



## ISHMAEL JOSEPH ESCALANTE

October 8, 1990–December 7, 2014

By His Aunt, Deanna

My nephew, Ishmael Joseph Escalante, age 24, was murdered almost 4 months ago in Merced, CA. I am writing to you, hoping you will be able to assist my family. We need help to catch the persons involved.

Ishmael was born on October 8, 1990, in Los Banos, CA to Christina Escalante. “Ish” was raised in Dos Palos, CA by his grandmother, Patty Escalante. Although he was an only child, he grew up with a tight-knit family and referred to his uncle and aunts as brother and sisters. He loved football and played during high school; he was a proud Bronco. Ishmael graduated from Dos Palos High School in 2009. He went straight to work after graduating to help support his family. Ishmael was always working, sometimes holding two jobs at a time. He moved to Merced in April 2013. Shortly thereafter, he found work as a bouncer at La Hacienda I.

Ishmael had many hobbies, interests and passions, one of the biggest was dancing. He would dance to any song, any music, anywhere! He couldn't help but dance to the beat. Ish's favorite color was purple. He was clean-cut, very respectable and well-mannered. He was a friend to all, always smiling and happy-go-lucky. Ishmael had a heart of gold and would help anyone with whatever he could. He loved writing and poetry. He created journals full of

—continued on page 3

### Next Meeting: CAH Annual Meeting

May 17, 2015  
10:00 a.m.

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

Guest Speaker: Courtney Elmore,  
CDCR Victim Services Unit  
Outreach Trainer

Please join us and bring a guest  
RSVP

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# 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 monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month at 302 4th Street, San Rafael, CA. The monthly meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. We encourage anyone interested to attend meetings.

## A Few Words from Jan

Today, I want to share some of my thoughts and ideas with you. The past month or so, I have experienced overwhelming stress and anxiety. I understand these feelings, as I experience them every year at this time. March is a very difficult time for me. You see, Veronica's birthday is in March. She would be turning fifty (50). Typing these words brings tears to my eyes. Last November, I turned seventy (70). It was a big deal for me and we celebrated with a wonderful party. The twenty-year difference between Veronica and myself never seemed as important as it does now. Seventy and fifty, mother and daughter. Mother is still alive and daughter gone now for almost 31 years. We always celebrate Veronica's birthday with a Mass. Bishop John presides over the Mass, however, his schedule sometimes is in conflict with Veronica's birthday. This is true this year and the birthday Mass will be celebrated in April. All of you who know me well, know that my goal is always to celebrate birthdays for

at least a few weeks and on "special" years they need a month. This is a special year.

How can a mother's pain be so great? I do not have an answer for that question. As I recognize the many other wonderful things that are going on in my life... and there are many; watching the grandchildren play at numerous basketball games; the school plays; family dinners and special events with family and friends...the unsettled feeling keeps growing. Last Sunday, I realized where these feelings were coming from. This year, Veronica's younger sister has a son who will be graduating high school and plans to go away to college. There it was! Those same feelings I had back when each of my other children went away to college. The loss of Veronica came while she was away at college and had just finished her freshmen year. I still remember telling each of the kids, "you must go away and do all that you want to do"... "you can't let Veronica's

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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</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>
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Foothill Printing & Graphics	<i>Design &amp; Printing</i>

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Jack Miller	Chuck Mitchell
Ora Knowell	Andi Jarmicki
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### *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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## A Few Words from Jan—*cont. from page 2*

murderer take anymore away from us than he already has”. Easy words to say! The correct words to say. Yet—it is hard. I know this time not only will I be having these feelings, but so will my daughter as she prepares to see her son go off to college.

Life is a reflection of what we have experienced in the past and what we prepare to experience in the future. Each experience is joyful and sad at the same time. With each experience, there is hope that the joy outweighs the sadness.

Originally, I had planned to write about how lopsided and unfair our

judicial system is and how each day the legislators are leaning more toward prisoners’ rights over victim rights. The “feelings” of prisoners are given greater importance than those of victims. Victims are tossed aside and no longer given consideration in the evaluation of whether or not a murderer is suitable for parole. In some way, I guess I did say that the victim’s family never stops suffering. It does not matter if the murderer was caught or not. The pain of the family goes on forever, just as the love for the one murdered goes on forever. It is up to each of us, individually, to find a way to keep the love and good

memories alive and to share that good with as many others that we can.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter and rejoice in it’s true meaning, the Resurrection of Christ. Let your spiritual resources help you find the hope and strength needed each day to welcome the next. Enjoy the season of Spring as it brings us signs of new life with an abundance of colors that are emerging from our gardens and hillsides. Enjoy and value life!

—Jan

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## Ishmael Joseph Escalante—*cont. from page 1*

poetry. Ish enjoyed watching UFC and any sporting events. He loved superheroes, the SF 49ers, MMA, cooking and eating. His appetite for food was about as big as his appetite for life. He was so loving and never shy to show it. Christina and Patty were the two most important women in Ish’s life. He never had a chance to have a child of his own. He was extremely close to his entire family. He will always be remembered for his big bear hugs and “I Love you’s.”

Ishmael worked at La Hacienda I & 2 in Merced, CA as a bouncer. He loved his job and would say, “I get to listen to music all night! I love it.” He was a dedicated worker always protecting the establishment. One night around July or August, he called and said he was through working there, because

he was having problems. He asked what we thought of him going into law enforcement. We were very proud he was choosing a career path. Ish would still go down to his old place of work to hang out with friends and help out. On December 7, 2014 at approximately 10:22 p.m., Ishmael was outside of La Hacienda I, at the intersection of G St and Olive Ave, when he was approached by a masked gunman who opened fire shooting him once. Ish went inside for help/cover and collapsed a few feet away in front of the pool table. As he lay on the floor, the gunman shot him three more times. Ish was pronounced dead at the scene.

There were 25–30 people in the bar that night, but no one remembers

seeing anything. No one has come forward with information. Ish has no known enemies nor was he part of a criminal street gang. I know the detectives are doing all they can, but without further information/evidence, it is extremely difficult. If anyone has information about the senseless murder of my nephew, Ishmael, please contact Detective Deliman at (209) 385-6992. We desperately need answers and Ishmael deserves justice.

Thank you for your help.

—Sincerely,  
Deanna Escalante

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# Spoken from Her Heart

## In Loving Memory of Cynthia Ramos

*By: Shellie Cervantes*

Having lost two loved ones to murder, Gene and I speak from the heart when describing the emotional devastation of such a senseless act. One moment in time can change the course of a lifetime. We found it unbelievable; impossible to wrap our heads around the brutality and the loss. Soon, we were consumed with finding the truth; the identity of the monster who could do something so horrible. For those of us fortunate enough to eventually realize an arrest, we found ourselves looking forward to “having our day in court!” However, our sense of relief

and optimism was only temporary. Once the trial began, our emotions were, once again, raked over the coals and any shred of confidence right along with them. We were subjected to crime scene and medical examiner details, a parade of witnesses and much worse... sitting in front of us was a smug, arrogant, evil murderer, whose defense attorney was hell-bent in convincing the jury that “law enforcement got it all wrong! My client is innocent!”. Gene and I will never forget the agony and uncertainty of our trial. If one jury member had any doubts, this guy could

walk! This unspeakable experience took a toll on our entire family... as it does countless other families in kind.

Following is a Victim Impact Statement beautifully and powerfully written by our dear friend, Christina Barnes. Her family was going through the horrendous trial process when the judge gave her two (2) hours “to sum up every emotion, every pain, every feeling”. I felt compelled to share her words, spoken from her heart. Heartfelt Hugs, Christina

## My Victims Impact Statement

*Written and Read on February 2, 2010 at 9:07 p.m.*

*By: Christina Barnes*

There are no words to describe what our family has been through since August 6, 2009—the day Robert Morgan and Jorge Morgan brutally slaughtered our mother, Cindy Ramos.

I wouldn't expect either of them to understand any of it, as only the “SOUL-LESS” would be capable of inflicting the pain and terror they bestowed upon our mother that fateful day, when in the previous months, Robert Anthony Morgan, Plunkett, Costello, whatever the true name, befriended our mother... smiling in her face when all the while he was planning to... as Jorge stated... “get rid of her”.



Our mother, Cindy Ramos, the beautiful and lively 58 year old woman who was truly coming into her own, the woman with a hearty laugh and a great sense of humor, the woman with a heart of gold, that

gave food she didn't really have to the homeless, that took in complete strangers without question because “it was cold outside”, that even took them food after they stole from her, the same woman who took so much pride in her children...

OUR MOTHER,  
who gave birth to us,  
who took care of us above all else,  
fed us when we were hungry,  
nursed us when we were sick,  
taught us about life... and taught us  
how to love,

OUR MOTHER, was murdered in  
cold blood by 2 demons disguised  
as humans.



These demons didn't give a second thought to who she was. They didn't care about her screams or cries, or the terror in her eyes as she faced the inevitable. It meant nothing to the heartless beings that continued to inflict the pain, torture, and horror we know she endured those final moments of her life.

Our mother died at YOUR hands on that day, and a piece of us also died right there with her on that floor. We have been sentenced to a lifetime without our mother, and must live everyday with the thoughts of how her last moments were spent... **AND HOW SHE DIDN'T DESERVE IT!!!**

Holidays will never be the same. Christmas will always have a gloom. Mother's Day will always have an emptiness, and birthdays will also be filled with sadness. I will never see my mother grow old. I will never have the opportunity to see her with gray hair and with old lady clothes. I will never be able to compare myself next to my mom, and ask... will I look like you when I get old?? I will never see the love in her eyes again as she plays with her grandchildren. **NO!!!** That was taken away from me. That was taken away from **HER!!** From **ALL** of her **FAMILY**, and **ALL** of her **FRIENDS!!** So many lives impacted by **MURDER...** the heinous act which you two planned and carried out in a cowardly fashion. **COWARDS!!!!**

It took 2 men, a knife, a rope, and the element of surprise to take her down. One of you wouldn't have had the **BALLS** to do it by yourself because you **KNOW** my mom wouldn't go out like that!!

**SHE WAS A FIGHTER!!** She **DID** fight... and her spirit still fights through us 6 children, our children, through Her Mother, Her Siblings, and through her Cherokee roots. Roots connected to a deep spirituality, roots that are one with the earth and it's elements, roots that are in touch with **GOD...** in touch with this life, and the next.

In this life, there can never be true justice, because Our Mother is gone forever. But knowing that neither of you will ever walk the same streets as me and my children, knowing that neither of you will ever have the opportunity to harm another innocent person, brings **SOME** justice.



In the next life, you 2 are already sentenced... sentenced to an eternity far greater than the torture you put our mother through. Fiery pits await you and **NO ONE** will hear your cries. You will scream and beg for mercy, and **NO ONE** will hear you... just like no one heard my mom. The difference is, with you two, **NO ONE** will care. You will both spend an eternity in **HELL**, which is **EXACTLY** where you belong.

At present, you have seen us here at every court date. We are in numbers, and we are strong. We will get through this nightmare, and we will honor our mother, **CINDY RAMOS**. Her Name, Her Love, Her Spirit, and Her Legacy will live on forever in the light it deserves... while you two **GUILTY MURDERERS ROT AWAY, IN THIS LIFE AND THE NEXT!!!!**

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## Editorial:

### Kamala Harris failed to tell voters about Prop. 47 DNA impact

*The Bee Editorial Board • February 17, 2015*

As California's attorney general, Kamala Harris was responsible for coming up with Proposition 47's official title and summary, the 100-word blurb that helps inform voters about the impact of ballot measures.

As California's top law enforcement officer, Harris also oversees the lab that analyzes DNA collected from criminals.

Yet now, three months after voters approved the initiative that reduced drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, law enforcement authorities other than Harris, are sounding the alarm that Proposition 47 could be responsible for a drastic reduction in the number of DNA samples being collected for analysis.

Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert cited California Department of Justice statistics showing that police were submitting 15,000 DNA samples to the state for analysis before the November election. Now, Schubert told a Sacramento Bee editorial board member, the state is receiving about 5,000 DNA samples a month.

These samples are matched against samples taken from crime scenes. Perhaps they are murder scenes. Maybe they are samples taken from rape victims. How many past or future crimes might be solved by the missing samples is unknowable.

As we wrote Sunday, DNA from people who committed lower-level offenses has been used to solve major crimes, including murder.

There could be other reasons for the drop-off. A December decision by the California Court of Appeal in San Francisco restricts law enforcement's authority to take DNA from people who have not been convicted of crimes. Harris has appealed the decision to the state Supreme Court.

However, the fact that an appellate court curtailed DNA collection in December does not explain why Harris failed to make clear to voters prior to the November election that the initiative would have such a significant consequence. Harris did not take a stand on the initiative.

The Sacramento Bee asked Harris' aides recently whether she knew that Proposition 47 would restrict DNA collection, and if she was aware, why she didn't flag it for voters.

Her office offered a statement: "The Attorney General's office creates an initiative title and summary based on what the measure will do and within the 100-word limit provided by law."

Yes, 100-word blurbs are brief.

But if she was aware of the DNA issue, Harris could have exchanged some of the verbiage for the following nine words: Will curb law enforcement's authority to collect DNA samples.

If she wasn't aware of the DNA issue, she was not doing her job.

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón, one of the main proponents of the measure, was forthright. In an interview, Gascón said he knew Proposition 47 would limit law enforcement's authority to collect DNA because it reduced certain drug and property offenses to misdemeanors rather than felonies.

"That was not an area that was a primary area of concern," Gascón said. If policymakers believe DNA should be collected from everyone who is arrested, "that is a topic worthy of significant debate," he added.

Assembly Member Mike Gatto, a Los Angeles Democrat, has introduced legislation, Assembly Bill 84, related to DNA collection. Assembly Member Jim Cooper, D-Elk Grove, intends to introduce a bill soon. A policy debate will take place in the Legislature; that's good.

But before casting their ballots on Proposition 47, voters might have wanted to know its implications for DNA collection and, by extension, law enforcement's ability to solve serious crimes. Harris had an obligation to inform them.

Read more here: [http://www.fresnobee.com/2015/02/17/4383826\\_editorial-kamala-harris-failed.html?rh=I#storylink=cpy](http://www.fresnobee.com/2015/02/17/4383826_editorial-kamala-harris-failed.html?rh=I#storylink=cpy)

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# Opinion:

## Big Prop. 47 loopholes biting back

By Dan Walters • [dwalters@sacbee.com](mailto:dwalters@sacbee.com)

California's legislators are now eager to plug some gaping—and potentially dangerous—loopholes in criminal laws that voters opened last year by passing Proposition 47.

But, one might wonder, where were these politicians last year when local prosecutors and cops were warning about Proposition 47's loopholes?

Where, for that matter, was Attorney General Kamala Harris, the state's top law enforcement official, who wrote the measure's official ballot summary and didn't mention its potential problems?

Harris' office has refused to explain the omission and her silence during the campaign, citing only her summary-writing duty.

### Related

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón—who succeeded Harris in that position—sponsored Proposition 47, touting it as a way to cut prison spending by reducing low-level, nonviolent property crimes and personal drug possession from felonies or “wobblers” to misdemeanors.

It would, Gascón and his co-sponsors told voters, “improve public safety” and “reduce prison spending and government waste” while diverting the savings into education, drug treatment and compensation for crime victims.

That argument was backed by \$7 million in campaign funds, and voters, who have long indicated fatigue with high prison spending, gave Proposition 47 nearly 60 percent of their votes.

In doing so, they ignored warnings in their ballot pamphlets from several law enforcement officials that by lumping theft of firearms worth less than \$950 and possession of date-rape drugs used to subdue women with lesser larceny and drug crimes, the measure would treat them as a misdemeanors rather than felonies.

However, opponents had virtually no money to pound voters on those loopholes.

Additionally, by converting some felonies and wobblers to misdemeanors, Proposition 47 eliminated the authority to collect DNA samples from those arrested for the downgraded crimes.

Fast-forward three months, and legislators are clamoring to close those loopholes.

Last week, legislation was introduced to reauthorize DNA collection, which Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert called “the greatest tool ever given to law enforcement to find the guilty and exonerate the innocent.”

On Tuesday, two bills aimed at reinstating wobbler status for the possession of date-rape drugs, allowing

it to be prosecuted as a felony if circumstances warrant, were unveiled.

The thrust of Proposition 47—reducing penalties for truly minor, nonviolent crimes—is worthy, but it's the sort of thing that the Legislature could, and should, have done judiciously.

Its failure to act, and the failure of Gov. Jerry Brown and Harris to lead on sentencing reform, gave Gascón and his allies an opening for mindlessly broad changes in our criminal laws.

Call The Bee's Dan Walters, (916) 321-1195. Back columns, [sacbee.com/dan-walters](http://sacbee.com/dan-walters). Follow him on Twitter @WaltersBee.

### Related

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/dan-walters/article11107988.html#storylink=cpy>

### 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.



*Too many families in California and throughout the United States are victimized over and over again. Convicted murderers are being released from prison at an unprecedented rate. It appears the only people serving a life sentence. . . are the victims.*

*The following article is taken word for word from the Orange County Register. It is included in this newsletter to support the Effron family's request for letters to State of California Governor Jerry Brown, opposing the release to parole of convicted murderer, Jose Gonzalez, CDC# B-94419.*

## 'If he's released, he will kill again':

### Nearly 40 years after parents were bludgeoned to death, siblings fight killer's parole

*By Kelly Puente • 2015-03-16 09:45:19*

James and Essie Effron were bludgeoned to death in the basement of their San Diego clothing store on Nov. 21, 1977.

It was a year before California would reinstate the death penalty, and there was no option at the time for life in prison without parole, so the killer, Jose Gonzalez, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

The Effrons' two children, Cheryl and Gary, attended many hearings over the decades, fighting to keep Gonzalez behind bars. On Feb. 24, their nightmare became reality when Gonzalez, now 59, was granted parole in his ninth parole hearing. He could be released from state prison in Solano County within months.

But Cheryl Effron, an Orange County-based dermatologist, and her brother Gary Effron, a Palos Verdes attorney, say the fight isn't over. The family has launched a letter-writing campaign urging Gov. Jerry Brown to veto the

parole board's decision. And they're asking for the public's help.

"There is no doubt in my mind that if he's released, he will kill again," Cheryl Effron said. "That's why we need letters from good people who don't see this as justice and don't want criminals on the streets. They have to speak out."

The Effrons' appeal comes at a time when the state has released a record number of inmates serving life sentences.

Since taking office four years ago, Gov. Jerry Brown has affirmed 82 percent of parole board decisions, resulting in the release of nearly 1,400 lifers. Brown's predecessor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, authorized the release of 557 lifers during his term. Before that, Gov. Gray Davis over three years approved the release of two.

California is one of just four states that give the governor final authority over parole board decisions.

Brown's office says he is operating under a different legal landscape than previous governors, and that he is following two seminal California Supreme Court rulings in 2008 that have significantly eased tough parole restrictions.

The court ordered prison officials to consider more than the severity of the applicant's underlying crimes. It ruled that inmates' records while incarcerated plus their volunteer work should count heavily in assessing early release.





Crime victims, like Cheryl and Gary Effron, say prison officials should absolutely consider the severity of the crimes.

“I was ankle deep in dried blood; it was like somebody’s worst nightmare,” Cheryl Effron, now 66, said of the crime scene. “That was my last vision of what happened to them. That’s a vision that nobody should have of their parents’ last moments, ever.”

James and Essie Effron were inseparable. Married for 37 years, they raised two children and owned a popular clothing store in downtown San Diego.

The couple decided to retire after Essie was diagnosed with colon cancer. They hired Gonzalez to help them with a going-out-of-business sale, but Essie quickly fired him for being rude to customers.

Authorities said the killing was part robbery, part revenge.

Gonzalez and two accomplices led the Effrons down to the basement where they tied them with neck ties and bashed their heads with metal pipes. Essie Effron died at the scene, while James Effron hung on for 12 days in a hospital until he was told that his longtime love was dead.

“He let go after that. He didn’t want to go on without her,” said Gary Effron, 72.

Without James Effron’s testimony, police didn’t have a case against the two accomplices, but they linked Gonzalez to the crime with fingerprints and pawn shop slips from Los Angeles, where he had pawned Essie’s jewelry. A jury

convicted Gonzalez of two counts of first-degree murder in 1978.

Because the crime occurred during a legal window in 1977 when the California Supreme Court had overturned the death penalty, the harshest punishment was life with the possibility of parole. State lawmakers reinstated capital punishment the following year.

“If this had happened a year later, it would have been the death penalty, or if the judge was soft he would have gotten life without parole, but he didn’t get any of that,” Gary Effron said.

Gonzalez’s lawyer, Michael Beckman, said Gonzalez is remorseful for his actions and has the right to be released under state law.

“He’s definitely served his time, he’s served over 37 years,” Beckman said.

While the odds may be against the Effrons, Brown has denied parole in some recent cases. Last month, he halted the parole of Rene “Boxer” Enriquez, a 52-year-old former Mexican Mafia boss who became one of the state’s top jailhouse informants.

Brown also vetoed parole last month for Arthur Craig “Moose” Hulse, who is serving a life sentence for the notorious “devil cult” slayings of Santa Ana gas station attendant Jerry Wayne Carlin and El Toro schoolteacher Nancy Brown in 1970. Carlin’s widow, Patricia Kramer, led a letter-writing campaign to the governor’s office.

“I did this for my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren and for the state of California because I don’t

want him to get loose,” Kramer, 63, told the Register.

Cheryl Effron said they’re hoping to gather as many letters as possible. If the Effrons are successful, Gonzalez would be eligible for parole again in three years.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Contact the writer: [kpunte@ocregister.com](mailto:kpunte@ocregister.com)

We just want to thank everyone who wrote letters to keep William Walter Nichols, CDC C-91961 in prison.

He is a double, premeditated, special circumstances murderer, but he has met all the requirements for parole. He has been a good boy his whole time in prison. The commissioner wouldn’t tell us how many letters were received. He said it was confidential. I think it was a close call for his release, but he has three years before he comes up for parole again.

Thank you again and thanks to CAH for being so much help.

—Joe and Doris Morgan

## Letters Asking the Governor to Deny Parole to Jose Gonzalez

The cover story in the January/February 2015 issue of the Citizens Against Homicide News discusses the murder of James and Essie Effron by Jose Gonzalez, who was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole. Now you can help to keep us all safe by writing a letter asking Governor Brown to keep Gonzalez behind bars.

Unfortunately, at a hearing on February 24, the parole board granted parole to Gonzalez. Although he clearly remains a violent and dangerous individual, the board felt that it had no choice but to release him because he is close to 60 years old and, therefore, is “elderly”!

Since the governor has the last word as to whether Gonzalez is released on parole, the Effrons’ children, Gary Effron and Dr. Cheryl Effron, are undertaking a campaign of letters asking the governor to reverse the parole board’s decision and keep Gonzalez in prison. To make it easy for everyone to write a letter to the governor, Cheryl has posted sample letters, as Word documents, on her office website, <http://www.laserdermdoc.com/justice-for-james-and-essie-effron/>

All you need to do is cut and paste one of the letters to use it as a basis for your own letter and then send it to either of Cheryl’s offices. The office

addresses are listed on the website. You are not restricted to the wording of the samples and are welcome to write a completely different letter of your own.

For maximum impact, Cheryl will accumulate all of the letters she receives and will deliver them as a package to the governor once the matter has reached his desk.

Gary and Cheryl ask that you let all of your friends and family know about their letter-writing campaign and Cheryl’s website so that as many letters as possible will be sent to the governor.