

**June 11, 2019 House Judiciary Committee Hearing Regarding  
The Reauthorization of September 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund**

**TESTIMONY OF  
ANESTA ST. ROSE HENRY  
WIDOW OF CANDIDUS HENRY, LOCAL 79**

Good Morning Ladies and Gentleman -

My name is Anesta St. Rose Henry and my husband died 2 weeks ago of 9/11 related brain cancer. Candidus was 52 years old when he died. He missed our son's prom last week and missed out on the frantic search for a jacket for him hours before the prom because the one he initially got turned out to be too small. So after we were able to get the jacket and our son went to his senior prom Candidus wasn't there for me to laugh with about the jacket. He will not be there for his high school graduation or to walk his daughter down the aisle when she gets married. So not only do I have to make up for his missing presence but now i have to be worried about whether we will have enough money for college and living expenses.

The reason I have to worry is because Congress thinks its ok for my husband's life to be worth at least 70% less than other construction workers that have died or become sick from being at Ground Zero. If he died 2 years ago everything would be ok. I feel horrible for those that will die 2 years from now because their families will get nothing.

Candidus was a construction worker and a proud man, husband and father. He wanted to work every day. When he was assigned to work at Ground Zero he was also a proud American. His job at Ground Zero was to wash the dust and debris off the trucks before they left for the barges and to make sure everything was secure and nothing was sticking out. They wanted be sure human remains were not going to fall out of the trucks on their way to the barges. While his job may not sound glorious, he was proud of it and proud to say he worked at Ground Zero.

After his time at Ground Zero ended he worked every day as a construction laborer and we raised our family. We are not rich and we lived pay check to pay check, always with some sort of credit card bill. Although he left Ground Zero in 2002, 15 years later Ground Zero came back to him. Candidus was diagnosed with Glioblastoma, a rare brain cancer. We were told it was extremely rare. We then learned that there are many 9/11 responders with the same cancer.

Glioblastoma is a death sentence and while it took 2 years it eventually killed Candidus. It took his mind a few months before his death and while we took care of him for the last few months, he was already gone. My son would come home from school and say "Hi Dad" and there was only a gaze sometimes and sometimes there was nothing. He only wanted to talk to his dad about his day, and that was gone.

When Candidus got sick that ended the paychecks and benefits. Thankfully the World Trade Center Health Program picked up all of the expenses for his care and treatment. They were wonderful at the Queens Program and we wouldn't have survived without them. We were also able to get some help from the VCF and received an award for his cancer. They worked so quick to get that for us because we they knew he was dying. Thank you to them for that.

But now that Candidus is gone we don't know what is going to happen. We do not have life insurance. We do not have a pension or any benefits from his job. Our only hope was the VCF and now we don't know if there will be much from them now. Because he died after February 2, 2019, we will get at least 70% less than others that died sooner. My husband was a proud man and never looked down on others or thought that he was better or his life was worth more than others. BUT I can tell you that his life is NOT worth less than anyone else.