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Web posted **Thursday, June 29, 2000**

5:22 a.m. CT

Plaintiff testifies in Waco trial

By **SHERRI CHUNN**

The Associated Press

WACO - Branch Davidians believed sect leader David Koresh was a manifestation of "God made flesh," and if God asked someone to do something, it would not be considered a sin, a survivor of the 1993 siege testified Wednesday.

"We gave ourselves, totally, to God," sect member Clive Doyle testified. "We believe that God was speaking through him."

Doyle, a plaintiff in the \$675 million wrongful death lawsuit against the government, was the first witness called by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who represents Doyle and several other survivors.

Some 80 members died April 19, 1993, as the 51-day standoff with the government came to a fatal end.

Doyle said he could feel skin "rolling off his hands" as he jumped out of the burning building through a hole made by government tanks.

"The heat was so oppressive it was like your legs buckled, it just pushed you to the ground. The jacket I had on was all smoking and melting," Doyle testified.

Under cross-examination, government attorney Jim Touhey presented Doyle with the melted remains of a blue nylon and a camouflage jacket Doyle supposedly wore the final day of the siege. The camouflage jacket had the name Clive written on it.

Touhey said the sleeves of the blue jacket were covered with ignitable liquids.

"It could have come from constantly filling lanterns ... I don't know," said Doyle.

He testified earlier that he had regularly helped refill lanterns for women and children in the complex, but denied pouring fuel inside the building or lighting a fire.

The government has said sect members started the fire in the compound. Plaintiffs contend the government contributed to or helped cause the fire.

Touhey also pointed out that Doyle threw his pet dog Brownie from the burning structure three times, but never attempted to rescue his 18-year-old daughter, Shari. She died in the blaze along with about 80 others.

Lead plaintiffs' attorney Michael Caddell asked Doyle if a day ever went by that he didn't think about his daughter dying in the fire. "I live with this every day," a tearful Doyle replied.

The plaintiffs contend government agents fired indiscriminately during the raid; violated a preapproved plan when they had tanks punch holes in the building to spray tear gas; contributed to or caused at least some of the three fires that engulfed the compound; and failed to have firefighting equipment at the scene.

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