. was a true American hero. All Americans owe Tom and the other passengers on United Flight 93 a deep debt of gratitude for their bravery on September 11, 2001. Indeed, the Members of this body may owe their very lives to Tom Burnett, Jr. and the other courageous passengers. Tom Burnett, Jr. grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota, in the 3rd Congressional District, which I am privileged to represent.

Tom was among the small group of passengers who confronted the hijackers that fateful morning. Department of Defense officials believe Flight 93 was headed for a target here in Washington, most likely the White House or the Capitol.

Tom's father, Tom Burnett, Sr., has long-held and serious concerns about the design of the Flight 93 Memorial Project proposed for the site where the plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert comments from Tom Burnett, Sr., regarding what he believes to be serious problems with the design of the memorial to his beloved son and the other passengers. Here are Tom Burnett, Sr.'s important concerns about the Flight 93 Memorial:

"I am the father of Tom Burnett, Jr., a passenger on Flight 93 on 9-11-2001. Tom Jr. led the effort to take that flight back from the hijackers, and he and 39 passengers and crew almost succeeded.

"My son confronted a terrible moment of truth. Faced with a plot against our nation, he and the other heroes of Flight 93 fought back, and at the cost of their lives, foiled that plot to destroy the White House or the Capitol. Now it is time for the rest of us to face our moment of truth. Flight 93 has been re hijacked, and I am requesting that, if you can, demand that a proper investigation of the Memorial Project be conducted.

"This was no accident. The Memorial Project held an open design competition in time of war, inviting the entire world to enter. Guess who joined in? That group of trees that sits roughly in the position of the star on an Islamic flag is the crash site. What do you think is being memorialized here?

"A second Islamic feature that I also protested when I served on the Stage II jury is the minaret-like Tower of Voices, formed in the shape of a crescent, with its top cut at an angle so that its crescent arms reach up into the sky. Uprturned crescents are a standard mosque adornment in many Muslim countries.

"Every iota of this original Crescent of Embrace design remains completely intact in the so-called 'redesign.' That is why Congressman Tancredo asked the Park Service to scrap the existing design entirely. Instead of getting rid of the giant crescent as Tancredo demanded back in 2005, architect Paul Murdoch only disguised it with a few surrounding trees.

"Also remaining are those 44 glass blocks on the flight path. (There were 40 passengers and crew and four Islamic terrorists on Flight 93.) The Memorial Project acknowledges the 40 blocks inscribed with the names of my son and the other heroes, and they acknowledge the three inscribed with the 9/11 date, but they pretend not to know about this one: the huge glass block that dedicates the entire site.

"When this 44th glass block is pointed out, Project Partners say that it can't be counted with the other blocks because it is not the same size. What? Because the capstone to the terrorist memorializing block count is magnificent, that is supposed to make it okay?

"For every Islamic or terrorist memorializing feature of the crescent design, the Park Service has another equally phony excuse.

"What do we have to do to convince those opponents that the proposed Flight 93 Red Crescent still doesn't cut it? It is terribly flawed and should be thrown out to begin the quest for an entirely new design worthy of their efforts, those heroic Americans who were on that plane that fateful day.

"I was on the second jury in August, 2005, that approved that design over my objections. I objected then, in August 2005, and I am still adamantly opposed today to a design that is riddled with Islamic symbols.

"By consensus, the Stage II jury forwards this selection to the partner (architect Paul Murdoch) with the full and unqualified support of each juror, says the report that was issued.

"No, to the contrary, the vote was not unanimous, it was 9 to 6, and we, the minority, had no veto power. This is my effort to get back in the game.

"I don't want that design that has been redesigned several times by its originator and a design committee. In addition to the Red Crescent being a giant mosque, the proposed 'Tower of Voices' looks like an Islamic minaret.

"Millions of Americans and I find the 'Red Crescent of Embrace' an insult to my son and the others on Flight 93 who engaged in a violent struggle to take that plane back from the Islamic hijackers and were suddenly placed in the vanguard of the war on terrorism. Facing unfathomable choices, Tom was calm, clear headed, decisive and fearless. I can only hope that in the years to come the rest of us live up to the standard of heroism that he and others set on 9/11.

"What I am preeminently concerned about is what our countrymen will feel and learn when they visit the site.

"The story, when properly presented, will honor and reverberate in history. What those heroes accomplished for their fellow Americans, and for the entire Western World.

"I would want them to feel the desperation of those aboard Flight 93 as they became aware of what was happening, and their cold realization of what they had to do. I want them to ask themselves, what would I have done had I been aboard that flight? We know that in very little time the passengers got out of their seats, and attempted to take back the airplane.

"I do not want my son's name used anywhere on that Memorial, which is an insult to him and the other passengers and crew, and what is needed is a thorough, honest and objective investigation of the process during its selection, how and why.

"I am confused but undaunted by the attacks on me and anybody else who is against this design centered around Islamic symbolism.

"Those who have opposed me in many efforts to be heard includes some of the victims family members (thankfully, few), officials in the National Park Service, a few newspapers and some others.