

A Petition for Clemency
to
The Honorable Governor Guy Hunt

on behalf of
HERBERT LEE RICHARDSON, JR.

Herbert Lee Richardson, Jr. is
scheduled to be executed in Alabama's electric chair
on August 18, 1989.

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SECTION A

HERBERT LEE RICHARDSON, JR.

Introduction

Herbert Lee Richardson, Jr., is scheduled to be executed on August 18, 1989, by order of the Alabama Supreme Court. Mr. Richardson, by his undersigned counsel, hereby applies to Guy Hunt, the Honorable Governor of Alabama, for commutation of his sentence of death by electrocution, pursuant to Amendment No. 38, Section 124 of the Alabama Constitution of 1901.

Alabama law vests the Governor of this state with the power to grant reprieves and commutations to persons under sentence of death. This power has been exercised by governors of Alabama 110 times since 1887. Historically, clemency has addressed elements relating to the crime of the offender that courts are unable to consider in setting or reviewing sentences.

Herbert Richardson urges the Honorable Governor to invoke his vested power, right, and duty as executive of this state to authorize the commutation of his death sentence. Mr. Richardson makes this appeal for commutation based upon compelling humanitarian grounds, many of which were not known at the time of Mr. Richardson's sentencing in January 1978.

I. Background

On August 17, 1977, Herbert Lee Richardson, increasingly unable to cope with his life and despondent over the rejection of his girlfriend, placed a homemade explosive on the porch of the woman's house to frighten her. Tragically, the woman's niece came out to play on the porch and innocently picked up the device. It exploded and the little girl was killed.

Herbert Richardson was sentenced to death the following year for the killing of the niece. What was not known at the time of his conviction and sentence was that Herbert was suffering from a then little understood pathology now recognized as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD afflicts many Vietnam veterans such as Herbert Richardson who, upon return from Southeast Asia, found their lives continually plagued by devastating war experiences. Overwhelmed by anxiety, PTSD sufferers have difficulty with intimate relationships, believe they must react to normal events as they did in combat, and sometimes explode in senseless rage and violence.

Herbert Richardson was recently diagnosed by a clinical psychologist and expert in PTSD as having been influenced by the disorder at the time of the crime for which he is now scheduled to die. While the jury and judge that sentenced him to death were told nothing of his mental health defect, we now know a great deal about the pathology and how it affected Herbert Richardson's life and actions.

II. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Not long after the United States withdrew its troops from Vietnam, psychiatrists and psychologists began to recognize that many veterans of the Vietnam War were having psychological problems that related directly to their war experience. What they observed was that the readjustment back to civilian life for these veterans was often extremely difficult and that many individuals were prone to troubled behavior. A considerable number of the hundreds of thousands of young people who had served appeared unable to cope with the necessity of leaving the war behind and getting on with healthy and productive lives back home.

Clearly the experience of fighting in a war is in many ways traumatic for anyone who is there. It is equally clear that the majority of Vietnam veterans have returned home to lives which we generally consider to be normal regardless of whatever personal hardships they may have suffered. There is, however, that identifiable percentage that has not readjusted successfully and that exhibits a recognizable pathology. Experts remain divided in their estimates of how many Vietnam veterans actually suffer from an acute psychological disorder that can be attributed to their Vietnam experience. There is also no consensus among them as to the reasons why different persons are more or less successful at coping with the same stressful events. What they do agree upon is that there is a psychological disorder which can be traced directly to the trauma that some veterans experienced in combat.

The initial stages of scientific research on this unique

psychological disorder culminated in 1980 with the recognition by the American Psychiatric Association in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM-III) of "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" (PTSD) as a distinct clinical diagnosis of a set of personality disorders characteristic of Vietnam veterans. DSM-III is the standard text used in the mental health field to diagnose mental illness. Courts of law have also generally acknowledged that a PTSD diagnosis can be admitted as evidence probative of mental illness in civil and criminal cases.

DSM-III describes PTSD as an identifiable group of symptoms that develop "following a psychologically traumatic event." Rape victims as well as Vietnam veterans have been identified as a group likely to suffer from PTSD. The syndrome is characterized by recurrent recollections of the traumatic event or by actual reexperiencing of the trauma when the sufferer is confronted with a situation he or she sees to be similar to the original experience. Those who persistently relive their worst nightmares demonstrate symptoms of emotional disturbance that include depression, loss of normal affect, loss of interest in work and other major life activities, an inability to form intimate relationships, anger, helplessness, and rage. Additionally, they may be plagued by uncontrollable and distressing images, go through periods of dissociation, and unconsciously reenact the traumatic situation that brought on the unbearable stress. In its more severe forms, PTSD can produce increased "irritability associated

with sporadic and unpredictable explosions of aggressive behavior, upon minimal or no provocation."

The causes of PTSD in Vietnam veterans are familiar to those who remember the tremendous problems that the war created both at home and abroad. Most of those called on to serve were very young; the average age, in fact, was just over 19 years old. A typical 19 year old is not well prepared to manage the problems of an ordinary adult life, let alone the stresses of combat. With the opportunity to mature at the usual pace taken away by the hard realities of guerilla warfare halfway around the globe, many of these young people simply did not have enough time before their departure to gain a healthy perspective on themselves and their future. Upon arrival in Vietnam, they were confronted not only with the stress of fighting and dying, but also the added burden of not knowing exactly what the purpose was for the hardships that they endured.

Soldiers who have been diagnosed as suffering from PTSD often speak of the frustration they experienced in knowing while in Vietnam of this country's demonstrated ambivalence toward the war. Upon their return, veterans were treated with the same mixed feelings that pervaded the general attitude about the war. When Johnny marched home from Vietnam, he was not greeted with tickertape parades. Rather, too many of those that he needed to count on for support and a sense of community greeted him with apathy and indifference, and at times even with hostility. What the returning veteran needed more than anything else in order to

get on with his life was a positive welcome. Not getting one made the futility of the war and of having served feel all that much greater, and those who have studied PTSD generally acknowledge that the atmosphere to which veterans returned was a major cause of the inability of thousands of veterans to move on from the experience so that it would not keep coming back to haunt them. One PTSD expert has stated that, given the extent to which the national attitude about the war and those who had fought in it was so deeply divided, returning veterans were doomed to feel stigmatized and alienated.

The consequences of PTSD obviously can be devastating for the veteran and for those around him. A Congressional report noted that Vietnam veterans had a 23% higher suicide rate than their non-veteran contemporaries. Studies have also shown there to be a significant correlation between combat action in Vietnam and subsequent criminal behavior at home. Experts attribute this behavior to the powerlessness that PTSD sufferers experience when they feel themselves to be trapped within the same trauma through dreams, flashbacks, or unconscious acts. Overwhelmed with anxiety that the trauma may recur and the accompanying images and thoughts about the original event, they can become disoriented and enter into the same survival mode used in combat. It is in this altered, defensive state that veterans suffering from PTSD have committed violent crimes. Experiences and emotions long repressed detonate unexpectedly, with tragic consequences.

PTSD veterans have an especially difficult time in establishing successful and healthy intimate relationships. Research confirms that sufferers have great difficulty in establishing close, trusting relationships, preferring instead to maintain a distance that is safer psychologically. The normal stresses that most of us learn to adjust to can pose a significant threat to the Vietnam veteran whose stress level is already at a constantly high level. Significant changes that induce great amounts of stress, such as the loss of an relationship, or the loss of a job, can push PTSD veterans beyond their ability not to react as a soldier would when faced with an immediate threat to his survival. The unfortunate victims of these disturbed outbursts of fear and anger often are those closest to the vet, since it is the loss of this intimacy and sense of belonging that he most fears. Statistics which show a high incidence of domestic violence among PTSD veterans bear out this sad truth.

III. Herbert Richardson's Early Life

Herbert Lee Richardson's childhood and young adulthood were those of a happy and healthy young man. He was born on February 16, 1946, one of five siblings and the oldest of three boys. When he was three years old, his mother died from complications that occurred while giving birth to his sister Lula. His father, whom he respected greatly, remarried, and Herbert became very close to his stepmother, Lucille. She recalls, "He had already

lost one mama, and didn't want to lose another. Herbert was also protective of his sisters."

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson had two more children after they married. Herbert Richardson, Sr., worked at a lumber mill and later for the state Highway Department in North Carolina. Herbert remembers with fondness times shared with his father flying and discussing model airplanes and the time his father devoted to teaching him how to repair televisions and radios. There was always money for food, clothing Christmas gifts and even an allowance in the Richardson home.

Herbert's parents encouraged him to study and apply himself in school. His stepmother would sit at the table with him for hours and go over his homework assignments. As a child he was very quiet and somewhat withdrawn. He was interested in planes, science and electronics and would spend considerable time reading about these subjects. He also devoted himself to drawing.

Herbert excelled in school and was extremely talented in art. As a young boy he won a scholarship competition to attend an art preparatory school and was also offered a scholarship in science. Lucille Richardson recalls, "He entered a drawing in a contest and the people who ran the contest asked him to come and study art with them. I did not want him to go, I thought that he was too young. Herbert was offered another scholarship when he was in his teens."

Herbert belonged to the Boy Scouts and also had a paper route when he was eight years old. He delivered the North Caro-

lina News and Observer morning edition before going to school. Later, at age fourteen, he worked as a bus-boy at the Heart of Wilmington Hotel.

Herbert Lee Richardson had two affectionate parents, and a home in which he received good physical and emotional care. As a youngster he developed his talents and worked to support his young needs. He was given the combination of love, security and discipline that was needed to help him grow into a healthy and responsible adult.

In August 1964, at age 18, Herbert enlisted in the Army in Wilmington, North Carolina, for a period of three years active military service. This was the turning point in Herbert Richardson's life.

IV. Service in Vietnam

Herbert Richardson's service for his country in Vietnam left him with profound psychological scars. Herbert enlisted in the Army at a time when America was involved heavily in combat in Vietnam. His military occupational specialty was "precise powerman," and he was the Power Generator Specialist assigned to the 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Stationed in Germany for several months, he was later transferred to Camp Radcliff at An Khe, Vietnam, for a tour of active duty. An Khe was near Pleiku, an area known for extremely heavy combat.

Herbert's experiences in Vietnam were shattering. On his first night there, his base was mortared and the tent next to his

hit repeatedly. His tent was at the perimeter of the base, and his unit would often capture enemy soldiers seeking to plant explosives in the tents. He was once caught outside the base during an attack. At one point he was asked to take over the machine gun in a helicopter when the gunner was shot. His memory of desperately shooting while the chopper was under fire is a vivid one which he has related often. He is haunted still by the image of finding a GI, impaled on a mountain but still alive, and by the joking and picture taking with which many of his comrades greeted the tragedy.



1 Private Herbert Richardson, Vietnam.

Mr. Richardson's mental health problems began to surface while he was still in military service. After 17 months of service he underwent psychiatric examination, having been referred by his commanding officer for study and treatment following an attempted suicide. After a short period of observation he was returned once again to duty. Seven months later he again underwent psychiatric examination. Military records from the 11th Aviation Group indicate that Herbert Richardson was seen in October of 1966 for recurrent headaches. In November of that

same year he was seen twice for severe headaches and impaired functioning. He was admitted to a psychiatric unit in November 1966 following an "agitated outburst" in which he was "crying" and "uncommunicative. (Herbert Richardson was also exposed during this period to "Agent Orange," a defoliant used extensively in Vietnam which is now known to cause birth defects and disease.)

After two days of observation he was released from the hospital with the psychiatrist recommending that he be separated from the service. Herbert was discharged from the military under honorable conditions in December 1966. No rehabilitative efforts were undertaken by the military upon his discharge from the Army.

V. Life After Vietnam

Many Vietnam veterans, particularly those who entered the war as mere teenagers, returned home to encounter tremendous readjustment problems. But some, like Herbert Lee Richardson, faced especially severe difficulties in functioning: Upon his return, Herbert began to suffer from a previously little-understood illness now recognized as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Mr. Richardson's family and first wife noticed a dramatic change in his personality and behavior following his service in Vietnam. Always somewhat a loner, he withdrew further after his military service. His stepmother reports that he hardly left the house for months. His father, stepmother, and sister consistent-

ly note that he would "sit and stare into space," "like he was always thinking about something." During such trance-like periods, he would not respond when spoken to. According to his stepmother, he kept "seeing things that happened in Vietnam" during these periods. Like many of his other symptoms, such behavior is a common characteristic of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Herbert began to have frequent nightmares about Vietnam. He would cry out in his sleep, sweat, and yell "go back" or "don't step over there" as if still in combat. His first wife tells that he would place his hands on her throat during those dreams, thinking he was fighting the enemy. Herbert started to go without sleep, resting only a few hours each night to avoid the painful nightmares.

Herbert's re-experiencing of the traumatic events of Vietnam in dreams, flashbacks, or unconscious acts left him feeling trapped in the trauma. Lucille Richardson recalls, "When Herbert came back from Vietnam, he had a hard time sitting still. He would also constantly glance over his shoulder, moving his head quickly to the side to glance around as if to see if there was someone behind him." His ex-wife says that sometimes his headaches were so bad that "he would put his head down on his knees and ball himself up" to escape the pain.

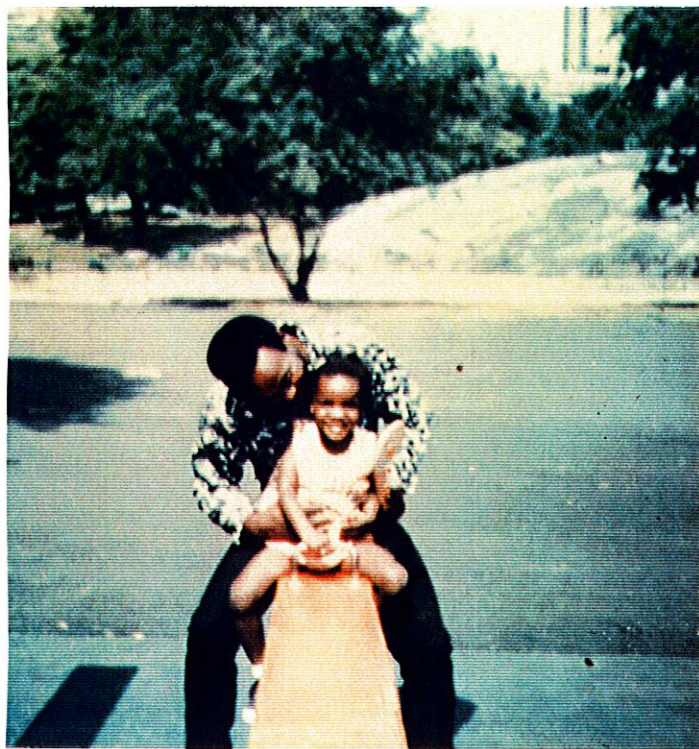
The trauma Herbert Richardson continued to experience began to take its toll on his life. Although his family members were happy to have him home, they soon found Herbert hard to under-

stand. Something had happened to him in Vietnam that caused him to feel and think differently from before. They were faced with the painful reality that the Herbert they had known before the war did not return; instead, the trauma of the Vietnam war had altered his personality. His father, Herbert Richardson, Sr. recalls: "Herbert was changed by his experience in Vietnam. He had a different attitude when he came back. Herbert's mind would fade in and out when he returned from Vietnam." Herbert's sister Delores remembers that, "Herbert was not the same Herbert that I knew when he came back from Vietnam. Before he went into the service he used to talk a lot, after he came out he did not talk as much. Herbert seemed to lose interest in life after Vietnam."

Herbert's anxiety, frustration, and nightmares gradually brought on the deterioration of his marriage. His wife reports instances of running out of the house in the middle of the night to escape Herbert, who was dreaming of enemy attacks in his sleep. While an attentive and doting father to his children, he experienced increasing difficulty in relating to his spouse and maintaining a marital relationship.

Herbert talked very little about Vietnam and he didn't like to be asked about it. His ex-wife recalls only that "he said the nightmares were about Vietnam. He told me once that he had seen a whole platoon killed, and had pretended he was dead so that he wouldn't be killed."

Like others suffering from PTSD, Herbert Richardson attempted to deny or downplay the personality changes that reportedly took place during the military. Despite his headaches, inability to sleep, and severe mood swings, he received no psychiatric care after his discharge from the military.



Herbert made attempts on his own to escape the effects of his disorder, some of which were successful. He moved in 1971 to New York, working for the Port Authority as an engineer. During his stay in New York, Herbert met and married a woman from Alabama, with whom he had two children. But in the late 1970s, his illness began again to plague him. He had started a business in Dothan which did not work out well. Financial pressures mounted. As is not uncommon among sufferers of PTSD, he could not sustain an intimate relationship, and found his second marriage failing.

Herbert soon became depressed and left his wife. He had an affair with Doris Wymes, and the relationship ended painfully. During this period Herbert lost about 30 pounds and his sleep problems intensified. He has cited this as the lowest point in

his life, where he felt "like a total failure" and alienated from the world around him.

VI. Herbert Richardson and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

According to Dr. Judith Lyons, a clinical psychologist and expert on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Herbert Richardson "would definitely have met diagnostic criteria for a major depressive episode during this period. Major depression is a frequent concomitant of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It was during this period that Mr. Richardson allegedly planted the bomb which killed Rena Mae Callins."

Herbert Richardson's psychological problems and aspects of his behavior closely parallel the symptoms of PTSD and the behaviors that psychiatrists and psychologists have associated with the disorder. Many PTSD sufferers become withdrawn and depressed in reaction to their emotional disturbance. At the time of the crime, Herbert had experienced an extended period of depression. According to his family, he was also prone to irritability and angry outbursts. His troubled marital history indicates that he had the kind of trouble forming meaningful intimate relationships that is characteristic of this particular pathology.

Herbert Richardson was also given to the explosion of aggressive behavior that some PTSD veterans have demonstrated when faced with the loss of such an intimate relationship, here the rejection from his girlfriend. These close parallels and what is known about Herbert's Vietnam experience are the basis for the

diagnosis that he suffered from a post traumatic stress disorder that brought about his violent act.

VII. Herbert Lee Richardson Today

Today, Herbert Richardson's psychological state is quite different from what it was twelve years ago. While still troubled by memories of Vietnam, the most acute symptoms of his disorder are no longer in evidence. Unlike others confined as he is, Herbert Richardson is sick at heart over the death of Rena Mae Callins, and profoundly remorseful.

Herbert Richardson has attempted to mend his life. He has recently married a woman he met as a "pen pal" through her church newsletter. For three years they had a friendship through letters that grew into a loving relationship. On August 9, 1989 they were married at Holman Prison by the institutional Chaplain. Herbert Richardson hopes to maintain this bond. He continues to care devotedly for his children.

Conclusion

Herbert Lee Richardson was strongly affected by his Vietnam war combat experiences. Herbert was also a casualty of the war. He was a young man who simply did not have the capacity to cope with the death and devastation he experienced in Vietnam.

Herbert's stay in Vietnam changed the course of his life, from that of a healthy, happy youth to a young man in torment.

The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from which he suffered affected his ability to function normally in a "noncombat" world, and tragedy resulted.

It would be another tragedy for this state to execute a man whose experiences while serving his country so affected his mental state and his control over his actions.

While legal technicalities prevent the courts from recognizing today the role PTSD has played in Herbert

Richardson's life--and in the crime for which he has been sentenced to die--the Governor of Alabama is not precluded from doing so. Governor Hunt is urged to look with a benevolent eye at the disorder from which this Vietnam veteran has suffered, and to commute his sentence of death to life in prison.



3 Herbert's children, Pam & Sean, today.

SECTION B

5. When Herbert came back from Vietnam I talked a lot with him about his experience in the war. Herbert would always start these discussions by saying "Pop, let me tell you this.." and would then tell me something about Vietnam.

6. Herbert would tell me all about the dead men he had seen in Vietnam , about how the planes would spray agent orange on the troops and they would have to walk through the fog the spray had made and how much the fog bothered him.

7. I asked Herbert about battle he saw and he told me a story about how he and his buddy were driving along In a car and were shot at by the enemy. Herbert said he had to walk to get help.

8. Herbert told me about the booby traps that were set all around and that people had to look out for them.

9. Herbert told me that none of the American soldiers could tell who was the enemy and who wasn't and so they were given instructions not to fire on anybody until they were fired on. He said it was really confusing trying to figure out who the north and south Vietnamese were. Herbert told me he didn't know what he was doing in Vietnam, why they were fighting,

10. Herbert was changed by his experience in Vietnam. He had a different attitude when he came back. Herbert's mind would fade in and out when he returned from Vietnam. It seemed like he was in another world, he couldn't get it together.

11. Herbert would forget what people would say to him. He would sit and stare into space for long periods of time and would only stop when he was spoken to directly. Sometimes he would be talkative and friendly. Herbert would vary between these two stages.

12. Herbert was jumpy, nervous, when he came back from Vietnam. He had trouble sitting still, and wouldn't finish things he started.

13. Herbert would always look over his shoulder, glance quickly over his shoulder as if to see if anyone was there. He would often get up, go outside, and stand on the front porch with his arms folded, looking back and forth as if looking for a place to go. Then he would walk back into the house.

14. When Herbert came back from Vietnam he would talk about what he planned to do, where he was going to go, what he was going to make. He never did any of those things he talked about. Before he went to Vietnam Herbert would do the things he talked about.

15. When Herbert came back from Vietnam he was really concerned about his things, and didn't want anyone touching them. Herbert would put things in place, leave, and then come back and check and see if the object had been moved while he was gone. He would do this with objects of value as well as things like pants and shirts. Herbert had an enormous reel to reel that he brought back from Vietnam that he was always checking to see if anyone touched.

16. When Herbert came back from Vietnam he couldn't get close to people, he couldn't stand being in a crowd and stayed to himself. He became much more a loner than he had been as a kid.

17. I love my son and wish there was something, anything I could do to save his life. Herbert was a good boy and a loving son. I pray that his life will be spared.

Further affiant sayeth not:

Herbert Richardson
Herbert Lee richardson

Sworn and subscribed to before me

this 9 day of August, 1989

Doris J. Bone
Notary public

My commission expires: 1-31-93

Richardson v. State
Case No. cc 77- 318

New Hanover County,)
)
Clayton, North Carolina)
)

AFFIDAVIT OF LUCILLE RICHARDSON

I, Lucille Richardson, being duly sworn depose and state the following:

1. I am the stepmother of Herbert Lee Richardson. I became his stepmother when he was almost 4 years old.

2. Herbert accepted me pretty quickly and we were very close as he was growing up. Herbert was not hard to handle, I never had any problems with him. I loved him like he was my own child.

3. I had two more kids after I married, so we had five children in all.

4. Herbert was always very possessive of me when he was growing up. I thought that it was because he had already lost

one mama and was afraid to lose another. Herbert was also protective of his sisters.

5. Herbert was very good at drawing, when he was a child he was offered a scholarship when he was about 8 years old. He had entered a drawing contest and the people who ran the contest asked him to come and study art with them. I didn't let him go because I thought he was too young. When he was in his teens he was offered another scholarship.

6. Herbert went into the service because everybody was going into the service. I think the service really changed him, he was very different when he returned from Vietnam.

7. When Herbert returned from Vietnam he went through what I call the army syndrome period the first five years after he returned. He stayed with us the first five or six months after he came back from Vietnam and then he married Marie and moved out.

8. Herbert was quiet and withdrawn when he returned from the service. He didn't want to be bothered by anyone, and was more of a loner than ever. He seemed to always want to be alone and stayed to himself, he would talk to people for not for very long and would often leave after a short conversation.

9. Herbert lost his sense of humor after Vietnam. He was always good for a tease before he went to Vietnam, but after he came back, there were no more jokes from him and no more playing.

10. Herbert was depressed when he got back from Vietnam. He would do things, like cook and clean and take care of kids and he would play his drums. He didn't want to go outside, he would just stay home and do these things. He didn't go out the first few months he was home.

11. Sometimes Herbert would just sit and stare into space, or just look at the wall. When I asked him what he was thinking about he would say he wasn't thinking about anything and I would let the matter just drop. A few times he told me that he kept seeing things that happened in Vietnam.

12. Herbert would have bad nightmares when he got back from Vietnam, from which he would wake up all sweaty. He told me about the nightmares, I also would hear him yelling things in his sleep. He would say things like "no", "go back", "don't step over there," like he was protecting somebody. He told me the nightmares were about Vietnam. I offered to take him to a psychiatrist, but he didn't want to go.

13. Herbert also suffered from terrible headaches when he returned from Vietnam. The headaches hurt Herbert so much he would hold his head with his hands over his ears and scream. I finally had enough after a month or so and took Herbert to a doctor. The doctor gave him some medicine that didn't work. When Herbert started working his new job he got some medicine that seemed to help.

14. When Herbert came back from Vietnam, he had a hard time sitting still. He would also constantly glance over his shoulder, moving his head quickly to the side to glance around as if to see if there was someone behind him.

15. Herbert became forgetful after he returned from Vietnam. He always had an excellent memory, he could remember the tiniest detail about something, and he never forgot things like birthdays. When he came back from the service he forgot my birthday, mother's day and other things. He would lay something down and then forget where he had put it. That was very unlike Herbert.

16. Herbert didn't like to talk about the war very much, he didn't like to tell me stories about Vietnam. He did tell me how

he got sprayed with agent orange and how they used to give out needles to the soldiers.

17. I love Herbert like he was my own child. He was a good and thoughtful son. His life needs to be spared, I pray that the state of Alabama does not kill him.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Mrs Lucille Richardson

Lucille Richardson

Sworn and subscribed to before me

this 9 day of August, 1989

Doug J. Boone

Notary Public

My commission expires: 1-31-93

think that we could agree about marriage. When I said I was going to move out Herbert got very upset. We finally decided to get married..

5. I got pregnant with our son, Sean. I wanted a child. Herbert and I had talked about children before we were married, and he had said he wanted kids, that he loved kids. After the baby came he loved the child and paid attention to it. Two and a half years after Sean's birth I became pregnant with our second child. This time Herbert got extremely upset, saying we couldn't afford another child. I decided then to leave Herbert and return to my family in Hartford, Alabama. This was 1974.

6. I returned to Alabama without telling Herbert where I was going. Herbert called my sister over and over again, asking where I was. I finally told my sister that she could tell Herbert where I was. He joined me in May of 1975.

7. Herbert was very good throughout my pregnancy, he signed the right papers so that we could use the insurance to pay for the pregnancy. When Herbert got to Alabama he immediately found a good paying job, he has always been able to find good jobs.

8. I loved Herbert, when he was home he treated me well. He respected me.

9. Herbert was not a very talkative person, he didn't ever really talk very much. He was the kind of guy to keep a lot of things bottled up. Herbert didn't talk much about being in Vietnam. He never told me what his job was.

10. Herbert didn't sleep much.

11. We lived across from the church in Hartford and Herbert helped Rev. McLeod with the wiring in the church

12. Once Herbert told me that he was going to move out and leave me. He did leave me, but then he came back. I let him back because I still loved him.

13. Herbert fought our divorce 3 or 4 years ago.

14. I loved Herbert very much. We have two wonderful children. Because of my love for Herbert ,as the mother of his children and as his friend, I believe that he is someone whose life should not be taken.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Rosetta Williams

Rosetta Williams

Sworn and subscribed to before me

this 9 day of August, 1989

Ann C. Nif

Notary Public

Notary Public, State of Florida

My commission expires: My Commission Expires May 1, 1991

BONDED THRU TROY FAIR - INSURANCE INC.

New Hanover County, }
 }
Wilmington, N.C. }

AFFIDAVIT OF MARIE ANN RICHARDSON

I, Marie Ann Richardson, being duly sworn depose and state the following:

1. I live at 810 N. 30th St., Wilmington, North Carolina.
2. I met Herbert Richardson when I was about thirteen years old, dated him before he fought in Vietnam and married him in March 1966 after he came back from the war. We have two children, Connie Marie Richardson and Hervie Dwane Richardson.
3. I got engaged to Herbert before he left for Vietnam. He was very sweet and considerate. We spent most of our free time together.
4. Herbert would go shopping with me, and we would go for walks in the rain. He liked going to the movies and also really loved music. As far as I knew, he did not drink or take drugs. He liked to work with his hands, was very smart and always had good jobs.
5. Before he went to Vietnam, Herbert and I would sit and talk all the time. He would tell me about his problems, for instance problems he had because his mother died when he was

young. Herbert was always troubled by his mother's death and the love and support he lost from his real mother.

6. Herbert wrote to me while he was in Vietnam, and he would send me his army allotment check every month. He wrote me one letter about seeing his whole platoon killed. Vietnam was terrible for Herbert.

7. Herbert seemed different after he came back from Vietnam in December 1965. He was less sweet and considerate and would sometimes get violent if things went wrong. He also would not talk to me very much or tell me about his problems anymore.

8. After we were married, I found out that Herbert had lots of nightmares and would often cry in his sleep. Several times I woke up and Herbert would be strangling me because he would be dreaming and attacking me in his sleep.

9. Herbert told me that the nightmares that he had were about Vietnam. He saw his whole platoon killed and had to pretend to be dead so that he would not be killed as well. He also told me about how Agent Orange was sprayed in the jungle and how it bothered him.

10. Once, after we saw a television program about war, Herbert said that being in a war and seeing exactly what happens really changes a person

11. About ten months after we were married, after our first child was born, I started to notice that Herbert regularly would get terrible headaches. Sometimes the headaches were so bad that he would put his head down on his knees and ball himself up. I never knew him to have headaches like that before Vietnam.

12. Herbert became extremely jealous of me. He did not want me to wear short dresses or make up and would constantly accuse me of fooling around with other men.

13. I suggested that we get some marriage counseling, but he did not want to go. He would get really angry saying that I thought he was crazy and that he was sick. He said that he did not need to talk to anyone, that he was okay.

14. I talked to Herbert's parents and his younger sister about him. His sister and I both thought that Herbert needed help.

15. After we were married, Herbert started seeing other women. He would stay out until 12:00 or 1:00 in the morning and then leave home early to work a 7:00 to 4:30 shift. He had a child by another woman, and women used to come to our house to see him.

16. When I threatened to leave him, he would cry and act like a little child. He said that he did not know what he would do if I ever left him and that he would commit suicide. I finally left him after we had been married for two and a half years.

17. I moved up to New York and stayed with my sisters. Herbert also moved to New York, but we did not live together. He would come by pretty frequently with money and toys for the kids. He was living with another woman at this point.

18. Herbert often came by to play with our kids and was especially proud of our daughter, Connie. I got a letter from Herbert after he was sent to death row about how he felt when Connie wrote to him. He really loves his daughter.

19. After my mother died, Herbert claimed that her ghost was trying to get him. He said that once my mother's ghost took control of his car steering wheel and he could not turn it. Herbert had lots of problems that seemed to be caused by his time in Vietnam.

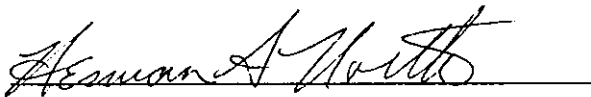
20. I still love Herbert and care deeply about what happens to him. I sincerely hope that his life will be spared.

Further affiant sayeth not.

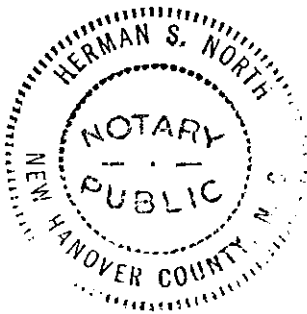


Marie Ann Richardson

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 9 day of AUG, 1989.



Notary Public



My Commission Expires 3-17-93

_____)
Kings County,)
_____)
Brooklyn, New York)
_____)

AFFIDAVIT OF LULA GROENEVELDT

I, Lula Groeneveldt, being duly sworn depose and state the following:

1. I live at 3030 Surf Avenue, Apt #2D, Brooklyn, NY.
2. I am Herbert Richardson's younger sister. Our mother died while giving birth to me, when Herbert was about three years old. He was very attached to our mother and was not happy with our father bringing home a new wife. Herbert and our stepmother have always had problems.
3. When Herbert came back from Vietnam he was very different than when he left. My sister and I used to say that he was "shell-shocked." He would sit and just look at the wall. He seemed spaced out, like he was always thinking about something. I used to wonder what he was thinking about so hard.
4. Sometimes Herbert would not answer when someone spoke to him, and sometimes he would space out in the middle of a conversation and would have to ask the person to repeat herself.
5. After he came back from Vietnam, Herbert would do weird things and sometimes act strange. He had really severe mood

swings. He would be sitting at the table in a fine mood one minute, and be extremely angry the next.

6. Herbert told me that he had gotten some kind of disease in Vietnam, and that nobody should eat or drink after him. He took medicine when he got back.

7. One other weird thing that Herbert would do was to spin all the way around and then keep walking whenever we were walking towards each other. When I asked him why he did it, he told me that he was not aware that he was doing it.

8. I love my brother very much and care about what happens to him. I definitely think that his life should not be taken and want to ask that his life be spared.

Further affiant sayeth not.

x *Lula Groeneveldt*

Lula Groeneveldt

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 09 day of AUGUST, 1989.

Edward J. Paul

Notary Public

EDWARD J. PAUL
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 24-4673144
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires Dec. 31, _____

_____))
Bronx County,))
_____))
Bronx, New York))
_____))

AFFIDAVIT OF ELOISE RICHARDSON

I, Eloise Richardson, being duly sworn depose and state the following:

1. I live at 1070 Washington Avenue, Apt #18, Bronx, NY.
2. I am Herbert Richardson's older sister by two years. We grew up together and got along fine. I left North Carolina before Herbert got out of the service and did not see him until about three years after he came back from Vietnam.
3. When Herbert came back from Vietnam, he was not the same brother that I had known. His temper was much worse and he was not a happy-go-lucky guy anymore. He used to talk a lot before the war, but after Vietnam, he did not say as much. He always seemed to have something on his mind.
4. I also think that Herbert lost his ability to concentrate while he was in Vietnam. When he was young he always would finish projects and could sit down and do something for hours. After he got back, he was always on the go and did not finish things.
5. Herbert seemed to lose interest in life after the war. He once told me that when a person goes to Vietnam, a lot of

things happen to change him. He also did not seem to trust people.

6. I remember that Herbert did not get along well with our stepmother. One time when we were visiting our stepmother's father, he made Herbert run around the house naked as a punishment for something.

7. I love my brother very much and care about his well-being. I hope that his life will be spared.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Eloise Richardson

Eloise Richarson

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 9 day of August, 1989.

Irma Rodriguez

Notary Public

IRMA RODRIGUEZ
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 03-4695508
Qualified in Bronx County, 9/1
Commission Expires May 31, 1991

Kings County,)
)
Brooklyn, New York)
_____)

AFFIDAVIT OF EARNESTINE WARD

I, Earnestine Ward, being duly sworn depose and state the following:

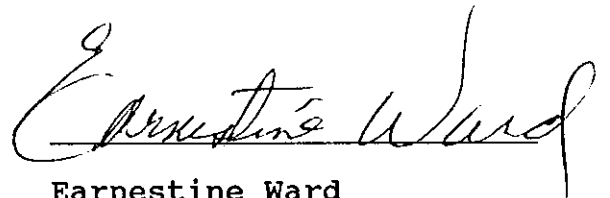
1. I live at 240 Wortman Avenue, Apt #1A, Brooklyn, NY.
2. My sister, Rosetter Williams, was married to Herbert Richardson for several years. I also knew Herbert through my husband because they played in a band together.
3. Herbert was hard to get along with. If he could not do things his way, he would do crazy things. He had dramatic mood swings and always tried to make people think he was tough.
4. In the same way that my father was not the same after he got back from World War II, Herbert was not the same after coming back from Vietnam. He talked about guns a lot and showed me a small handgun that he had.
5. I think that Herbert was crying out for attention and wanted people to accept him. Everyone who knew Herbert would agree that there was something wrong with him after he came back from Vietnam.
6. The only time I ever saw Herbert drop his tough guy image was when his wife, my sister, was pregnant and suddenly

developed toxemia. Herbert went into a panic and when we got to the hospital, he ran in screaming that his wife was sick. When the hospital people did not respond quickly enough, he grabbed a stretcher himself and went outside and brought Rosetter in. He was terribly upset.

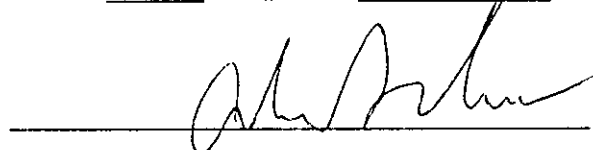
7. Herbert left disciplining the kids almost entirely up to Rosetter.

8. I love Herbert and think that he is someone whose life should not be taken. There is something wrong with him, and he needs to be helped.

Further affiant sayeth not.


Earnestine Ward

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 9 day of August, 1989.



Notary Public

ALAN SCHNUER # 24-3521156
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires Aug. 31, 1991

Kings County,)
)
Brooklyn, New York)
_____)

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHNNY WARD

I, Johnny Ward, being duly sworn depose and state the following:

1. I live at 240 Wortman Avenue, Apt. 1A, Brooklyn, NY.
2. I know Herbert Richardson through playing in a music band with him and because he was married to my wife's sister.
3. Herbert played drums in the band, and we used to hang out a lot together. As far as I know, I am his only friend.
4. Herbert always wanted to be the center of attention and wanted people to accept him. When the band played, Herbert would try to get attention from the audience by playing louder or differently from what was planned. Sometimes he would make insulting wisecracks about the other band members.
5. Herbert had dramatic mood swings, he would be fine one minute and mad and crazy the next. He was hard to get along with, and the other band members did not care very much for him.
6. Herbert had a lot of unrealistic ideas and war-related fantasies involving guns and violence. For example, he wanted to get a car with guns set up in it that would shoot anyone who came near the car.

7. Herbert always tried to make people think that he was a tough guy. He tried to act like a macho soldier. One thing that Herbert did to create his tough guy image was to wear black clothes. He may have gotten this idea from a popular TV show called "Shaft." I think that his concern about his image was related to Vietnam.

8. Herbert liked to talk about and demonstrate karate moves that he learned while in Vietnam. The karate played a role in Herbert's macho image.

9. Herbert told me a few stories about Vietnam. He told me one about flying in a helicopter and shooting down Vietnamese on the ground with a machine gun. He told this story so much that I got sick of hearing it. He also told a story about jumping out of an airplane while people were shooting at him. He would tell his war stories in a macho way as if he were bragging, but I was never sure if he really did all the things that he talked about.

10. Herbert would pick fights with people, both band members and people on the street. He would act very macho and tough until someone really challenged him, and then he would back down. I think that he may have lost his nerve in Vietnam, and that's why he always worked so hard to put on a macho front.

11. I think that Herbert would have flashbacks because his temper would flare up so unexpectedly. He also acted wild and would do weird things. One time while Herbert was driving his car on the highway, he made his passenger get out of the car because the man was talking too much and getting on his nerves.

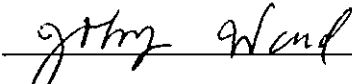
12. Herbert fooled around with other women. He just wanted to win them over and make them think that he was cool. Once he had gotten a woman interested, he would drop her.

13. Herbert told me that he got some sickness over in Vietnam and that people should not eat after him. He took medication and did not drink because of his medical problems.

14. I heard that Herbert's real mother died when he was young and that he did not get along well with his stepmother.

15. I love Herbert as a friend and think he deserves to be helped. Something happened to him in Vietnam, and there is something wrong with him. I hope that his life will be spared.


Further affiant sayeth not.



Johnny Ward

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 9 day of August, 1989.

ALAN SCHNUR # 24-3521156
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires Aug. 31, 1991



Notary Public

5. We also began spending a lot of time together after work. I would take my wife over to Herbert's house or Herbert would bring his wife over to my house. We also spent time together without our wives. I really liked Herbert.

6. Herbert and I talked a lot about Vietnam, I think that's one of the reasons we were friends. I was also in Vietnam during the war. We didn't know each other in Vietnam, but from our talks I got the impression that Herbert was in the infantry, and that he saw a lot of combat.

7. Herbert told me things about his experience in Vietnam that let me know Vietnam had a big impact on him.. Herbert said to me that Vietnam had screwed him up and asked me why it hadn't screwed me up.

8. Herbert told me that he had nightmares about Vietnam, I call them flashbacks. He said that things that happened in Vietnam came back to him, that these flashbacks happened in dreams, and that they affected him as great deal. Herbert's wife told me that Herbert would wake up screaming at night from nightmares.

9. Once or twice a week Herbert would get these terrible headaches. He told me the headaches were so bad that no medication he took helped. I told him to go to a doctor but as far as I know he never went.

10. Herbert was a little jumpy, too. Other maintenance workers at Dupont found out that there was something they could do to really scare Herbert and annoy him. His co-workers would walk up behind him unexpectedly and either touch him or walk close to him and make loud noises, do something that really scared him. Herbert's wife used to tell me about his nightmares, how he would wake up hollering and screaming. She thought he was sick and needed help.

11. Herbert loved music, played the drums. When I would go over to his house, he would play the stereo loud and he would be playing the drums along with the music.

12. Herbert was very smart and did his job very well. He told me that when he was a kid he studied hard and read a lot of books.

13. Herbert was my friend, he was a smart man and a good worker. I know that his life is worth saving and I hope that his life will not be taken.

Further affiant sayeth not.



Floyd Palmer

Sworn and subscribed to before me

this 9 day of August, 1989



Notary Public

My commission expires: 9-12-89

SECTION C

"Come thou with us and we will do thee good." Num. 10:29b

El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church

1200 GAYLE STREET
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36605



PHONE 433-7631 OR 433-7636

Rev. Jonathan L. Yates, Pastor

Sis. D. Jackson, Secretary
Sis. B. Runderson, Secretary

Governor Guy Hunt
State Capitol Bldg.
Montgomery, Al.

Dear Governor Hunt:

This letter is in reference to the character of Herbert Richardson, an inmate at Holman Prison in Atmore, Al.

As pastor of the El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church of Mobile, Al., I became acquainted with Herbert Richardson about four (4) years ago. He first contacted me by letter after hearing our weekly, live radio broadcast. He did not write seeking any type of assistance for himself, but was concerned solely with how he could help to support our Radio Broadcast Ministry. He wrote of how he and so many other inmates had been helped by the services that came to them by way of the radio broadcast.

I was deeply moved by the faith and determination of this young man and his unselfish efforts to support what he recognized as a very worthwhile cause.

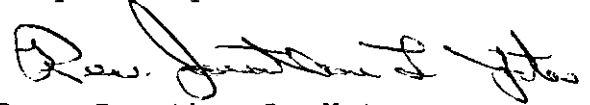
Herbert, while in prison, had developed a talent for producing acrylic paintings depicting the life and works of Jesus. He sent several of these beautiful and symbolic works of art to me (free of charge) to be sold and the money given to our Radio Ministry Fund. He further expressed a desire to be allowed to send many, many more of these paintings so that the proceeds from the sale of them could be used for the Radio Ministry.

I have pastored my congregation for over sixteen years and I was amazed to find so much love, faith, and concern displayed by one who was incarcerated and stood to gain absolutely no monetary profit from his acts of kindness.

Herbert displays a christian love and kinship to God that surpasses that of many who have not experienced life as he has. I can't help but believe that the Lord has forgiven him for all of his sins and is pleased with his present life. Many of the members of our church who have visited, witnessed to and written to Herbert over the years, share my belief that he is a man who has totally committed his life to Christ. This young man truly deserves another chance to prove to himself, to humanity and to God that he is indeed a changed person, desiring only to do good for and to mankind.

Please prayerfully consider this plea on Herbert Richardson's behalf and allow him an opportunity to live to serve god and his fellowman.

Prayerfully Submitted,



Rev. Jonathan L. Yates

P.S. Enclosed please find a copy of one of the letters sent to me by Herbert Richardson.

Herbert Richardson

Holman Unit # 37

Atmore, Ala. 36503

Dear Rev. Yeats,

Please forgive me if I've misspelled your name. Hopefully, I haven't.

I'm a 39 year old black inmate on death row at Holman prison. I'm not writing you to request any aid from you but I'm writing because I've enjoyed your sermons by radio over the past years.

I'll never forget the fear and helplessness I felt when you once stated that for financial reasons, your radio Broadcast may not be able to continue.

Truly your live broadcast means a lot to me and I desire to help keep it on the air if you allow me to help.

As you probably have noticed, I'm sending you two of my Acrylic paintings of Jesus. These painting are waterproof and will last many years without fading.

I would like to send you more of these many painting of the life and events of our Lord. I have hope that your members will buy these painting and put the funds into your Broadcast budget.

I personally don't want any thing from this myself but my purpose is to help keep you on the air for my sake and others.

If you'll allow me to do this, I'll send you a package of my many different paintings surrounding the life and events of Our Lord each month. I suggest a donation price of \$10.00 each for these paintings for your fund to remain on the air. Otherwise, you or someone else can lower the price or whatever you think is fair or reasonable.

My purpose is just to help in this way because surely the Lord has been and is good to me with his many blessings.

I won't take up much more of your time now but I would like to hear from you as to whether you'll let me help in this way.

Also, I desire to fellowship by mail with any of your members who care to write me.

Again, my purpose and intent is only to share in the Lord and have a friend or friends in the Lord.

With this said, I'll close now and hope to hear from you soon. Please do what you will with these two paintings if you decide for any reason that you prefer not to allow my help in this way. I say this because these paintings can't be returned to me once this package is opened, that is prison policy because of prison security rules.

God bless you and your entire Church membership and may our Lord continue with you all to his glory. I'm with you every Sunday by radio.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,

Herbert Richardson

P.S.

I really do enjoy your sermons because you preach and teach the truth of God's word in a way that all can understand and apply it in their daily lives. God bless you much.

Herbert Richardson
Holman Unit, #37
Atmore, Ala. 36503

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Sincerely Yours
-In Christ-

Herbert Richardson

P.S.

I really do enjoy your sermons because you preach and teach the truth of God's Word in a way that all can understand and apply it in their daily lives. God bless you much.

1634 Prairie Avenue

Mobile, Ala. 36605

August 11, 1989

Dear Governor Hunt,

This letter is in reference to Herbert Richardson whom I have come to know and love very much over the past 3 1/2 years.

In February 1986 Herbert wrote a letter to the El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, of which I am a member. His purpose was to aid in keeping the radio broadcast on the air and to fellowship through letters with interested members. His letter was put in our news letter for the membership. His letter stated that he listen to our broadcast every Sunday morning and was inspired by Rev. Yates messages. The membership was overwhelm by his request and responded by going into prayer for him.

Many of the members started writing Herbert and he put several people on his visiting list at Holman. I was one of those people.

That same year Herbert sent paintings as his contribution to the Peace and Goodwill P.B. Church in Prichard, Alabama. The

paintings were sold to buy choir robes. Again his only purpose was to help the Church in some way.

After getting to know Herbert through letters. I have since visited him every week to this present time. I found Herbert to be a very humble, caring and loving person. He has also found peace in the word of God and has committed himself to our Lord Jesus Christ. We have found a love for each other that only God can give and smile upon. In an act of faith in God to grant us a life together as husband and wife we were married Aug. 9, 1989 with our family and friends blessings.

Since spending many hours with Herbert talking about his past life. I have found he has done many good things to help his fellowman which contradicts his present conviction. I feel it would be a great injustice to him and those who love him if you take his life because his actions were not intended to kill anyone.

So, in a desperate plea. I'm asking you to please find it in your heart to spare my husband's life. This matter is now in your hands and God's. I appreciate any consideration given in this matter.

Yours In Christ,

Mrs. Katie Richardson

1634 Prairie Ave.
Mobile, Ala. 36605
August 11, 1989

Dear Governor Hunt,

This letter is in reference to Herbert Richardson whom I have come to know and love very much over the past 3 1/2 years.

In February 1986 Herbert wrote a letter to the El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, of which I am a member. His purpose was to aid in keeping the radio broadcast on the air and to fellowship through letters with interested members. His letter was put in our news letter for the membership. His letter stated that he listen to our broadcast every Sunday morning and was inspired by Rev. Yates messages. The membership was overwhelmed by his request and responded by going into prayer for him.

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So, in a desperate plea, I'm asking you to please find it in your heart to spare my husband's life. This matter is now in your hands and God's. I appreciate any consideration given this matter.

Yours In Christ
Mrs. Fatic Richardson

822 Plant Street
Prichard, Alabama 36610

August 12, 1989

Greetings In The name Of Our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ,

It is with joy in my heart that I write this letter on behalf of Herbert Richardson, whom I have come to know over the past few years as a man that looks beyond his needs to render help to others.

For many years I have seen or talked to many people that are/ were similarly situated as Herbert. A high percentage of these contacts with the Church were for some sort of help. This was not the case with Herbert; he wrote in response to our cry for help with our Radio Broadcast. In his letter to the Church, Herbert expressed the inspiration and comfort he received by way of this broadcast. Despite Herbert's circumstances, he sent paintings to the Church to help. He also wanted to fellowship with the membership if it was o.k. Our Pastor did not hesitate, he read the letter over the air and placed a copy for the membership in the Church Newsletter.

As a result many members wrote him; including myself. The El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church family went into prayer for Herbert.

It is not always the large things that a person does, but the sincerity in the little things. In all of my communication (letters) with Herbert, there is a positive reaffirming of faith in Christ. Everyone has a purpose for being here, and Herbert is truly in that number; for he possess a quality that is rarely found in many. The good/ positive things that he have done and said proves his sincere desire to help others rather than they help him.

This speaks louder than any words that can ever be spoken.

Yours in Christ,

Lamaris Cox

822 Plant St.
Richard, Alabama 36610

August 12, 1989

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAUJER
JESUS CHRIST,

IT IS WITH JOY IN MY HEART THAT I WRITE THIS
LETTER ON BEHALF OF HERBERT RICHARDSON, WHOM I HAVE
COME TO KNOW OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AS A MAN THAT
LOOKS BEYOND HIS NEEDS TO RENDER HELP TO OTHERS.

FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE SEEN OR TALKED TO MANY
PEOPLE THAT ARE/WERE SIMILARLY SITUATED AS HERBERT.
A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THESE CONTACTS WITH THE CHURCH
WERE FOR SOME SORT OF HELP. THIS WAS NOT THE
CASE WITH HERBERT; HE WROTE IN RESPONSE TO OUR
CRY FOR HELP WITH OUR RADIO BROADCAST. IN HIS
LETTER TO THE CHURCH, HERBERT EXPRESSED THE INSPIRATION
AND COMFORT HE RECEIVED BY WAY OF THIS BROADCAST,
DESPITE HERBERT'S CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SENT PAINTING TO THE
CHURCH TO HELP. HE ALSO WANTED TO FELLOWSHIP WITH
THE MEMBERSHIP IF IT WAS O.K. OUR PASTOR DID
NOT HESITATE. HE READ THE LETTER OVER THE AIR AND PLACED
A COPY FOR THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER.

AS A RESULT MANY MEMBERS WROTE HIM; INCLUDING
MYSELF. THE EL BETHEL PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
FAMILY WENT INTO PRAYER FOR HERBERT.

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IT IS NOT ALWAYS THE LARGE THINGS THAT
A PERSON DOES, BUT THE SINCERITY IN THE LITTLE
THINGS. IN ALL OF MY COMMUNICATION (LETTERS)
WITH HERBERT, THERE IS A POSITIVE REAFFIRMANCE
OF FAITH IN ~~OUR~~ CHRIST. EVERYONE HAS A PURPOSE
FOR BEING HERE, AND HERBERT IS TRULY IN THAT NUMBER;
FOR HE POSSESS A QUALITY THAT IS RARELY FOUND IN MANY.
THE GOOD / POSITIVE THINGS THAT HE HAVE DONE AND SAID
PROVES HIS SINCERE DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS RATHER THAN THEY
HELP HIM.
THIS SPEAKS LOUDER THAN ANY WORDS THAT CAN
EVER BE SPOKEN.

YOURS IN CHRIST
Lamar Cox

August 12, 1989

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Herbert Lee Richardson,

At the request of the above individual, I am submitting this letter of character reference.

I have known Herbert for over four (4) years and during that time, I have known him as a man of good standards. He was well received in love by the El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church Family.

We as a Mission group began to go to the Prison (Holman) to visit and have prayer with him. The Church family adopted him as our own.

He sent the Church portraits, and even helped the (Peace and goodwill Primitive Baptist Church to buy Choir Robes) by sending them portraits to sell.

I have had extensive affiliations with Herbert in the area of religion. Herbert has strong religious standards in which he governs himself by.

I would prayful hope that you would render him his life and take in consideration as it related to his case, all things.

If I can be of further assistance to you in any way as it concerns Herbert Lee Richardson, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Ms Bernice Hatch
117 Talisman Ave.
Prichard, Al 36610
456-7919

Aug. 12, 1989

To Whom It May Concern:
RE: Herbert Lee Richardson,

At the request of the above mentioned individual, I am submitting this letter of character reference.

I have known Herbert for over 40 years and during that time, I have known him as a man of good standards. He was well received in love by the El Bethel Primitive Baptist Church family.

We as a mission group began to go to the Prison (Holman) to visit and have prayer with him. The Church family adapted him as our own.

He sent the Church portraits, and even helped the (Peace and Goodwill Primitive Baptist Church to buy (Chair Lokes) by sending them portraits to sell.

I have had extensive affiliations with Herbert in the area of religion. Herbert has strong religious standards in which he governs himself by.

I would prayerful hope that you would would render him his life and take in

in consideration as it relates to his case, all things.

If I can be of further assistance to you in any way as it concerns Herbert Lee Richardson, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Ms Bernice Hatch
417 Tulisman Ave.
Prichard, Al. 36610
456-7919

To whom this may concern:

I have been acquainted with Herbert Richardson for 6 1/2 years. From August 1983 to August 1984 I visited with him almost every Thursday afternoon for several hours. Each January I visited with him for several days during one week of revival services that were held at Holman prison. In between visits we corresponded by mail. During our acquaintance I have never known Herbert to be a vicious or mean person, or to having held on to any revengeful attitudes. I believe it is his repentance and commitment to serving Jesus Christ that makes him the type of person that would become a law abiding and tax paying citizen of United States and a benefit to society, if given the opportunity to prove himself.

John M. Hurst
1012 Rabbit Hill Road
Lititz, Pa. 17543

To whom this may concern:

I have been acquainted with Her. Richardson for ~~6~~¹² years. From August to August, 1984 I visited with him a every ~~a~~ Thursday afternoon for several. Each January I visited him for several days during one week of revival S that were held at Holman prison. In visits we corresponded by mail. During our acquaintance I have never known Herbert to be a vicious or mean person, or to having held on to any revengeful attitudes. I believe it is his repentance + commitment to see Jesus Christ that ~~is~~ makes him the type of person that would be a law abiding + taxpaying citizen of United States and a benefit to society, if given the opportunity to prove himself.

John M. Hurst
1012 Rabbit Hill Rd
Lititz, Pa. 17543

August 12, 1989

Governor Hunt:

I know that you are not of a mind to stop any executions in Alabama and for that reason, I'm reluctant to write you.

I do believe that there are death sentenced men whose situation does require your attention and possibly, a little mercy from you.

In my own situation, I know that I did not have any intent to kill any one. I believe God knows that if I could, I would reverse the results of death to the victim in my case.

I've tried to prove by evidence that this murder was not intentional on my part. Nevertheless, if you are reading this letter, then you know I was not successful in proving that point. God forbid that I am put to death because of that. It was proven that the prosecutor and police destroyed evidence before my trial that could have proven that the murder was not intentional on my part.

For this reason, I beg of you to commute my death sentence in an act of mercy because I was deprived of this vital evidence.

I've never killed before and if God be my witness, it will never happen again as long as I shall live.

I regret that I can not talk to you in person about this because I believe you would see a man who is terribly remorseful and repentant of his action. No one but God knows the pain and

deep grief I my self suffered that day when I learned that this little girl was killed. I knew Rena Mae Callins, the 11 year old girl and had played games such as volleyball with her and her brother on many days. I had grown to love her as I did my own daughter. I found it difficult to live with myself after her death and I thought to take my own life at that time because of the grief I constantly lived with. Even until this day, I carry this pain and grief over her death and it is just as great as it ever was within me.

I can't help it if the law, at the time I was convicted, would not allow me to come forth with what really occurred but I did make an attempt to come forth with the truth then.

In closing, I can only pray that you will find it in your heart and mind to grant me clemency. I accept and admit that I'm guilty of a crime but it is not a murder of intent and I pray wholeheartedly that you will believe that. I have nothing to hide at this point and I again ask you for mercy. Mercy that God has given you the power to grant.

Thank you very kindly,

Herbert Lee Richardson
Z 368
Holman 37
Atmore, Al 36503

STATE OF ALABAMA

Department of Corrections
Inmate Stationery

8-12-89

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Herbert Lee Richardson 7-368

Holman 37

Atmore, Al. 36503