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Rep. Ogles Responds to Appalling GoFundMe Claims

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Ogles (TN-05) issued the following statement:

“In Lincoln’s memory, my family and I started a GoFundMe page to help support other families struggling with grief. Monica and I were the largest donor to the GoFundMe, followed by my immediate family and friends. What we raised wasn’t enough for our original goal of a more significant memorial, so the purpose evolved from a memorial to direct financial support for families covering the cost of funeral expenses and other needs for their children as opportunities to help arose. It’s been our honor to support families and causes in the name of Lincoln Ogles. What started as a small GoFundMe fueled our family into continued service throughout our community for several years.

Andy Miller, one of the GoFundMe campaign's primary donors, stated: ‘When Andy began his mission to grow financial support for a memorial for grieving families, I was honored to be able to step up and provide \$2,500 for the cause. Andy has used that money and the other donations received to assist families in the community and honor Lincoln’s life. It has been a cause that I have seen support those in some of their darkest hours, and I am proud of my friend’s work to help families in our community.’

I knew politics could be ruthless, but I never expected it to sink to such disgusting lows as to have a reporter calling around to my close friends asking about the death and burial site of our beloved son, Lincoln, and question our giving in his honor. As a parent who has lost a child, my wife and I have lived with this unimaginable grief daily. It’s like living two lives, the one while Lincoln blessed us on the Earth and the life we’ve lived every day after in honor of his memory. It’s a grief that never goes away, and we’ve all just learned to live with the heavy weight of loss. The smear campaign and muckraking against me is one thing, but questions about my son have crossed a line, and I will not tolerate it. Exploiting the death of any child in an attempt to gain some sort of journalistic fame is vile. These disgusting smears are why people do not want to step up and serve in politics, and it has to stop.

I am blessed to be Lincoln’s father and to honor his memory by continuing to pour back into our community, and I miss him dearly every day.”

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