

Force behind new probe of Okla. bombing dies

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OKLAHOMA CITY — Glenn Wilburn, who was so angry over the death of his grandsons in the Oklahoma City bombing and so mistrustful of the official investigation that he forced the opening of a new grand jury probe, died Tuesday. He was 46.

Wilburn's death from pancreatic cancer came just a day after the panel began hearing witnesses looking into the possibilities that there was a larger conspiracy and that federal agents had prior knowledge of the attack.

Wilburn's grandsons, 3-year-old

Chase and 2-year-old Colton Smith, were killed in the day-care center of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building when it was destroyed by a truck bomb April 19, 1995.

"I believe Glenn to be the 169th victim of the bombing. He was so angry," Kathy Wilburn said a few weeks before her husband's death. "I'm going to have him buried out by Chase and Colton."

Hours after Wilburn's death, state Rep. Charles Key, who joined in the petition for a new grand jury, went before the panel and gave it a list of potential witnesses.

"It's all for him and people like

him, the family members and survivors," Key said of Wilburn, an Oklahoma City accountant. "That's what this is about, is people like Glenn Wilburn and Chase and Colton Smith."

In the two years since the blast, Wilburn had devoted much of his time to investigating alternate theories of the bombing.

Although the federal indictment against Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols alleged they plotted the bombing with "others unknown," federal authorities now doubt a larger conspiracy. And they vehemently deny any prior knowledge.