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October 22, 2010

Symington confirms he saw UFO 10 years ago

By LESLIE KEAN Special to the Courier

Ten years after the "Phoenix Lights" UFO incident, former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington, III, now says he saw an unidentified object that night, even though he originally did not say so publicly.

A lot of people saw it, and I saw it too." On March 13, 1997, during Symington's second term as governor, thousands saw a vast triangular and V-shaped object, gliding slowly and silently across the Arizona sky.

interview from Phoenix. "Who knows where it came from?

Witnesses throughout the state estimated that the eerie, lighted objects were bigger than many football fields, as much as a mile long.

Sen. John McCain, a friend of Symington's whom the former Republican governor describes as "open-minded."

acknowledged the Arizona lights at a 2000 press conference. "That has never been fully explained. But I have to tell you

that I do not have any evidence whatsoever of aliens or UFOs," he said. The evidence for a possible UFO, which simply means

something in the sky that no one can identify, lies in the fact that countless witnesses reported seeing low, gigantic, technological flying machines that blocked out the stars - not merely lights. Symington says he saw a large triangular "craft of unknown origin" with lights. "It was dramatic.

outline, a constant shape.' People sometimes confuse the sightings of the objects at around 8:30 that evening with the row

likely were flares, according to video analysts. People who saw the earlier objects were outside Symington's latest statement marks a turnaround. He is famous for spoofing the incident at a

1997 news conference, where he introduced a handcuffed member of his staff in an alien costume as the culprit responsible for the Phoenix Lights. Symington now wants to set the record straight.

the frenzy was building. "I wanted people to lighten up and calm down, so I introduced a little levity. But I never felt that

the overall situation was a matter of ridicule," he says. The former governor says the incident remains unsolved, and deserves an official investigation.

Former Phoenix city councilwoman Frances Barwood, now living in the Prescott area, was the only elected official to launch a public investigation in 1997, but she said people stonewalled her at every turn. Barwood spoke with more than 700 witnesses. "The government never interviewed

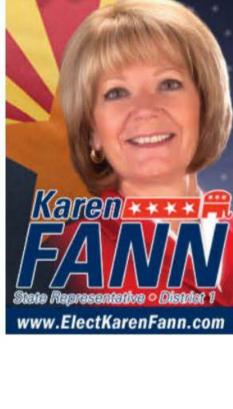
Guard, and the head of the Department of Public Safety to request an explanation. None of them had answers, and they, too, were "perplexed," he says. In 2000, the U.S. Department of Defense maintained that it could not find any information about

the triangular object, in response to a search ordered by a U.S. District court in Phoenix on behalf

triangles in the early 1990s by the Belgian Air Force and the British Ministry of Defense. Both called the objects genuine unknowns, and not U.S. aircraft.

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Symington's interview

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didnt fly in any form, they just came from the same direction. I was wondering what it was cuz ive never seen something fly so fast without making a noice, i thought thatit could be a stealth plane

sonic boom? So no matter how much i think about it i cant seem to figure out what it was Posted: Saturday, May 17, 2008 Article comment by: Dan I belive that the UFO's exists!

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Posted: Friday, March 23, 2007 Article comment by: Mark Nelson

It's about time somebody pointed out the difference between the sighting that came over

Article comment by: bill ortega

Posted: Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Article comment by: kittty courts I once saw circular lights over the atachafalya basin roadway in October and it went from one large light to three small lighted orbs, there have been too many sightings of unexplained lights in the sky for it not to be some truth behind it, maybe we are their creation

Posted: Sunday, March 18, 2007

Credibility will be an issue in any analysis of Governer Symingtons testimony. He essentially led what many feel is the debunking investigation of the Phoenix lights, back in 1997, so any turnaround on this issue should be scrutinized. He also was embroiled in a 7 year battle with the federal government with felony allegations of extortion and bank fraud. He was convicted on felony charges in 1997, which was later overturned on appeal in 1999, followed by a full

presidential pardon in 2001. That said, we are talking about the former Governor of the great

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Arizona Gov. Fife Symington pulls a mask off of aide Jay Heiler, dressed up as an alien,





"It was enormous and inexplicable," he said in an exclusive

during a late afternoon news conference at the state capitol in downtown Phoenix Thursday June 19, 1997. Symington, earlier in the day, said he would order the Arizona Department of Public Safety to look into the mysterious lights seen over Phoenix, but later insisted he was joking.

And it couldn't have been flares because it was too symmetrical," he says. "It had a geometric of lights videotaped at 10 p.m. and shown repeatedly on television news. These later lights most

watching the Hale-Bopp Comet, and saw something entirely different.

He explains that Arizona was "on the brink of hysteria" about the UFO sighting at the time, and

The U.S. government has never acknowledged that something was in the sky that night.

even one," she says. Symington called the commander at Luke Air Force Base, the general in charge of the National

of witnesses. Bolstering Symington's announcement is independent documentation of similar unidentified flying

More information is available at www.freedomofinfo.org. (Leslie Kean is a widely published New York investigative reporter. She is a co-founder of the Washington-based Coalition for Freedom of Information. Her e-mail address is



Posted: Saturday, July 10, 2010

I saw a similar thing in malmoe, sweden. I saw 7 big red lights flying at about twice as fast as an airplane withot making any sound, they

but I don't think sweden got one and whats the point with a stealth plane if it glows like that.. And an airplane flies at around 300-400km/h it should have hit the speed of sound so where is the

Article comment by: midi These unexplainable lights have been coming to South Moutain for many centuries according to my gradfather, who has lived there his whole life.

downtown Phoenix from the sighting out west of Phoenix. I believe the sighting west of Phoenix to be flares but what flew over my house was not.

Posted: Wednesday, March 21, 2007

saw the same thing about the same time in el paso tx you might find something w/ the police dept because I called 911 and the operator claimed she was recieving many calls about some lights in the sky they were very similar to the ones shown tonite on tv my neighbor lady also witnessed these lights we stood outside looking up at the lights together

Posted: Tuesday, March 20, 2007 Article comment by: Elizabeth Ashe

I saw something that sounds just like you describe in Wilmington CA. in 2002. Everyone thinks I have surely lost it! But I know what I saw!Do you have any pictures? Elizabeth Ahe Article comment by: Tom Levine

This will most definitely help shed new light on the 1997 Phoenix Lights phenomenon. That said.

state of Arizona. Posted: Sunday, March 18, 2007

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