

OKLAHOMAN WHO FORCED GRAND JURY DIES

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An Oklahoma City grandfather who helped force a special grand jury to re-examine the 1995 bombing died of cancer Tuesday as the investigation got under way.

Glenn Wilburn, 46, spent the last two years of his life digging into numerous leads about a wider conspiracy in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. He died knowing his efforts reopened the state investigation. The bombing killed 168 people, including two of Wilburn's grandchildren, 3-year-old Chase and 2-year-old Colton Smith. The children lived with Wilburn, his wife Kathy and his stepdaughter, Edye Smith. They died in the building's day care center.

The grand jury took its second day of testimony Tuesday, starting with Wilburn's partner in the petition drive that forced the reopened investigation, Oklahoma state Rep. Charles Key.

Key testified before the panel about the information he and Wilburn turned up while interviewing witnesses about others they believe were involved in the crime.

``It's all for him and people like him, the family members and survivors," Key said after his testimony. ``That's what this is about is people like Glenn Wilburn and Chase and Colton Smith."

A soft-spoken certified public accountant, Wilburn turned his northwest Oklahoma City ranch home into a clearing house for information about the bombing.

His house became a required stop for researchers into the bombing, as the couple hosted journalists from across the nation.

Wilburn believed Timothy McVeigh - convicted in Denver and sentenced to death last

month - was guilty.

But he believed more people were involved and that the government had sufficient warning through informants to take precautions on the morning of the bombing.