



*Join us to make a difference*

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



## PATRICK S. RUST

Sgt.—U.S. Army

June 3, 1982—March 16, 2007

### Sgt. Patrick Rust's Mysterious Death

Sgt. Patrick S. Rust was born on June 3, 1982. He was the youngest of five (5) children. Patrick was a quiet child and kept to himself. He was an average student in school and well-liked by all those who knew him. As a youngster, he enjoyed fishing and, as he grew, snowmobiling was his passion. He enjoyed listening to music and playing video games.

A year after graduation, Patrick proudly enlisted in the U.S. Army—May of 2002. He found his comfort zone within the military. He enjoyed the travel and the people he met in the different states where he was stationed. He made rank very quickly and had planned to make the military his career.

Sgt. Patrick Rust was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division headquartered at Fort Drum, New York. He picked up a rifle and defended our way of life against the terrorists who want to destroy it. He was our soldier, his mom and dad's son, our friend and neighbor, central New York's very own defender. He survived deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, only to die mysteriously right here in his own country, not far from where he was born.

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*Our Next Meeting  
will be on Sunday,  
November 12,  
2017*

*10:00 a.m.*

*Loch Lomond Yacht Club  
95 Loch Lomond Drive,  
San Rafael, CA*

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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.

## A Few Words From Jan

Almost every day I ask myself and those around me, "What happened? . . . where did it all go so wrong? . . . what did we do to make it go so wrong?"

Today, we reward bad and evil behavior! Why?

(I am referencing a segment featured in this newsletter where members of CAH and the family of a murder victim had attended the victim impact phase of their murder trial. Our two advocates and the homicide victim's family were accosted and threatened by family members of the murderer. When court had adjourned, the victim's family and our CAH advocates were gathered and rushed out the back door for their safety. It should have been the other way around; the people causing trouble and shouting threats should have been restrained and arrested for disturbing the peace and making threats. The family of the murder victim should have been able to walk out the courthouse doors and down the stairs with their heads held high, because this was the day that justice had finally been realized.)

The riots in St. Louis are horrible and disgusting! These rioters do not want to be bothered with facts. They just want to hurt and destroy. . . and why not? They are being allowed to run through neighborhoods looting and destroying buildings and businesses with no consequences. They are not being held accountable for their actions. This is so wrong! It is NOT always the fault of law enforcement. The police are given strict instructions. The Mayor, Governor and City Council members dictate to police departments the actions they will allow and expect. There are laws prohibiting riots and these laws need to be enforced. What has happened to the No.I goal of law enforcement—"Safety and Security of all Citizens?" We must voice our concerns, fears and frustrations with our mayors and governors! It is time we remind them of their purpose! We want our lives, our homes and our businesses protected. This is our right! There is no law giving rioters the right to terrorize and destroy.

Officer involved shootings resulting in death are all inclusive. No law enforcement agency

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## *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  
Website: www.citizensagainsthomicide.org

## *CAH Victim Advocate:*

For advice regarding your individual murder case, 1-209-728-2873  
cahadvocate@yahoo.com

## Words From Jan—cont. from page 3

is immune. A common denominator in many cases is that the person shot was either committing a crime or failed to comply with law enforcement orders “to stop”. Sometimes they choose to fight or they pull a weapon. These actions escalate tensions causing further actions, sometimes lethal, by officers. Why do they not listen; why do they have so little respect for law enforcement, the courts, their teachers, for their parents and for themselves?

I think that perhaps we have stopped parenting with a firm and consistent set of rules. It appears there is more of a desire to be the friend rather than the parent. Instilling respect and educating the child to differentiate between right and wrong then falls by the wayside.

The first and most important rule is respect. Respect for your parents; respect your teachers, respect those in uniform who are here to protect us; respect your friends and most important of all respect yourself. The second rule is responsibility. Take responsibility for your own actions. If you do something wrong—own it. Learn from it! Don't make the same mistake a second time.

Parents and children alike must stop looking for someone to blame. Sometimes accidents happen. Some things can be fixed and some cannot. We as parents must teach our children that the truth is the most important thing. Speak the truth except for that rare occasion when we must ask ourselves—“are the words I am about to speak of benefit to anyone? Will they unnecessarily hurt someone? Are we speaking truth or just some words that have been passed from one person to another like a whisper?” We must take the time to determine both truth and hurtful remarks.

Today, we read (and hear) about teachers of all levels from grammar school to

graduate school. Some of these teachers have strong political opinions and are using the classroom as a platform to influence their impressionable students. What happened to the days when students could develop their own political positions? In many cases, the content being taught is one-sided and is strictly the opinions of the teacher. It is imperative that opinions from both sides (Republican and Democrat) be shared with students and they must feel comfortable (not intimidated) when asking difficult questions. Students must be taught to think critically in developing a sound opinion and not just sheepishly agree with the opinions of someone else. In a recent news program, it featured a professor who stated how “happy he was to be teaching future dead cops”. This is truly a sick statement. He was suspended; however, I believe he should be removed from the school and not allowed to teach again. This person is about his agenda, not about teaching. Parents are spending thousands of dollars to send their children to college. Along with this comes assurance that their children are being taught the facts/truths of our country and confident students are learning in an environment safe from violence and open to all discussion. Students must understand the first amendment; everyone has the right to free speech (and opinions), whether or not the teacher agrees. Remember free speech does not include violence. Violence accomplishes nothing. Those who create violence need to be arrested, charged and removed from the area to protect the innocent citizens.

As I watch my grandchildren leave for another semester in college, high school and grammar school, I pray they will be receiving a quality education. I pray that they value the three (3) “R’s”—Reading, (W)riting and (A)rithmetic. I pray that they take with them the critical lessons of respect and personal responsibility

## Quote of the Month



“Violence is a disease, a disease that corrupts all who use it regardless of the cause.”

—Chris Hedges

learned at home from their parents and grandparents. When the three (3) “R’s” are taught at all levels of our educational system, it might make for a better world to live. These lessons and values are the cornerstone of our educational system.

—Until later, Jan

## Parole Hearing Update

Jose Gonzalez

Good Afternoon, Gene and Shellie,

I am pleased to report that, at the hearing on July 5, the parole board commissioner gave my parents’ murderer, Jose Gonzalez, a three-year parole denial.

Our family appreciates all of the support we received for our efforts to keep Gonzalez behind bars.

—Gary Effron

## Words

*Many may look at the world today and say:*

“Today was the absolute worst day ever  
and don’t try to convince me that  
there is something good in every day  
because when you take a closer look,  
this world is a pretty evil place  
even if  
some goodness does shine through  
once in a while,  
satisfaction and happiness doesn’t last  
and it is not true that  
it’s all in the mind and heart,  
because  
true happiness can be obtained  
only if one’s surroundings are good  
It’s not true that good exists  
I’m sure you can agree that  
the reality  
creates  
my attitude  
It’s all beyond my control  
and you’ll never in a million years  
hear me say that  
today was a good day”

*Now, read from bottom to top. You will  
see how I see the world each day*

## 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: Lonnie David Stringer—  
CDC #K-24602  
Parole Hearing Date: November 14, 2017

Dear Chairman  
and Parole Board Members:

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer, Lonnie David Stringer. On April 29, 1995, Stringer bludgeoned to death his wife, Cynthia Stringer, with a large object believed to be a baseball bat. Cynthia was brutally and senselessly struck several times on the head, eventually killing her. When law enforcement arrived on scene, they observed Stringer attempting to cover the victim with a carpet. Records indicate this murder was premeditated.

Cynthia worked as an In-Home Health Aide for Kaiser Hospitals, while studying to become a nurse. She was an outstanding employee and a wonderful friend to many. She was a devout Jehovah’s Witness, even before meeting Stringer at a local Jehovah’s Witness Hall (Church). At one time, Lonnie Stringer rose to the top of their church as an “Elder”. Soon after, Stringer’s demeanor began to change. Time spent at home with Cynthia was minimal and she was becoming afraid for her safety. Court records indicate an elaborate plan set forth by Lonnie Stringer, to murder his wife for financial gain (Life Insurance).

It is noted after brutally bludgeoning his wife to death, Stringer disguised and

deflected suspicion, accusing several people who were close to him and her family as possible murderers. He accused the victim of deserving what had happened to her. This convicted murderer poses a significant risk to society!

On November 14, 2017, Cynthia’s family, once again, must relive the horrendous events that led to her brutal murder. Once again, they must endure the trauma and uncertainty of this murderer’s parole hearing. Because of Lonnie Stringer’s complete disregard for human life, denial and lack of remorse, justice demands this convicted murderer be denied parole.

Stringer made a personal choice to execute Cynthia for financial gain and he must continue to accept the consequences of his actions. It is hoped the Board will think about Cynthia Stringer and the brutality she had to suffer before dying from her injuries. Cynthia does not get a second chance to live; she is gone forever by the hand of a murderer; someone she should have been able to trust. Therefore, Stringer does not deserve a second chance or the privilege of freedom. He must remain in prison, so that he can never again harm another innocent human being.

Please deny parole to convicted murderer, Lonnie David Stringer for the maximum time allowed by California law.

Thank you for your consideration.

(NAME/SIGNATURE)

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



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# 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: Watts, Phillip C.—  
CDCR #H-89I35  
Parole Hearing Date: December 21, 2017

Dear Chairman  
and Parole Board Member,

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer Phillip Clark Watts, CDCR #H-89I35.

On August 3, 1992, Phillip Clark Watts entered the home of 82-year-old Lawrence “Hoss” Harrison for the sole purpose of robbery. Mr. Harrison was in his backyard watering when he was alerted of the intrusion by his barking dog. Watts immediately began beating his victim about the face, knocking him to the ground and then demanded his

money. Watts then brutally stabbed Mr. Harrison a total of 63 times (26 to his face). The elderly victim’s eyes had been gouged with the knife blinding him while he fought for his life. There were also bite marks on his back. Mr. Harrison’s injuries were so extensive that his body was grotesquely mutilated. This killer got away with \$1800 in government checks/cash, clothes and tools.

It is a crime and a terrible lack of justice that this convicted killer is entitled to a parole hearing at all. Per the United States Supreme Court decision, “State prisoners have no constitutional right to parole”. Because of Watts’ complete disregard for human life, sense of entitlement and the heinous nature of this crime, he must continue to accept the consequences of his actions. This convicted murderer poses a significant 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, 82-year-old “Hoss” Harrison, and take into consideration Watts’ brutal and unconscionable act of violence. Watts’ personal choice to execute an innocent and defenseless elderly man for personal/financial gain cannot be ignored by this Board.

Please show your support for Lawrence “Hoss” Harrison’s family and friends by keeping his murderer behind bars where he belongs. Deny parole to convicted murderer, Phillip Clark Watts for the maximum time allowed by State of California law.

Your consideration is sincerely appreciated.

(NAME/SIGNATURE)

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

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## Patrick S. Rust—cont. from page 5

Patrick went missing from a bar—ironically named “Clueless”—in Watertown, New York on March 16, 2007. Six (6) months later, his remains were found in a farmer’s field over three (3) miles from the bar and the apartment where he resided in Watertown. It is unknown how he ended up in the farmer’s field. He didn’t have a car and he would not have walked to this location on a cold March night. He was not robbed and his remains showed no indication of trauma. The cause and manner of death remains undetermined.

So, what happened to Patrick Rust, our soldier, our son, our friend and neighbor? Someone holds the key to this painful mystery. If anyone has information that could help solve this case, please do the right thing and come forward. Please call (315) 786-2671—PatrickRust.com. Sgt. Patrick Rust went to battle for our country. His family deserves answers. . . and Patrick deserves justice.

Thank you, Sgt. Rust for your bravery and service to our country. You will never be forgotten!



## Finally... Justice for Lacy Marie Ferguson

On September 13, 2017, Gene and I attended the Victim Impact proceedings of David Aguilar's murder trial at the Stanislaus County Superior Courthouse in Modesto, CA. Aguilar was recently found guilty for murdering Lacy Marie



Ferguson in August 2003. Pictured here with Gene and me is Lacy's daughter, Haleigh and mother, Boni Driskill. If there was ever a doubt how it feels to lose a beloved mom and daughter at the violent hands of another, everyone in court was quickly and most eloquently educated when Haleigh and Boni spoke with stark reality of the murder that took Lacy from them. There was not a dry eye... except for

a few. In attendance were family members of the defendant. The sad reality of their presence was their disruptive behavior in and outside the courtroom at the conclusion of the proceedings. Relatives of the convicted murderer began verbally attacking

members of the prosecution and then one turned their attention to Haleigh. Bailiffs quickly rushed these riotous idiots out... and then we were given police escort out through a rear entrance of the courthouse. Surreal! Our dear friend, Boni, has done everything humanly possible in her fight for justice. Today, she can finally breathe that long-awaited sigh of relief. She

accomplished her day in court; looked the murderer in the eye and ended her impact statement with "burn in hell, for all I care". There is never closure for families who have lost loved ones to murder, but this concludes the final chapter of this 14-year nightmare. We love you, Boni and Haleigh... and are so very proud of you!

— Shellie Cervantes

