

Special Report

**Ellen Mariani: 'Bush knew and let it happen'
*9/11 widow files suit detailing 'a deadly and evil mixture of the Bush and bin Laden regimes'***

By Joyce Lynn

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February 5, 2004—On September 10, 2001, Ellen Mariani and her husband Louis “spent their last day together as husband and wife on this earth.”

At about 8 a.m. the next day, September 11, George W. Bush sat down for his daily briefing, which included references to the heightened terrorist risk reported throughout the summer but “contained nothing serious enough to call National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice.” The briefing ended about 8:20 a.m.

At 9:05 a.m., Chief of Staff Andrew Card walked up to Bush, who was with a classroom of second graders at Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, Florida, and reportedly whispered in his ear: “A second plane has hit the World Trade Center. America is under attack.”

For the next 7 to 18 minutes, Bush continued to talk with the children about a goat story as Mariani’s husband, who was a passenger on United Airlines Flight 175, crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

Mariani’s husband was murdered as the commander-in-chief dallied in a second grade classroom reading a story about a pet goat.

This is Ellen Mariani’s description of her personal nightmare in the daring suit she filed last month against Bush; his father, George H. W. Bush, and top administration officials, calling them “aiders and abettors and conspirators” who “intentionally and deliberately failed to prevent the 9/11 attacks.”

Mariani alleges the defendants “let the attacks happen for one chilling reason: to profit personally or politically from the so-called ‘International War on Terror.’”

“The reasons why 9/11 occurred are no longer a national security risk, but a national security disgrace and tragedy,” Mariani declares.

Mariani believes Bush “allowed the attacks to take place to compel public anger and outcry to engage our nation and our military men and women in a preventable international war on terror for personal gains and agenda.”

Challenging the official version of 9/11, Mariani claims in her 62-page filing that Bush and his father “hold the answers” to why 9/11 occurred.

In the April 2002 article, “Misguided White Guy,” this publication pointed out the possibly corrupt financing cycle of policy and profit by G.H.W. Bush and cronies from his tenure in government. Some of these people are high officials in the current administration or executives in Bush’s private business ventures.

This publication put forth the argument in the article “Law of Conspiracy; Conspiracy of Silence” in October 2002 that Bush and other top administration officials were guilty of the same conspiracy to commit murder of which they accused John Walker Lindh, the American found with the Taliban in Afghanistan, because they remained silent before, during, and after the events of 9/11. The article argued that if Bush administration officials deliberately withheld information for political or financial gain they could be charged under the law of conspiracy.

A range of theories about what happened on 9/11 has emerged. The Bush administration’s story is that a guy with a long grizzled beard living in a cave in Afghanistan surprised the \$40 billion a year U.S. intelligence community by hijacking domestic airplanes and crashing them into symbols of U.S. economic dominance and war. Independent journalists, researchers, and activists have put forth evidence to support scenarios that Bush knew about 9/11 and let it happen (Mariani’s suit) and/or that 9/11 was an inside job -- an operation of shadow elements of the U.S. government.

In a personal letter to Bush released with the filing, Mariani writes, “On the morning of the attack, you and members of your staff were fully aware of the unfolding events, yet you chose to continue on to the Emma E. Booker Elementary School to proceed with a scheduled event and ‘photo op.’” (Excerpts of the letter follows this article.)

In addition to Bush, other defendants include George H.W. Bush, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, vice president, and president of the U.S.; Vice President Richard Cheney; Attorney General John Ashcroft; Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; CIA Director George Tenet; Department of Transportation secretary Norman Y. Mineta; chairman of the board of the Council on Foreign Relations Peter G. Peterson; National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, and special master of the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 Kenneth R. Feinberg.

Since Mariani filed a civil action last September 12, she says a “firestorm” has erupted around Bush’s refusal to comply with the commission investigating 9/11. As a result, on November 26, Mariani filed an amended complaint that includes obstruction of justice.

Mariani charges the defendants violated the U.S. Constitution and provisions of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. Mariani, who lives in New Hampshire, filed her suit (case no. 03-5273) in the Federal District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence were signed in Philadelphia, which is in the Eastern District.

Philip Berg, Mariani’s lawyer, was a former deputy attorney general of Pennsylvania and candidate for governor of Pennsylvania. He has woven information from independent 9/11 researchers, activists, and his own investigation into a spellbinding tale that alleges decades of Bush family malfeasance. (Philip J. Berg, Esquire, 9/11 For The Truth, 706 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444-1711, 610-825-3134, PJBLAW@aol.com)

Kyle F. Hence, co-founder of the activist organization 9/11 CitizensWatch, has worked closely with Mariani and other victim families. He said about Mariani’s case, “We feel that it is a very important legal action that could, if nothing else, bring more focus on the issues the media continue to largely ignore.” (kylehence@earthlink.net)

Edward Hurley of the Sarah McClendon Study Group, which sponsored a press conference with Mariani and Berg at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, last month, said Mariani’s suit presented “a richly documented case for criminal negligence if not complicity at the highest reaches of our government.”

The Mariani complaint is online at www.911forthetruth.com

Mariani asserts Bush, Cheney, and Rice have engaged in a “pattern of criminal activity and obstruction of justice” in violation of the public trust and laws of the United States to achieve their personal goals and agendas.”

Mariani claims that by influencing national security policy as public officials or private citizens the Bush family has profited in arms and oil. She says the pattern dates back to their dealings with Nazi Germany during World War II.

"This historical context will shock Americans who depend on the mainstream media for their political information," Mariani states.

Mariani says the key to the charges is George H. W. Bush and his government involvement as CIA director (1976-1977), vice president (1980-1988), and president (1989-1992), as well as his subsequent business relationships. The latter includes his association with the Carlyle group, an equity fund that deals with weapons manufacturing.

Information about the Bush family history is beginning to surface in the media, including the book, *American Dynasty: Aristocracy, Fortune, and the Politics of Deceit in the House of Bush* by Nixon White House aide Kevin Phillips (January 2004) and Republican John Buchanan's challenge to Bush in the New Hampshire primary which has 9/11 and war profiteering at its core.

According to Mariani's filing, just as Adolph Hitler played "the anti-communist card to win over skeptical German industrialists," the Bush family melds political and business interests. "As history and evidence proves, the Bushes got their start as key Hitler supporters," the suit claims.

Mariani says Prescott Bush, George H.W. Bush's father, was Hitler's "propaganda manager" in New York until Franklin D. Roosevelt confiscated his holdings under the Trading With the Enemy Act.

She asserts George H. W. Bush's long government involvement and his business relations with the bin Laden family yield "a deadly and evil mixture of the Bush and bin Laden regimes." She says Bush also conducted "personal business and national security deals" with another alleged terrorist, Saddam Hussein.

Mariani asserts that in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, "Defendants were allies with Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein during the former Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan and Iran-Iraq war respectively." She says during these times "personal and political deals were made and it is believed upon discovery, these dealings hold the truth" about 9/11.

The complaint says Cheney still holds Halliburton stock options totaling more than \$26 million. Halliburton passed the Standard & Poor's Index by nearly 40 percent during the past year because of millions of dollars in Department of Defense contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

She maintains G.H.W. Bush's share in the Carlyle Group's defense-related profits will show similar appreciation since Bush launched the so-called "War on Terror. "

Mariani reserves blistering anger for Kenneth Feinberg, administer of the compensation fund of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act. Mariani calls the fund "a ploy" to silence lawsuits that could expose Bush's failure to prevent the 9/11 attacks.

She said Feinberg allowed the Red Cross to stall donations to victim families to increase the families' financial difficulties. "Many just decided to give up and submit to Feinberg's fund in return for absolving the government of future accountability," Mariani charges.

The deadline for 9/11 families to file claims with the fund has passed. Of the official 2,976 deaths, 2,851 families filed claims, forsaking future litigation against the government, airlines, airports, or security firms.

Mariani asserts if G.W. Bush, the Department of Defense, and NORAD had responded "expeditiously" and according to protocol, her husband and "thousands of other innocent people might still be alive today."

She said as president [sic], G.W. Bush is “solely responsible” for “lapses” in intelligence leading to 9/11. A joint House and Senate Intelligence Committee last July attributed these “lapses” to the CIA and FBI.

Mariani asserts 9/11 has served as “a pretext for a never-ending war against the world, including preemptive strikes against defenseless, but resource rich countries.” It also has served as a pretext for “draconian measures of repression” in the U.S., including the Department of Homeland Security and USA PATRIOT Act.

The suit outlines historical roots of war-provoking deception such as Operation Northwoods, which the Joint Chiefs of Staff proposed in 1962. It included a plan for the U.S. to shoot down civilian airplanes and blame the act on Fidel Castro as a pretext for launching a war against Cuba. The Kennedy administration nixed the plan.

Other war-propelling hoaxes include the sinking of the Maine; the bombardment of Pearl Harbor, which evidence indicates President Roosevelt knew about, and the Gulf of Tonkin “provocation,” which led to escalation of the Vietnam conflict.

Less than a month after the February 27, 1933, Reichstag fire, which the Nazis blamed on the Communists, Hitler became Supreme Commander of Germany setting the stage for the repression and horror that followed.

To substantiate the foreknowledge claim, the suit says on August 6, 2001, one month before the 9/11 attacks, Condoleezza Rice provided a written brief to Bush at his Texas ranch that warned Osama bin Laden might hijack U.S. aircraft.

The suit claims “the single most damning indictment” was the failure of the Department of Defense/NORAD to follow normal military protocol as standard procedure. “It is a matter of routine procedure for fighter-jets to intercept commercial airliners to regain contact with the pilot.

“Flights 175, 77, and 93 had the same pattern of delays in notification and in scrambling fighter jets, delays that are unimaginable considering a plane had, by this time, already hit the World Trade Center.”

Mariani also charges Peter G. Peterson, chairman of the board of the Council on Foreign Relations, provided Bush and other officials “with critical national security advice contrary to the best interests of the American Public.”

Mariani said she hopes “revealing the truth of 9/11” will mean no longer can “so few control so many for self-gain and personal agendas.”

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Excerpts from Ellen Mariani’s Open Letter to G.W. Bush

Mr. Bush,

This “open letter” is coming from my heart. I want you to know that I am neither a Republican nor a Democrat and that this is not an attempt to “bash the Government.”

You Mr. Bush should be held responsible and liable for any and all acts that were committed to aid in any “cover up” of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. As President you have a duty to protect the American people. On September 11th you did not instruct your staff to issue a nationwide emergency

warning/alert to advise us of the attack on America. We had to receive the news of the attacks via the news networks. . . .

When you took no responsibility towards protecting the general public from the possibility of attack, you were certainly not upholding the oath you spoke when you took office. In that oath you pledged to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America.

On the morning of the attack, you and members of your staff were fully aware of the unfolding events yet you chose to continue on to the Emma E. Booker Elementary School to proceed with a scheduled event and "photo op." While our nation was under attack you did not appear to blink an eye or shed a tear. You continued on as if everything was "business as usual" . . .

We the families of 9/11 victims need to have answers to the following questions:

1. Why were 29 pages of the 9/11 committee report personally censored at your request?
2. Where are the "black boxes" from Flight 11 and Flight 175?
3. Where are the "voice recorders" from Flight 11 and Flight 175?
4. Why can't we gain access to the complete air traffic control records for Flight 11 and Flight 175?
5. Where are the airport surveillance tapes that show the passengers boarding the doomed flights?
6. When will complete passenger lists for all of the flights be released?
7. Why did your brother Jeb (the Governor of Florida) go to the offices of the Hoffman Aviation School and order that flight records and files be removed? These files were then put on a C130 government cargo plane and flown out of the country. Where were they taken and who ordered it done?

It has been over two years since hundreds of our lost loved ones "remains" have still yet to be identified and their remains placed in a landfill at Fresh Kill. We want our heroes brought back and given a public and proud resting place where we all can pay our respects and honor them. These innocent people never had a chance as they were taken from us on that sad September Day.

In the court of public opinion Mr. Bush, your lies are being uncovered each day. My husband, all of the other victims and their families and our nation as a whole, has been victimized by your failed leadership prior to and after 9/11!

I will prove this in a court of law!

Ellen M. Mariani