

# Chicago Tribune

## 13 controversial Columbine crosses to tour country

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Thirteen of the crosses built by an Illinois carpenter to memorialize the victims of the shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., are going on a pilgrimage. They will be in Naperville this weekend; then on to Nashville next weekend; maybe to Atlanta for the Southern Baptist Leadership Conference in a month; and, maybe, to the floor of Congress in support of Sen. Wayne Allard's (R-Colo.) amendment to the juvenile-justice bill, allowing religious symbols to be erected on school grounds to honor slain students.

Greg Zanis, the Aurora carpenter and cross-maker—who has made four sets of the crosses for Columbine victims—said Wednesday that he plans to take the original 13 crosses, each bearing the name of a victim of the April 20 killings at the high school, on tour until a permanent memorial site for them near Columbine High School can be arranged.

The crosses have been at the center of controversy since Zanis built them. He at first set up 15 wooden crosses—including two in memory of Columbine killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.



That angered the parents of one of the 13 victims, who removed the crosses for Harris and Klebold. Zanis then pulled all of his crosses out. But he later put 13 of them back up at Clement Park, near the school. After a day or two, government officials said the religious symbols could not remain on public ground, which includes the hill overlooking the school.

Despite that order, Zanis once again erected the five-foot-high crosses on the hill for a brief Memorial Day tribute. He then moved them to private property, where they will remain until a decision is made on how to remember the victims.