

Republican Perspective

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by John Littig

Two Grieving Families

At the Democratic National Convention, a Muslim Pakistani-American spoke powerfully and eloquently. Khizr Khan's son Humayun Khan, a captain in the U.S. Army, had been killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq in 2004. Khizr spoke of his son's sacrifice. He eviscerated the Republican presidential nominee for not having sacrificed for America and for advocating a temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S. Khizr did not say that the Republican candidate had anything whatever to do with the 2004 death of Humayun.

Khizr's speech was widely praised. Conservative columnist Peggy Noonan said the convention's "most electric line did not come from a politician" but from Khizr: "You have sacrificed nothing---and no one." The Los Angeles Times said "Long after Americans have forgotten the nearly hourlong address Hillary Clinton delivered...what will linger is the haunting, emotionally charged plea...from a Muslim father whose son...was killed by a suicide bomber in Baghdad." Negative reaction to the grieving parents was virtually non-existent. The Khans were a sympathetic couple, and were treated with respect and deference in the media. This was appropriate.

Now step back a week to the Republican National Convention.

Patricia Smith, who spoke at the Republican event, was not as eloquent or as smooth as Khizr, but she was certainly as emotional and aggrieved. Her son Sean Smith had been a USAF veteran and 10-year U.S. State Department foreign service officer.

Patricia and many others blame Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton for Sean's death---and others---in the 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi.

So the Left treated Patricia's unpolished but heartfelt speech with sympathy, respect, and deference---just like Khizr's. Right? Well, maybe not so much. Here's a sampling.

An essay in *The Nation* called Patricia's speech "a cynical exploitation of grief." A writer in Independent.co.uk, labeled it an "unabashed exploitation of private people's grief."

Chris Matthews said it "ruined the evening" and "I don't care what that woman up there has felt." MSNBC.com called it "a spectacle so offensive it was hard to even comprehend." The website crooksandliars.com said "Mrs. Smith was really most interested in drinking blood rather than healing." Washingtonpost.com dubbed it "an early dip into the gutter."

And setting the gold standard for bashing the bereaved (I'm not making this up) a GQ writer said "I don't care how many children Patricia Smith has lost. I would like to beat

her to death." (The GQ writer eventually apologized, but it took him three tries to get his forced apology semi-acceptable.)

Sympathy and hosannas for the Khans. Scorn, derision, and hatred for the Smiths.