

# Mothers' Tears



Celeste\_Zappala

**Celeste Zappala** is the mother of Sgt Sherwood Baker, who was killed in Iraq on April 26, 2004, searching for the **Non-existent Weapons of Mass Destruction**.

The following are excerpts from “**My Son’s Grave**” Zappala wrote on 3/3/08.

“**The stones are silent witnesses** to the failure of humans to follow the commands of the Lord of Love.

Head bowed, snow tears on my face, I let the chill of the day overtake me... - but I do not want my grandson to see my thoughts. In spite of all my protests, I could not protect him from losing his playful, tender father...

**I know for the rest of my life I will come to this country cemetery and visit my son who will never be older than 30.** And I, like so many mothers and grandsons in this cold season, will stand amidst the stones of this country to listen in the snow for the laughter and forgiveness of our lost.”



An Iraqi mother

**Hassna Mirza** is the mother of Muhammad Jassem Bouhan al-Izzawi, who was taken away by gunmen from his home in Baghdad on July 1, 2005. After 5 years of searching, his family finally found he was dead, and went to visit his grave.

The following are excerpts from “**Restoring Names to War’s Unknown Casualties**” in the New York Times on 8/31/10.

“**How long have we looked for you, my son?**” his mother screamed, tears turning the sand on her face to mud. “All this time, and you’ve been suffering under the sun.”

She shouted at Hamid [her other son] and the others. “**Please dig him out! Let me see him. It’s been five years.** Hamid! We haven’t seen him. Show him to me; just show him to me for a little while.”

**“We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs... Disarm, Disarm!” - Julia Ward Howe, 1870.**



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