

# Church, family must pay for funeral protest

■ Jury awards father of slain Marine nearly \$11 million

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

BALTIMORE — Members of the Westboro Baptist Church caused emotional distress to the father of a Maryland Marine killed in Iraq by picketing his funeral and must pay nearly \$11 million in damages, a jury found Wednesday.

The federal jury sided with Albert Snyder, who claimed he sank into a depression after church members protested at the funeral of his 20-year-old son, Matthew, in March 2006.

The jury deliberated for seven hours before issuing its verdict against the fundamentalist evangelical church, based in Topka, Kan., and three of its members: Fred Phelps Sr., who founded the church in 1955, and two of his daughters, Shirley Phelps-Roper and Beulah Phelps-Davis.

The nine-member jury found that the protesters invaded Snyder's privacy and caused him mental pain and suffering, fright, nervousness, indignity, humiliation, embarrassment and insult. Snyder broke down in tears when the verdict was announced, then hugged his relatives and friends.

The jury awarded Snyder \$2.9 million in com-

pensatory damages. Later in the afternoon, it decided to award \$6 million in punitive damages for invasion of privacy and \$2 million for causing emotional distress, according to The Associated Press.

Westboro members have marched or threatened to do so several times in the East Day in the past five years.

After the slaying of Newark transgender teen Gwen Araujo in October 2002, the group threatened to picket her funeral.

They failed to appear, but the following month they marched outside a Newark Memorial High School production of "The Laramie Project," a play about the aftermath of the 1998 killing in Laramie, Wyo., of Matthew Shepard, who was tortured and killed because he was gay.

The group later picketed the trial of Araujo's killers.

More recently, they marched at two Tracy high schools in June 2005 because they had gay/straight alliance clubs, and threatened to picket the funeral of Fremont Army Sgt. Cheyenne Wilby, who was killed in Iraq in December of the same year. The Baltimore case appears headed for appeal. The Phelps filed a motion asking for a mistrial, citing judicial bias, but Judge Richard Bennett denied the request.

# Counselor to Bush will leave State Department

■ Hughes oversaw effort to restore America's reputation abroad

By Paul Richter  
 LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — Karen Hughes, a presidential confidante entrusted with the arduous job of reversing America's plummeting image abroad, announced Wednesday she will resign from the administration and return to Texas.

Hughes, 50, one of the last members of President Bush's Texas inner circle still in government, said she will leave her post as head of the State Department's public diplomacy programs at the end of the year. Her departure closes out a two-year effort that gave a high profile to the administration's efforts to improve America's reputation overseas but did not reverse a continuing decline that was caused in large part by the U.S. invasion of Iraq and other Bush foreign policy decisions.

She was the third prominent woman tapped by Bush to arrest the sliding U.S.

image, following failed tries in the years after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, by ad executive Charlotte Beers and former ambassador Margaret Tutwiler.

The resignation of Hughes, a former TV reporter whose earliest Middle East mission in 2005 was marred by missteps, leaves the public diplomacy program in doubt. Once seen by Bush as the way to spread "the universal principle of human liberty," the outreach efforts quickly began to founder in a rising anti-American tide. A key 2007 survey showed a continued decline in U.S. standing among other countries.

At the same time, the administration's push for democracy in Arabic countries also has flagged. But Hughes cited forward progress of the image effort during an appearance with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"I feel that I have done what Secretary Rice and President Bush have asked of me by transforming public diplomacy and making it a national security issue," she said.

Under Hughes' leadership, the U.S. budget for public diplomacy nearly doubled, to \$900 million a year.



HUGHES

# Bush offers nominee for ag post

By James Gerstenzang  
 LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Bush moved Wednesday to fill the second of two vacancies in his Cabinet, announcing he would nominate Edward T. Schafer, a former Republican governor of North Dakota, to be the secretary of agriculture.

Schafer, if confirmed by the Senate, would be tasked with winning congressional approval of an updated farm bill, which would have a broad reach across the economy and is one of the top remaining elements on the administra-

tion's domestic agenda.

"With Ed's leadership, we will work with Congress to pass a farm bill that provides farmers with a safety net, protects our lands and the environment, and spends federal tax dollars wisely," Bush said at a ceremony in the White House Roosevelt Room.

Schafer, 61, served two terms as governor, elected by a wide margin in 1992 and re-elected in a landslide four years later. His tenure coincided closely with Bush's governorship in Texas.



SCHAFFER



## MOFFETT FIELD Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field will be held:

**On: Thursday, November 8, 2007  
 7 to 9:30 p.m.**

**At: Moffett Field, Building 943, Mountain View, CA  
 Building 943 (Public Affairs Building) is located just before the main gate on NASA Parkway.**

The RAB reviews and comments on plans and activities about the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities under way at Moffett Field. Regular RAB meetings are open to the public and the Navy encourages your involvement. To review documents on Moffett Field environmental restoration projects, please visit the information repository located at the Mountain View Public Library, 455 Franklin Street, Mountain View, CA 94041, 650-903-6337. For more information, contact Mr. Darren Newton, Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator, at 619-532-0963 or darren.newton@navy.mil.

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April 11, 2008

William Schaal  
TN & Associates  
3150 Hilltop Mall Road, Suite 55  
Richmond, CA 94806

*RE: Correction to transmittal letter regarding Community Relations Support for former NAS Moffett Field sent 18 January 2008*

Transmittal: Paid advertisement announcing the 8 November 2007 RAB Meeting

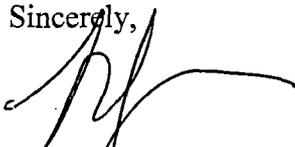
Dear Mr. Schaal:

This letter serves to inform you that the ad in the *San Mateo County Times* was published on 01 November 2007, not 07 November 2007, as written in the original transmittal letter dated 18 January 2008. Attached is the original letter and enclosed is a hard copy of the tear sheet as well as an electronic file on compact disc.

❖ *San Mateo County Times* – 01 November 2007

Please note I have sent the originals and one set of copies to Diane Silva for the Administrative Record file and one set of copies to Darren Newton. Photocopies are included in this package. If you have any questions about this transmittal, please do not hesitate to call me at 858-926-4022.

Sincerely,



Tania Fragomeno  
Community Relations, former NAS Moffett Field

Attachments: 1 set of copies

cc: D. Newton, BRAC PMO West  
D. Silva, Records Manager (originals + 1 copy)