



## ***Where's the MSM Coverage of the Death of Connell, a Top Bush/Rove/GOP Operative?***

CBS/AP jumps in with good coverage, McClatchy not so much  
*And other odds and ends of note...*

...It's still been surprisingly quiet in the MSM, especially in the broadcast MSM, and especially given the high-ranks of Connell, who had been the chief IT consultant for Karl Rove, had received millions creating websites for the Bushes, McCain, the Swiftboaters, the state of OH and dozens of other GOP campaigns, as well as having created the network firewalls for top Congressional committees (for which his company reportedly received a sweetheart, no-bid contract) and the controversial alternate email server used by the White House and at the center of the US Attorney purge scandal.

As Brad Jacobson wrote at Mediabloodhound this week...

[E]verything that *has already been confirmed*, having nothing to do with the crash, should also have the national media covering this with at least as much gusto as "BlaggoGate" or, say, Britney's comeback or Brangelina's pre-nup. So far, though, in a replay of journalistic fecklessness rife during the Bush years, mum's the word...

FULL STORY: <http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6772>

## ***Peace on Earth...***

At this year's Christmas, I'm happy to associate myself with my colleague, the good John Gideon of [VotersUnite.org](http://VotersUnite.org) who offered these well-writ holiday thoughts at the top of [last night's DVN](#):

[We'd] like to express our wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all who have done so much for our democracy over this past year. Those of you who have been a part of the Election Integrity Community, Election Officials, concerned citizens and voters have all done a masterful job in helping to make our democracy work. Our job is not done yet but we have made strides and we will, with everyone's help, continue to make strides to protect our democracy.

As well, I share the following from a moving note sent to me by another colleague today, one who happens to be a great, longtime civil rights champion. I believe his thoughts, and thanks, are due to *all* of those who have helped to support our work here at [The BRAD BLOG](#) and have made us a regular stop on an increasingly busy super highway, over the past year and more...

We all did what we had to do to change America's democracy. We moved it quite a few steps forward thanks to you and hundreds of others who were out there protecting the rights of voters. We held back the voter disenfranchisement goons long enough (2006-2008) to allow the majority of voters true voice to finally be heard. We won and moved democracy closer to where it needs to be.

I want to say an official thank you from the civil rights community for all you have done to protect the right to vote and help knock down the numerous administrative barriers that still exist.

Please take his kind words sent to me, as my sincere thoughts sent to you, in hopes we can *all* celebrate

what we *all* continue to strive for, in our long, strange journey together...

-- Brad --

URL: <http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6776>

***VIDEO: Raw Eye-Witness Footage of Burning Wreckage at Connell  
Crash***

Weather appears clear; 'Ear-witnesses' heard on tape describing sounds leading to crash

*UPDATE: Audio interview with OH attorney who recently deposed Connell, asked for his protection from AG, in election fraud case...*

Last night we interviewed Cliff Arnebeck -- the OH attorney who deposed Connell in the widening election fraud conspiracy case, and who sought protection for Connell from the AG after reported threats by Karl

Tonight on CNN to discuss the crash and the Connell case. The audio of our interview with Arnebeck on the PBC Show, in which we discuss the reported threats by Rove and much more, is available at the link below...

**FULL STORY, CRASH VIDEO, INTERVIEW AUDIO:** <http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6769>

*Related Previously...*

***EXCLUSIVE: OH Election Fraud Attorney Reacts to the Death of Mike Connell***

Cliff Arnebeck, lead attorney in the growing federal election conspiracy case tells The BRAD BLOG that the loss of a key witness will not deter his pursuit of justice  
*U.S. Dept. of Justice ignored months-long effort to protect GOP 'IT guru' following reported threats from Karl Rove...*

**FULL STORY:** <http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6768>

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***BREAKING: MIKE CONNELL, GOP 'IT GURU', DIES IN SOLO PLANE CRASH***

Said Recently Threatened by Karl Rove, Had Been Key Witness in OH '04 Election Fraud Case  
*Built Alternate WH Email System, Websites for Bush, McCain, Swiftboaters, '04 OH Election, More...*

**FULL STORY:** <http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6765>

*In case you missed these yesterday...*

***Princeton Computer Scientists Demonstrates Ease of Removing Sequoia Voting System Security Seals...***

**MORE, LINK TO VIDEO:** <http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6766>

***Parting Shots: Bush's Final(?) Dump on America***

*EPA Allows Cruise Ships to Dump Toxic Waste One Mile Off Shore...*

**FULL STORY:** <http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6767>

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**" VIDEO: Raw Eye-Witness Footage of Burning Wreckage at Connell Crash "**



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Blogged by **[Brad Friedman](#)** on 12/23/2008 10:34AM

[VIDEO: Raw Eye-Witness Footage of Burning Wreckage at Connell Crash](#)

Weather appears clear; 'Ear-witnesses' heard on tape describing sounds leading to crash

UPDATE: Audio interview with OH attorney who recently deposed Connell, asked for his protection from AG, in election fraud case...

I'm not sure what, if any, light this video --- as shot by local eye and ear-witnesses in Akron, OH --- sheds on the plane crash and death of high-ranking GOP IT operative Mike Connell. But, as it may reveal something, to somebody, in the still-unexplained, and surprisingly-timed crash, I suppose it may useful to put it on the record here.

For example, despite scattered reports that bad weather may have contributed to the cause of the crash, the weather seems to have been clear, at least on the ground, at least by the time the witnesses arrived, as seen in the video. Reports of "mist" seem to be belied in the early part of the video, shot through the front window of the car which *does not* appear to have its windshield wipers on.

[*UPDATE: RAW STORY also reports weather data during the hour of the crash, noting visibility was clear, and temperatures just above freezing.*] Also, several descriptions of what was heard by the "ear-witnesses" as the crash occurred, may be of value as well.

The video, and an audio interview with OH attorney Cliff Arnebeck, who had sought Connell's protection after reported threats from Karl Rove, follow below...

VelvetRevolution.us' Emily Levy, who pointed the footage out to me, wrote: "This is disturbing for a couple of reasons at least. One is just that it shows ten minutes of the fire, in which we now know Connell's body was burning up. The second is that there's no concern expressed for the pilot or any passengers by the guys doing the filming. Near the beginning they refer to it as 'awesome.'"

Of course, as the folks who were video-taping drove to the scene and described the noise as "awesome," they didn't necessarily know what they were going to find when they got there, which was burning wreckage, eventually attended to by the fire department, as also seen in the video. Connell, as the pilot of the small single engine plane, was the only passenger on board.

*[UPDATE: A number of readers have noted that the voice on the video says "that was awful," as opposed to "awesome." After several close listens, they do seem to be saying "awful." But it's a tough call. Decide for yourself. It's right at the beginning of the tape.]*

Our original story on the crash is [here](#). Our followup post, an exclusive interview with Cliff Arnebeck, the attorney who had subpoenaed Connell as part of a federal election fraud conspiracy case in OH (and had asked for protection for Connell from both the U.S. and OH Attorneys General after tipsters reported threats to Connell by Karl Rove) is [here](#). Both stories offer links to previous BRAD BLOG coverage of the case involving Connell.

*NOTE: Arnebeck, whom we also interviewed on last night's Peter B. Collins Show (I'll try to post the audio shortly) is also scheduled to be on this evening's Lou Dobbs' Tonight on CNN to discuss the crash and the Connell case.*

*UPDATE: Here's the audio from last night's PBC Show. I've broken it into two halves to make it easier to download/listen. Of most note, at least to me, were the comments from Arnebeck (which RAW STORY's Larisa Alexandrovna, who*

joined us in the first part of the hour, also referred to when she was on) about Connell's attorneys being unwilling to confirm or deny the reports of threats to Connell by Karl Rove, but their insistence on any questions about such threats being sealed in the deposition that he was compelled by a federal judge to give on 11/3/08. I tried to press Arnbeck on that point as much as I could, and on the possibilities of unsealing that portion of the depo, now that Connell is dead, near the end of the interview...

• *Brad w/ Peter B. and RAW STORY's Larisa Alexandrovna.  
Download MP3 or listen online (appx 19 mins)...*

• *Brad w/ Peter B. and attorney Cliff Arnebeck. Download MP3 or  
listen online (appx :23 mins)...*



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