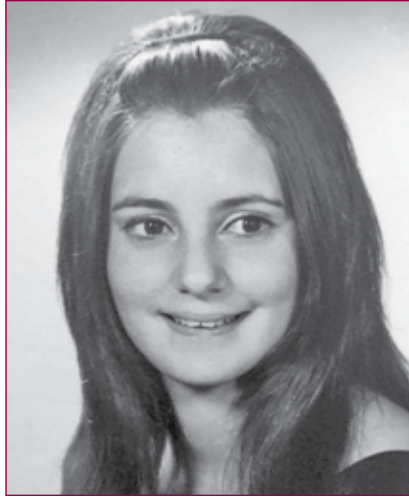




Join us to make a difference

A non-profit, public benefits organization serving families and friends of homicide victims.



## GLORIA JEAN SHOMLER

January 12, 1954—January 12, 1987

By: Her daughters, Andrea Noonan and Kristy Williamson and niece, Adrianna Tucker

“If tears could build a stairway and memories were a lane,  
We would walk all the way to Heaven, to bring you home again.  
No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye,  
You were gone before we knew it, and only God knows why.  
Our hearts ache in sadness, and secret tears will flow,  
What is meant to lose you, no one will ever know.”

My dear mother could not wait to start her own family. Her love for children and endless patience made her the family babysitter much of her youth. My memories of her are somewhat vague, as she was taken from my father, two sisters and I when I was just five years old. The story of her life is one of a devoted, loving, caring wife and mother of three little girls (my sisters, Kristy, Amber and me), who was suddenly and violently taken from us.

My father worked as a Correctional Officer, about a two-hour drive away. He would leave for the graveyard shift just after dinner. On January 12, 1987, at the age of 33, (on her birthday), I woke to the sound of my mother's alarm clock. At the age of five, I knew this was out of the norm, as Mom would always awaken first, then wake us up for school. For reasons I do not know, I was very leery of walking into her room that

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CAH Annual  
Meeting  
Sunday, May 21,  
2017

10:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker  
Charles Williams  
of Radio Valencia

Please RSVP  
(Location to be determined)

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Become a CAH Member!

# CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

## *Who We Are*

The majority of the board members of Citizens Against Homicide have had a family member murdered. They are surviving the devastating loss of a loved one and still suffer the continued emotional trauma of coping with our criminal justice system. We have joined together to create a voice for the survivors and friends of murder victims.

## *CAH Objectives*

- Assist families through the complicated criminal justice system.
- Provide trial and courtroom support to victims.
- Accompany victims to parole hearings in their endeavor to keep the convicted murderer in prison.
- Provide information on pending crime legislation.

## *Protecting Your Own Interests*

You can't prepare for the event that makes you a victim. You can only react. You need to know how to deal with the subsequent trial, sentencing and unavoidable parole hearings. CAH helps you take action to protect your own interests.

If you have friends or family who may be in need of our assistance, please pass along the information regarding our organization.

## *Location for Meetings*

We hold bi-monthly meetings on the second Sunday of the month at Loch Lomond Yacht Club - 95 Loch Lomond Drive, San Rafael, CA.

The meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. We encourage anyone interested to attend.

## Words From Jan

As I gather a few thoughts together to share with you, I realize we are well into the month of May and I am still trying to understand how it got to be 2017. It seems I never have enough hours in the day and the "to do" list is unending. I am sure I am preaching to the choir.

We all lead such busy lives and the more I see of my grandchildren, I realize their lives are busy, too... from the moment they open their eyes in the morning, until they fall asleep at night. I don't ever recall being that busy as a school age person. Such is life for today's younger generation.

The beauty of this time of the year is just beckoning us to go outside and enjoy the world. Buds bursting on trees; becoming the onset of what will be beautiful bouquets for the Mother's Day brunch table. This May will be a month for me to remember. I attended the celebration of life for two very

lovely ladies who both left this world after living long, amazing and fulfilling lives. They were surrounded by family and friends to the very end. They were ladies that it can truly be said "did it their way" and yet the thread in all the stories shared was that family was the most important thing in their lives. I cannot say we were close friends (more like acquaintances), however they were very close to some very good friends of mine. I learned a little more about my own life as I enjoyed the celebrations of their lives. I was blessed to know these two lovely and special ladies.

The rest of May is just one party after another. This is the norm when you have as many grandchildren as we have. The joy can be ever-bounding. We will celebrate a granddaughter's confirmation and 8th grade graduation, (she will then be attending Marin Catholic in the Fall); we will celebrate a grandson's graduation from

—continued on page 3

## *Officers*

Jane Alexander	<i>Co-Founder Emeritus</i>
Jan Miller	<i>Co-Founder</i>
Gene & Shellie Cervantes	<i>Victim Advocates / Consultants</i>
Susan Fisher	<i>Legislative Consultant</i>
Angela Bushnell Gillam	<i>Victim Advocate / Communications</i>
Boni Driskill	<i>Victim Advocate</i>
Alice Ostergren	<i>Treasurer</i>
Carol Silveira	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Anne Poverello	<i>Victim Representative</i>
Jacque MacDonald	<i>Victims Voice-Publicity</i>
Eryn Cervantes	<i>Special Assignment Consultant</i>
	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Foothill Printing & Graphics	<i>Design &amp; Printing</i>

## *Advisory Board*

Jack Miller	Chuck Mitchell
Ora Knowell	Andi Jarmicki
Terri de la Cuesta	David Perotti

## *Citizens Against Homicide*

The UPS Store  
369-B Third Street, Box 303  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
Tel 415-455-5944 • Fax 415-721-0788  
E-Mail: [vctmsmurdr@aol.com](mailto:vctmsmurdr@aol.com)  
Website: [www.citizensagainsthomicide.org](http://www.citizensagainsthomicide.org)

## *CAH Victim Advocate:*

For advice regarding your individual murder case, 1-209-728-2873  
[cahadvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:cahadvocate@yahoo.com)

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## Words From Jan—cont. from page 3

Sonoma State University, School of Business and Economics; and another grandson's graduation from Marin Catholic College Preparatory School, with plans to attend University of California, Santa Barbara.

To say that I am a proud grandmother would be an understatement. What I do want to share with you is this... the joy, fun and energy of these and other events that I have been to and/or will be a part of during this month, always reminds me of one very special person who's physical presence is void in all these family joys. It is impossible to wrap my head around just how many joyous occasions have been missed by this family, because of the loss of our beloved Veronica (Roni) so many years ago. There is no explanation needed, because I know each of you reading this newsletter fully understands the feelings I am

sharing. What I have learned and continue to learn each day is that keeping alive the good memories is a wonderful thing, but even more important it is sharing these good memories with others. I have come to realize over the years, that I now speak of the good memories more and more and less of the events of our loss. I believe that when we take the time to enjoy the day we have in front of us, even if it is busy and crowded with "to do's", somehow there is always time. Please find the time to share a memory and take the time to engage in the memories of others.

*Remember today is a present, treat it as the gift we have received by waking up this morning.*

—Hugs and Love, Jan

## Quote of the Month



“Leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others. It is not an opportunity to satisfy personal greed.”

—Mwai Kibaki

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## Unclaimed Restitution

### English

Were you the victim of a crime and the court ordered you restitution? The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may have collected money for you. Contact the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services to inquire if you have unclaimed money from a direct order of restitution. To update your address or to obtain additional information, call us toll free at 1-877-256-6877.

### Spanish

Si usted fue victima de un crimen y la corte le otorgo restitution, es posible que el Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitacion haya recibido dinero a su favor. Llame a la oficina de Victimas y Sobrevivientes para preguntar si usted tiene restitution que no se haya reclamado. Para obtener mas informacion, llame gratis al 1-877-256-6877

# Correcting a Mistake

## The Next Steps After a Parole is Granted

Witnessed by: Kelly Rudiger • Sister to Jeffrey Rudiger (1971–1988)

On March 9, 2017, the unthinkable occurred at the third parole hearing for the vicious murderer of my 16-year old brother, the murderer was granted parole after serving 29 years in prison. My mother, brother and I were left in a state of shock after listening to the Board of Parole Commissioner repeat, “Is Suitable,” in the hearing room at San Quentin State Prison. Everything we heard over the three-hour hearing led us to believe that only a lengthy denial was in order. Nothing pointed towards suitability: the murderer only participated in low-level anger management courses, he earned several AA degrees all in different fields of useless study that would not prepare him for any workforce, he had several 602’s on his record, his risk assessment rose from a low degree to moderate, nor could he show any family support in the areas to which he would be allowed to be paroled. The facts obviously called for a denial! The absurdity of a grant was implausible, but that is exactly what happened.

Taking into consideration *In re Lawrence* (2008) Court Case decision, the Board of Parole Commissioners must rely on the state of mind and mental stability of the offender to find them “suitable” to return to society. So, however heinous the crime—if the offender is good in prison and can con the authorities that they are “rehabilitated,” then a grant may be in order—given the current set of rules. It is up to the Prosecutor’s to make sure their case for denial is detailed and provided in writing and in testimony before the Commissioners at the hearing. It is up to the Board of Parole Commissioners to fully review and evaluate all the transcripts from previous panels—so that they have a full understanding of the progress or lack



thereof—of the offender. If the case is not FULLY VETTED, then more incorrect and unsubstantiated decisions may continue to be made.

The Board of Parole allows 60 days for a “Decision Review” of their own actions taken. Any Commissioner or Department’s legal counsel representative may call this back to the full board panel if new information not covered becomes available, if the inmate receives any new I15 disciplinary violations, or if there was an error in law or facts presented during the hearing. If any of these members do not agree with the grant they can order it to be reviewed and discussed at an upcoming Executive Board Meeting including the full 14 member panel of Commissioners

From the day that we were told that the vicious murderer of my brother was given a parole date our life once again became a living nightmare. The thought that the violent outrage and manipulative aggression displayed by this offender could once again be wielded in our community on another innocent victim was too much to let just happen. This is when our public protest began.

Our San Diego District Attorney, Bonnie Dumanis, assigned a special Deputy, Samantha Begovich, from the Department’s Lifer Unit to work solely on our appeal. Local elected officials only needed to be asked once, and letters were sent directly to the Governor detailing their opposition to this parole, our City Council, County Supervisors, Police Chief, Sheriff—all vehemently opposed the release of this, “Ticking Time Bomb,” as the offender had been described in his own medical evaluations.

Individuals began to contact both The Governor and the Board of Parole to urge them to review the case and to vacate the decision, based on our true belief that this monster still posed a threat to society and was not fit for parole. We started a Facebook page, “Justice for Jeffrey,” with details about the case and the need for community support. Friends posted on their own social media networks and the local media was very helpful in covering our story. It took over 35 days to receive the full transcript from the initial hearing and within 40 more days the case had been recalled and assigned to the full Board of Parole for a second review.

The next Board of Parole, Executive Board Meeting, was on April 18, 2017, in Sacramento. We were one of six “En Banc Referrals” scheduled, that all dealt with sentencing matters. This meeting is open to the public, so anyone can speak, including attorneys from both sides of the case, family and friends, along with anyone from the public. Along with our amazing Deputy District Attorney, Samantha Begovich, testimony by Chris Ward from Crime Victim Action Alliance, support from

—continued on page 5

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## Correcting a Mistake—*cont. from page 4*

Susan Fisher (both former Commissioner and CAH), my mom, friends and I, testified before the Board Commissioners and presented specific examples of the offender's lack of suitability displayed by his emotional instability, immaturity and the horror we would feel if this evil murderer was being thrust back amongst us to be released back into society. It was our request to "Vacate the panel's March 9th, decision to grant parole," and that is what they did by a majority vote of the full Board Panel.

Without the unwavering support from our DA's office, guidance from crime victim groups, letters written by hundreds of Jeffrey's classmates, emails and letters sent to express their concerns opposing an unwarranted parole for a highly dangerous felon, we may not have been given a second review. The

number of grants being given to highly dangerous and violent "non-rehabilitated" offenders is rising by the hundreds. We must stay vigilant and protest when these errors are being made. Over 2000 lifer inmates have been released over the past three years. I am sure several of their victims have NO idea that they are back on the streets, nor does the general public. It is our responsibility, as survivors, to make sure our voices are heard on behalf of our lost loved ones.

Jennifer Shaffer, the Executive Officer of the Parole Board, acted as our liaison to the Board throughout the entire process and personally replied to all of our correspondence and questions. She has assured us that the letters and messages collected on this matter will be included in this case file for future reference. Though

this heinous decision has been vacated, the next step will be the same type of suitability hearing that we attended in March, for a two member Board Panel to once again listen to the inmate's lawyer defend his right to parole, for our Deputy District Attorney to explain why the offender is still a threat to society, and for our family to once again speak on behalf of my brother to fight for our rights' as victims and to ensure that the same mistake is not made again and the PAROLE of inmate # E-70238 is denied for a very long time. This will be scheduled in 4–6 months.

With indeterminate sentencing and a political climate that favors rehabilitation over punishment and often over the public's safety, we have to realize that seriously dangerous and violent criminals are being released and we have to be the ones to oppose and protest these decisions.

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## Gloria Jean Shomler—*cont. from page 1*

morning. I entered her bedroom to find her lifeless body, eyes open, in a pool of blood. She had lacerations and stab wounds all over, many on her hands from fighting for her life. I did not understand what I was seeing at that age. I tried to wake her as I untied the sock that was tied around her mouth. I still remember as though it was yesterday crying, "Mommy, Mommy, please wake up!" When she did not respond, I closed her eyes and went to wake up my older sister, who was seven. My sister ran to our grandmother's house one mile away and told her, "Mom's hurt, Mom's bleeding!" I can still remember my grandmother coming over and discovering what we had awakened to. Our grandmother fell to her knees and begged God to take her instead; as our mother was her youngest child, her baby.

That day haunts us always! No words can describe our sense of loss and tragedy. To

have grown up without her, to have had our first cavity, graduated school, learned to put on makeup, had our first kiss, married and had children all without her love and guidance, goes beyond just a sense of loss. There were so many potentially wonderful moments stolen and replaced with haunting emotional scars that have taken my sisters and I all our lives, to this day, to just simply function and cope.

My father spent several years devastated and unable to cope himself, leaving the three of us with so many questions unanswered. The mention of our mother's name would make our father burst into tears. We were unable to discuss anything about our mother for years.

Who would violently murder such a beautiful woman and leave her for her children to find? There has always been suspicion of who could have committed this heinous crime.

Why was this the only way? Not only did this perpetrator take away a loving mother and wife, they tore a hole in a family and stole from all of us. Once distraught and devastated husband and father, one sorrowful and horrified mother, three innocent broken-hearted daughters, four unsettled helpless siblings, sixteen confused and frightened nieces and two nephews.

This is something that has always been in the back of everyone's mind and heart. Every day, lingering. It is time for closure; it is time for judgment. Please visit our FB page Justice for Jeannie @ justiceforjeannie.

If anyone has information that could help us find answers and justice, please contact Jim Wegner, Undersheriff, Amador County Sheriff's Office at (209) 223-6500.

—Thank you,  
Andrea Noonan

# James and Essie Effron

*By the Effron family*

James Effron was born in Kentucky and moved with his family to San Diego. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and was on his way to becoming a medical doctor when he had to curtail his studies to help his parents run their store in San Diego, Effron's Clothing Store.

During World War II, James served in the Army and became a lieutenant. After his discharge, he continued working at Effron's. No one could imagine then that, many years later, the store would be the place where James and his wife, Essie, would be murdered.

Essie was born in England, and her family moved to Los Angeles when she was a teenager. She and James got married when they were in their early twenties, and they had two children, Gary, who is now an attorney, and Cheryl, a medical doctor.

James and Essie were a devoted father and mother who dedicated their lives to the well-being of their children. After Gary and Cheryl grew up and moved out of the house, Essie joined her husband working at the store. By then, James' father had died, and James and Essie operated the business on their own.

In 1977, Essie was diagnosed with cancer and had to have abdominal surgery and chemotherapy. Not knowing what the future state of her health would be, she and James made a decision to close down the store so that they could spend all of their time together. They then began a going-out-of-business sale.

Jose Gonzalez was hired as a salesman for the sale, but James and Essie fired him for being rude to customers. To get revenge, after the store closed for the day on November 21, 1977, Gonzalez and some of his friends forced James and Essie to go down to the basement, where they were tied up and bludgeoned to death.

At that time, Effron's had been in business for 54 years. The store had become an institution in San Diego and so had James and Essie, where they were known for their kindness, their integrity, and their concern for their customers as individuals. In a matter

of minutes, all of that came to an end, as did the dreams that James and Essie shared of spending their retirement years together.

Gonzalez was convicted for the murders and sentenced to life imprisonment, with the possibility of parole, which was the most severe punishment he could receive. At that time, the death penalty had been ruled unconstitutional, and the law did not yet provide for consecutive life sentences or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Consequently, Gonzalez has had nine parole hearings. Every time, parole was denied, until a hearing in February 2015, when the parole board decided that, at the age of 59½, Gonzalez was "elderly" and should be released on parole.

Fortunately, Governor Brown subsequently reversed the board's action and ordered that Gonzalez remain behind bars, and a Superior Court judge, the California Court of Appeal and the State Supreme Court have all declined to reverse the governor's decision.

At a hearing on July 5, 2017, Gonzalez will again be asking the parole board to set him free on parole. Updates regarding the hearing can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/justiceforjamesandessieeffron/?ref=bookmarks>

Or, go on Facebook and search for Justice for James and Essie Effron.



# Parole & Clemency Hearings

These parole hearings are imminent. Send letters in support of these families today.

(DATE)  
Board of Parole Hearings  
P.O. Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036  
ATTN: Pre-Hearing Correspondence

RE: Johnathan Grant Appley—  
CDCR# V56149  
Parole Hearing Date: June 22, 2017

Dear Parole Board Chairman  
and Board Member,

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer, Johnathan Grant Appley. On July 13, 2003, Appley (along with two friends/co-offenders) brutally beat and strangled to death Marc Dominic Oldham (age 37).

Marc Oldham was a very friendly and outgoing man who happened to be

on an annual camping trip at Bucks Lake, Plumas County, CA. He had befriended the three young men at the local Lakeshore Resort, buying them drinks, etc., typical of his generosity. He invited them up to his cabin and it was then they began laying out a plan to rob Mr. Oldham of his money. His body was later discovered on the roadway near the Lakeshore Resort.

On June 22, 2017, Marc Oldham's family and friends will have to relive the horrendous and unconscionable events that led to his brutal murder. They will have to face the uncertainty that accompanies this parole hearing. Because of Johnathan Appley's complete disregard for human life, sense of entitlement and complete lack of remorse, justice demands this convicted murderer be denied parole.



Marc Oldham was a warm, loving, gregarious man, who befriended everyone he met. He was loved and admired by so many friends and business associates blessed to have been able to call him "friend". He was a very gifted, successful businessman and had an amazing future of endless possibilities and adventures ahead of him.

Johnathan Appley must be held accountable for his personal choice to beat and strangle to death an innocent man for personal gain (robbery) and must accept the consequences of his actions. Marc Oldham does not get a second chance to live; he is gone forever. Therefore, Appley does not deserve a second chance or the privilege of freedom.

Please deny parole suitability to convicted murderer Johnathan G. Appley for the maximum time allowed by State of California law.

Thank you for your consideration.

(NAME/SIGNATURE)

*For your confidentiality, please do not post your return address on this letter; only on the outer envelope.*

## Parole Opposition Signatures Needed!

**Jose Gonzalez—CDC no. B94419**

**Parole hearing date: July 5, 2017**

**Time : 1:00 P.M.**

**Place : California Medical Facility, Vacaville, CA**

The family of murder victims James and Essie Effron (see article in this issue) has requested our help in keeping the murderer, Jose Gonzalez, behind bars, where he belongs. They have prepared a petition at Change.org, asking the parole board to deny parole to Gonzalez.

Here is a link: <https://www.change.org/p/california-board-of-parole-hearings-petition-to-deny-parole-to-jose-gonzalez-on-july-5-2017>

Or, go to change.org and search for Jose Gonzalez 2017.

The family would be grateful if you would sign the petition. It is not necessary to put your street address, and just the city or county, or even just the state, will be sufficient. Change.org will need your e-mail address, but it will not appear on the signed petition that is submitted to the parole board.

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# “Don’t Bother Me With Facts”

*By Gene Cervantes, Victim Advocate*

I had not attended a Board of Parole Hearing in over thirty (30) years. On January 19, 2017, I attended the Parole Suitability Hearing for Marty Spears, at San Quentin State Prison. The Ranzo family requested my presence for the purpose of being the Victim Advocate for Mark Ranzo, son of Phillip and Katherine Ranzo, the murder victims of Marty Spears. Thirty years is a long time and I was anxious to see if any significant changes had occurred in all those years.

Prior to retirement from California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, I held the position of Classification and Parole Representative (C&PR)/ Correctional Counselor III. A C&PR is the department employee at each prison who has been designated to be that prison’s liaison with the board. I was proud to be part of the Board of Parole Hearing process. Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners were stand up people who conducted hearings fairly and with complete impartiality. During the questioning of inmates, commissioners demanded that answers be given. Failure to do so was reason to find an inmate unsuitable for parole and inmates knew this.

My experience as a C&PR afforded me the opportunity to learn the hearing process. I knew how panel members were expected to conduct themselves in hearings. I knew

how commissioners were expected to treat hearing attendees. This being said, the last thing I expected was to be treated with disdain by Commissioner Peter LeBahn. I was not even seated when Peter LeBahn questioned why I was attending this hearing and by who’s authority was I there. I answered his questions and stated he should have a copy of the memo from Katie James, Assistant Chief, Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services. Commissioner LeBahn insisted that he had no such memo (shortly after this verbal exchange he found his memo). What a coincidence.

Commissioner LeBahn continued to display his displeasure over my being present in this hearing. He continued his argumentative tone up to the time it was my turn to read Mark Ranzo’s Victim Impact Statement. He interrupted, using terms such as “Ho” and “Hold On”. His tone was indisputable (loud and scolding). I was rushed to complete the Impact Statement and again questioned about the role I was playing even though my role had previously been addressed.

I have attended numerous hearings as a C&PR and never had I witnessed a commissioner spoon-feed answers to an inmate. Commissioner LeBahn made no effort to hide his obvious attempts to justify a finding of suitability. He made no effort to press for answers to the questions asked. Clerking the numerous hearings I attended as a C&PR, never

had I witnessed a commissioner spoon-feed answers to an inmate in an obvious attempt to justify a finding of suitability. Commissioner LeBahn not only spoon-fed answers to inmate Spears, he neglected to press for answers to questions he had asked. Mr. LeBahn allowed inmate Spears to manipulate his way out of obvious comments that were less than truthful. The hearing transcript is a sad commentary on the Board of Parole Hearing process. What I witnessed was not an impartial hearing. Have you ever heard the phrase “don’t confuse me with facts, my mind is made up”. This is exactly what I witnessed.

The failure to answer questions asked and failure to demand an answer is best illustrated in the following: LeBahn asks, How did you feel in the days after this double murder? Spears answers, How did I feel? LeBahn, yeah, how did you feel? Spears, I didn’t know what to do. LeBahn, but what did you do? Spears, I smoked more weed and took some of my mom’s pills. I tried to numb all the feelings, because that’s what I had done all my life. I felt terrible that I killed Mr. & Mrs. Ranzo, that I raped Mrs. Ranzo, if I could take it all back, if I could trade places, if I could do million other things. LeBahn, Do you believe that you experienced remorse even then? Spears, Yes.

REMORSE was a word presented by Mr. LeBahn, not Spears. This word

—continued on page 9



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## Don't Bother Me—*cont. from page 8*

was spoon-fed to Spears to show that Spears did, in fact, feel remorse.

Mr. LeBahn, when questioning Spears..., Why did you turn a burglary into a home invasion robbery into a sexual assault rape? Spears answers, I wanted to humiliate Mr. Ranzo, because he had humiliated me and I didn't want him to get the upper hand. WHY did Mr. LeBahn omit the word MURDER from his question? How was Phillip Ranzo going to be humiliated when he was already dead? Murdered by Marty Spears. I will leave to you, the reader, to draw your own conclusion to the above question and answer exchange

What was most alarming was Commissioner LeBahn dismissing Mr. Garcia, Assistant C&PR, from the hearing. Mr. LeBahn must know that the C&PR's office is in attendance at hearings for the families of victims. The decision to dismiss the Assistant C&PR from the hearing is a decision I find to be egregious. I question the qualifications of Peter LeBahn. The C&PR is in the hearing to act on behalf of the family of the victim. In this case, the Ranzo family. Mr. LeBahn's decision to dismiss Mr. Garcia left the Ranzo family without representation. This is inexcusable and unacceptable.

The commitment offense was committed in an especially heinous, atrocious and cruel manner. He beat Phillip Ranzo with a baseball bat and an axe before stabbing him multiple times. He then took

Katherine Ranzo upstairs where she was beaten with a baseball bat and axe prior to being gang-raped, first by Marty Spears then by his cohorts. Does Marty Spears deserve parole? I do not believe he does. He does not deserve a second chance, after all Phillip and Kathrine Ranzo were not given a second chance by Marty Spears. They are dead and will be dead forever.

Marty Spears has an Anti-Social Personality Disorder (ASPD), as stated in his Psychological Report. ASPD is a mental disorder not to be taken lightly. This disorder manifests harmful and reckless disregard for the rights, property, or safety of others; ASPD individuals experience little remorse for harm or injury they cause; they often appear to gain pleasure by being sadistic or aggressive toward others and they attempt to dominate significant others through intimidation or violence; they may repeatedly convince others of their commitment to change, leading others to think this time is really different only to revert to previous maladaptive behavior. These are just a few characteristics of ASPD. I urge readers to research Anti-Social Personality Disorder. You will discover how dangerous someone like Marty Spears is; and the propensity to act in a manner described above can only have deadly results if he is released to our neighborhood.

Commissioner LeBahn ignored the unspeakable violence of the commitment offence and the fact that Marty Spears has an ASPD.

Why would a convicted rapist/murderer be found suitable for parole? I have asked myself this question over and over and over. Governor Jerry Brown is on a mission (a deadly one at that) to reduce prison population and if that includes violent inmates or convicted murderers so be it. The way this hearing was conducted leaves little doubt in my mind that Commissioner LeBahn was given direction to find as many convicted murderers suitable for parole. Why else would he ignore the sadistic nature of the commitment offense? Is this why he ignored the probable violent behavior that ASPD individuals can repeat?

Sadly, this is not the Board of Parole Hearings I was once proud to be a part of. The Board of Parole Hearings has involved itself in a culture of "don't confuse me with facts, my mind is made up". If the way Mr. LeBahn conducted the Parole Suitability Hearing for Marty Spears is indicative of how other commissioners conduct hearings, families of murder victims have reason for grave concern.

Board of Parole Hearings transcripts are public records. BPH will provide free electronic transcripts upon request—[http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/BOPH/psh\\_transcript.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/BOPH/psh_transcript.html)



*David Russo was a 43-year-old Lemoore Naval Air Station jet mechanic instructor when he was shot and killed in July 1994 during what jurors agreed was a murder-for-hire plot involving his wife. Susan Russo received life without the possibility of a parole but saw that sentence commuted to 25 to life Saturday, April 15, 2017, by Gov. Jerry Brown, giving her a chance to appear before the Board of Parole Hearings.*

## Daughters of Murder Victim Hurt by Gov. Brown's Parole Decision

Dismay filled the hearts of David Russo's daughters when they learned through a news report Saturday that Gov. Jerry Brown had granted a chance for parole to Susan Russo, who is serving a life sentence for the murder-for-hire killing of their father.

Devin Russo, youngest daughter of David and Susan Russo, said Sunday she is shocked that the governor's office did not contact her or other family members prior to his decision to change Susan Russo's sentence from life without possibility of parole to life with possibility of parole, which will allow her to plead her case before the Board of Parole Hearings.

"The consideration of commutation is a solemn responsibility that is never taken lightly. The voices of victims and their families are profoundly important in every case the governor reviews," said

Evan Westrup, a spokesman for Brown. "These voices are also an integral part of the parole consideration process, in which they have an opportunity to be present and to be heard."

On Saturday Brown decided to pardon 72 inmates and commute sentences of seven others, most of who were guilty of low-level offenses.

The Fresno County District Attorney's office Monday said it would oppose parole for Russo. "The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has previously urged the governor to deny this extraordinary relief, and the office will be opposing her release back into the community at her upcoming parole hearing," the office said in a statement.

The district attorney's office also noted that Russo's conviction was upheld by the appellate court and the California Supreme Court.

In his commutation of sentence letter, Brown stated that Russo has worked to overcome a life of violence and drugs. She has completed college-level courses, a vocational training program in upholstery and even participated in Narcotics Anonymous among many things during her sentence. Brown's letter also noted that Russo is seriously ill.

But Russo's murder case was far from low-level, her daughter said. Devin Russo said she was dumbfounded that Brown would grant her mother a chance at parole even though she was convicted in a murder plot that killed a government official. At the time of his death, David Russo was a Lemoore Naval Air Station jet mechanic instructor.

Russo wrote in her application for sentence commutation that she was physically abused by her husband and

*—continued on page 11*

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## Daughters of Murder Victim Hurt—*cont. from page 10*

both had abused methamphetamine. Devin Russo however, says this is a lie. “My dad was not a drug addict,” she said.

Devin Russo, who was 2 years old when the murder occurred, agreed that her father was a mean man, but she said he was not abusive and didn’t use drugs. She said claiming her father used drugs is a tactic her mother uses to make herself look like a victim. “She’s a master manipulator,” Devin Russo said.

Devin Russo and her older sister, Jamie, 12, were asleep in their Riverdale home when their dad was shot in the head in an adjacent room in July 1994. Susan Russo was convicted on Jan. 30, 1996 of first-degree murder and of conspiring with Jason Wesley Andrews and Bobby Leon Morris. Prosecutors

maintained that Russo hired Andrews and Morris to kill her husband so she could collect \$1 million in insurance money and buy a new home.

With support of family members, the daughters plan to ask the community to sign a petition asking Brown to rescind his decision. They want to submit it to the governor’s office by mid-week.

Beth Whitaker, eldest sister of Devin and Jamie, said they don’t know what legal actions they can take, but filing a petition is a start.

Read more here: <http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/crime/articleI44965654.html#storylink=cpy>

By Andrea Figueroa Briseño  
The Fresno Bee

## Hello Friends at CAH,

You have all helped me over the years when my Dad’s Murderer was up for Parole many times.

It was a rough time for us when he was released on 2-10-2015 by Gov Jerry Brown.

I wanted you to know he has re-offended by Violating his Parole and is back in the CDCR System as of December, so he did not even last 2 years.

No details yet—but this proves that Prison does not rehabilitate and Parole is taken too lightly.

Thank you again, for all of your support.

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## Commentary

### Re: Daughters of Murder Victim Hurt by Gov. Brown Article

*By Eryn Cervantes, CAH Consultant*

What an unimaginable blow to the victims of crime. While I do not believe there is ever a true sense of “closure” for the families of murder victims, I do believe there is a sense of justice served when a “life without the possibility of parole” (LWOP) sentence is handed down. Sadly, the reality is LWOP means nothing when you have a governor who is determined to reduce the prison population by any means.

Tell me, Governor Brown, would you employ the same tactics if it was *your* loved one who was murdered?!! And in what way exactly are the “voices of victims and their families profoundly important” to you?! Because the way I (and countless others) see it, the callousness of your decisions seem to communicate the notion that since the crime happened over 20 years ago, the gravity of the crime should somehow be mitigated. That the advanced age and/or wellness of the murderer somehow justifies your decision. *It doesn’t!* The permanence of murder is a reality victims live with every single day, for the rest of their lives!

The decisions you make and the manner in which you make them are a very clear reflection of just how “profoundly important” victims are to you.

### How can you request compensation for travel costs to a parole hearing?

As of May 2010, the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services has funds available through a federal grant which allows for reimbursement, up to \$200, to victims and next-of-kin for costs associated with travel to parole hearings. For information on how to apply for travel reimbursement contact OVSRS at 1-877-256-6877.

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# Help Block Parole for “Fatal Attraction Killer,” Linda Ricchio—CDCR# W32549

The family of murder victim, Ron Ruse, has requested our assistance in keeping his murderer behind bars where she belongs.

Please write letters and share the “Justice for Ron” link provided below.

On December 14th, 1987, Ron Ruse, who was a son, brother, uncle, and friend to many was brutally murdered by his estranged girlfriend, Linda Ricchio. After he broke up with her, Linda began to stalk him and carried out a campaign of terrifying harassment against Ron, his girlfriend Vicki and others. Although he had a restraining order it proved to be useless. Ultimately she bought a gun and took shooting lessons, secretly rented the apartment next to his and lay in wait for him. On the night of December 14th, as he came home from work, she stepped out from the darkness and shot him at point blank range in the back. The hollow tipped bullets tore him apart on the inside and he died in the Life Flight helicopter on the way to the hospital. Before succumbing to his fatal wounds he fled the scene and found an angel of mercy in Janet Gupton. Hers was the last face he saw.

During her trial Linda was nicknamed the Fatal Attraction Killer by the press due to similarities to the crazy female character in the movie. She was convicted of 1st degree (premeditated murder) and illegal use of a firearm and sentenced to 27 to life for her crimes. She has been incarcerated ever since. In 2004 she became eligible for parole and has had 3 parole hearings to date. Her delinquent behavior in prison surpasses all imagination, such as marrying a prison guard (then divorcing him), stalking another prison guard, and finally suing the Department of Corrections. She was able to have her entire prison history (including her bad behavior) expunged from her file. Due to her lack of remorse and defiant behavior at her parole hearings she first received a 5 year denial of parole (the maximum at the time), followed by a 7 year denial. After having her file expunged, last May 2016 at her third hearing she received only a 3 year denial. At the hearing she refused to discuss her commitment offense at the hearing (yes they can do that). She still lacks any insight or remorse for what she did and blames Ron for putting her in the position of having to kill him.

At this most recent hearing, we were told by the parole commissioner that they are prepping her for release and we need to get ready. There is no

way to get ready for a lifelong stalker to be released. We need your help. We have seen cases where significant public outcry is enough to extend a prison term so we have created a page called Justice for Ron. It would help us to have you share the page if you believe in our cause. Thanks in advance for your support as my family and I continue what has been a very long fight for Justice for Ron.

<https://www.facebook.com/Justice-For-Ron-1324099637678795/>

Attn: Administrative Review  
Board of Parole Hearings  
Pre-Hearing Analysis Unit  
Post Office Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

Email:  
BPH.CorrespondenceUnit  
@cdcr.ca.gov  
Subject line to state  
“AR Victim Statement”

Ref:  
Inmates Name: Linda Ricchio  
CDCR#: W32549  
Location: California Institute  
for Women

# 2017 Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Help CAH Make This Fundraiser a Success  
*Remember together we CAN make a difference*

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<b>AWARDS SPONSOR</b> Includes two foursomes, official program recognition and special tee sign.	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>TEE PRIZE SPONSOR:</b> Includes two foursomes, official program recognition and special tee sign.	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>LOGO BALL SPONSOR:</b> Includes one foursome, official program recognition, special tee sign and logo ball insignia.	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>LUNCH SPONSOR:</b> Includes one foursome, official program recognition, special tee sign and lunch table sign.	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR:</b> Includes two-player entry, official program recognition and special cart sign.	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>WINE or DESSERT SPONSOR:</b> Includes two-player entry, official program recognition and banquet table sign.	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>HONORARY SPONSOR:</b> Includes one-player entry, official program recognition and special tee sign.	<b>\$500</b>
<b>HOLE SPONSOR:</b> Includes official program recognition and special tee sign	<b>\$250</b>

If you would like to become one of our tournament sponsors, please mark the appropriate box and mail this form along with a check for the designated amount to:

Citizens Against Homicide Charity Golf Tournament  
The UPS Store  
369-B Third Street, Box 303  
San Rafael, CA 94901

For more information on sponsorships  
(or co-sponsorships) please contact us at:  
Ph: 415-455-5944 • Fax: 415-721-0788  
Email: vctmsmurdr@aol.com

Although I am unable to play golf this day, I would like to help make a difference by my enclosed donation of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## SPONSORSHIP/PLAYER FORM

- Business Sponsorship:  
 \$4,000     \$2,000     \$1,000     \$500
- Hole Sponsor: \$250
- Golf Tournament Registration: \$150
- Dinner Only: \$50      Number of Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE**

Make a Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Charge My Credit Card:

- VISA       MasterCard

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV#: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### NAME(S) OF GOLFER(S) PARTICIPATING

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

*Use an additional form for more golfers*

### MAIL ENTRY FORM AND CHECK TO:

Citizens Against Homicide Charity Golf Tournament  
The UPS Store • 369-B Third Street, Box 303  
San Rafael, CA 94901

or for more information please contact us at:  
Ph: 415-455-5944 • Fax: 415-721-0788

Email: vctmsmurdr@aol.com

# 2017 Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Help CAH Make This Fundraiser a Success

*Remember together we CAN make a difference*

Make a copy and encourage a friend to buy tickets

## Win a one-week stay at one of these beautiful resorts:

- **PALM SPRINGS**—  
Vista Mirage Resort  
Palm Springs, CA  
2 bedrooms, sleeps 6 privately,  
full kitchen, fitness center, laundry,  
sauna and pool.
- **HILTON HEAD**—  
Sea Crest Surf  
& Racquet Club  
Hilton Head Island, SC  
2 bedrooms, sleeps 8 max, 6 privately,  
full kitchen, tennis courts and  
2 pools.
- **LAS VEGAS**—  
Holiday Inn Club  
Vacations at Desert  
Club Resort  
Las Vegas, NV  
2 bedrooms, sleeps 6, full or partial  
kitchen, outdoor pools, hot tubs  
and activities desk.

### CAH GRAND PRIZE DRAWING AUGUST 4, 2017

Drawing to be held at our Charity  
Golf Tournament Awards Banquet.

Note: Date and location of these  
one-week vacations cannot be changed for  
any reason. All reservations are final.

*You need not be present to win.*

Suggested Donation \$5.00

#### CAH Special Grand Prize Drawing • August 4, 2017

PALM SPRINGS, CA: 4/27/2018–5/4/2018  
HILTON HEAD, SC: 4/21/2018–4/28/2018 • LAS VEGAS, NV: 4/27/2018–5/4/2018  
THESE DATES AND LOCATIONS CANNOT BE CHANGED

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Donation: \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00

Tickets must be received at the CAH address by no later than August 1, 2017

Return tickets and/or donation to: CAH The UPS Store • 369-B Third Street, Box 303 • San Rafael, CA 94901

# Parole & Clemency Hearings

These parole hearings are imminent. Send letters in support of these families today.

(DATE)

Board of Parole Hearings  
P.O. Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

Attn: Pre-Hearing Correspondence  
Re: Robert T. Mattos—  
CDC# B-81001  
Parole Hearing Date: June 7, 2017

Dear Chairman  
and Parole Board Member,

Please DO NOT grant a parole  
date to convicted murderer,  
Robert T. Mattos.

In July of 1976, William Finetti was sitting in his living room watching the Summer Olympics. A short time later, his daughter-in-law, Denise Finetti, stopped by after work for a brief visit. Within minutes, there was a knock at the front door. When Mr. Finetti opened the door, there stood Robert Mattos, his murderer. A short conversation took place and in the midst of the conversation, Mattos produced a gun and shot Mr. Finetti point blank. At this time, Denise began screaming. Mattos, realizing there was a witness, entered the home and shot at her four (4) times, hitting her twice, critically wounding her. Upon leaving the home, Mattos shot Mr. Finetti again while he lay on the floor dying.

Mattos fled to Hawaii, where he was apprehended and extradited. He was



tried and convicted of the First Degree Murder of William Finetti (receiving 7 Years to Life) and the Attempted Murder of Denise Finetti (receiving 7 years to Life).

On June 7, 2017, the Finetti family will, once again, have to relive the horrendous events that led to William's brutal murder and the attempted murder of his daughter-in-law, Denise. Each parole hearing victimizes this family once again; the stress and uncertainty is unbearable!

Robert Mattos made a personal choice to brutally execute an innocent family man and had every intention

to murder his daughter-in-law. Because of his complete disregard for human life, lack of remorse, extensive criminal history and heinous nature of this crime, this convicted murderer poses a great risk to society and does not deserve the right to freedom.

Although commitment offense is now rarely considered by the Board during parole hearings, it is hoped you will think about this murderer's victim, William Finetti and surviving victim, Denise Finetti and take into consideration Mattos' unconscionable acts of violence.

Please deny parole to convicted murderer, Robert Mattos, for the maximum time allowed by State of California law.

Thank you for your consideration.

(NAME/SIGNATURE)

*For your confidentiality, do NOT post your return address on this letter; only on the outer mailing envelope.*

## Sad News

### Ed Sullivan— Longtime Friend of CAH

It is with great sadness we report the passing of our longtime friend and CAH Board Member, Ed Sullivan. Ed was a dear friend of CAH Co-Founder Jane Alexander and he, along with several others, helped Jane and Jan bring to fruition, Citizens Against Homicide. In the early years, Ed was ever present at CAH meetings and events. After retiring many years ago, he and his wife, Sandra, moved to Lincoln, CA. Although unable to attend meetings, he and Sandra remained in touch and continued their unwavering support of CAH. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with Sandra and family.

