



Promises Made—Promises Broken

By Gene and Shellie Cervantes

“Whenever you have a group of individuals who, without investigations, can manipulate the press, judges, members of Congress, we will always live in a government of those who are above the law.” This is a quote from the movie, **“Above the Law.”**

We are a nation of laws. Without laws, we are a nation of anarchy. Law enforcement is the single most important/powerful entity against anarchy. Currently, there is a group of individuals led by Governor Gavin Newsom who have a personal agenda to create a socialistic California through nefarious means. This intentional disruption begins with deceitful propaganda and concludes with the elimination of democracy. Our right to bear arms and our right to vote is guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Newsom believes otherwise.

In past elections, Californians have voted in favor of the Death Penalty (November 2016–Prop 62, Repeal the Death Penalty). Prior to his election, Newsom was grilled with the death penalty topic. He consistently promised to uphold and support the will of the voters. Within weeks of taking office, he blatantly spat on our vote when he placed a moratorium on the death penalty and ordered the gas chamber/lethal injection room to be dismantled. By definition “moratorium” is temporary, yet he directed the dismantling to proceed as if the death penalty was a thing of the past. His promise to follow the will of the people was a **LIE**.

Newsom has bypassed the legislative process and has implemented programs by executive order. He believes HE is the voice of all Californians, thus not giving a voice to your elected representatives. The numerous executive orders, for all intent and purposes, have not been beneficial to Californians. His orders have increased homelessness, increased unemployment, increased closure of small businesses and significantly decreased Californians’ income as a result of over-taxation. By releasing from prison violent criminals, including rapists and murderers, he has significantly increased the threat to public safety. To make matters worse, California is now a sanctuary state welcoming any and all illegal aliens, many of whom are also a threat to our public safety. He is utilizing taxpayers’ monies for his special interests without any accountability or transparency.

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Our CAH
Annual Meeting
will be on Sunday,
May 19, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Contempo Marin
Community Room
400 Yosemite
San Rafael, CA.

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CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

About Us

The majority of our CAH Board Members have lost a loved one to murder. We will never “get over” our tremendous losses, but we do “get through” the grief. Becoming proactive; assisting/supporting families throughout the most difficult time of their lives and guiding them through the complicated criminal justice system. We have joined together to create a voice for families of homicide victims.

CAH Objectives

- Assist families through the complicated criminal justice system;
- Act as Liaison between families and investigative law enforcement;
- Provide assistance with Parole Opposition Letters;
- Accompany families to parole suitability hearings (when possible);
- Provide trial and courtroom support (when possible);
- Facilitate Reward Billboards (when/where possible);
- Provide information on pending crime legislation

Protecting Your Own Interests

We cannot prepare for the devastating event that changes our lives forever. We can only react. You will need to know how to deal with the subsequent trial, sentencing and (today) the unavoidable parole hearings. CAH will help you take action to protect your own interests.

If you know of a family or friend who may need our help, please share the information we have provided here.

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.

Promises

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Remember the day when a convicted murderer was sentenced to life in prison, and it actually meant “life in prison?” These days are now gone thanks to the current administration’s pro-criminal legislation. In 2014 we were deceived into believing a proposition entitled “Safe Schools and Neighborhoods” would mean just that. However, after voters trustingly helped pass Proposition 47, most drug offenses were decriminalized as a number of felonies were recategorized as misdemeanors. Then in 2016, Proposition 57 introduced a credit-earning scheme, taking years off prison sentences, adding yet another component to the anti-incarceration arsenal. Consequently, violent offenders/murderers are now being released from prison at an unprecedented rate. Those who commit violent crimes are being treated with kid gloves, while

quality of life crime is going entirely unaddressed. There is no longer “truth in sentencing.” Life no longer means life. Propositions 47 and 57 were never about “Safe Schools and Neighborhoods” after all.

In a recent communication from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the National Crime Victims’ Rights Week was the topic of discussion. This year’s theme is “**Options, services, and hope for crime survivors, how would you help?**” and discusses all the services they continue to provide victims of violent crimes. They claim to continue empowering victim voices, offering enhanced services throughout the state by impacting and transforming victim services for all—(note: which includes those criminals who committed these violent crimes against us).

CDCR is also introducing their commitment to the new “California Model” transition—Newsom’s re-

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Officers

Jane Alexander	Co-Founder Emeritus
Jan Miller	Co-Founder/President
Gene & Shellie Cervantes	Victim Advocates /Consultants/Newsletter
Angela Bushnell Gillam	Victim Advocate /Communications
Boni Driskill	Victim Advocate
Ora Knowell	Victim Representative
(Vacant)	Treasurer
Carol Silveira	Corresponding Secretary
Eryn Cervantes	CAH Consultant
Susan Fisher Legislative	Consultant
(Vacant)	Recording Secretary
Jazzed About Printing	Design & Printing

Advisory Board

Chuck Mitchell	Andi Jarmicki
David Perotti	Terri de la Cuesta
Kit Ball	Joyce Tuhn
Ken Holmes	

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, 1-209-743-7033
cahadvocate@yahoo.com

Promises

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imagined version of Norwegian prison programs. The “California Model” promotes restorative justice programs benefiting both victims and ‘incarcerated people’—[the terms ‘convicted criminal’ and ‘inmate’ are no longer acceptable terms}, that seek paths of healing.” The CDCR is now encouraging victims’ families to engage in dialogue and consider forgiving the murderers who took their loved ones from them. Perhaps picnics, board games and hugs can bring both sides closer together. This is not only a delusional and unrealistic dream, but out of touch and insensitive to victims. The one person who most certainly stands to benefit from such an interaction is the inmate, who can take his/her newfound remorse to the parole board.

Contrary to the verbiage in the CDCR memorandum, victims *have* lost rights and our voices have been muted. During the COVID pandemic, the family’s right to personally attend parole hearings was suspended. To date, even now post-COVID, personal appearances are still restricted to video conferencing only. Yet another blow to victim rights!

In an effort to get feedback on this impending “California Model” program the Office of Victim Services and Rights reached out to Citizens Against Homicide. We expressed many valid concerns and sincerely believed our opinion and suggestions were

genuinely warranted. Given such an important topic, we requested an immediate conference call. During that conference call we suggested resuming the annual meeting with the CDCR Secretary as a means to reconnect victim advocacy groups with the governor’s office. Unfortunately, we have been informed our feedback is not what the Governor is looking for, as it does not coincide with his determination to force restorative justice programs.

The program currently in effect in Norway took years of planning and staff education. Inmates are thoroughly vetted and screened before being accepted into this program to guarantee success. In other words, Norway’s inmates are model prisoners. The Norwegians behind this program were very clear in stating the program’s success is dependent on meeting strict adherence to specific criteria. This criterion includes an intensive 2-year staff education program and 1:1.1 staff to inmate ratio. (As a side note, Norway also reserves the right to extend prison sentences beyond scheduled release dates if an inmate’s rehabilitation goals have not been met). Newsom has dismissed this critical criterion in his haste to get it done, which only serves to underscore his characteristic lack of commitment to effect real change.

According to “Changing the Dynamic: A journey of exploration between the Norwegian & American prison systems,” (OneVoiceUnited.org), “Absent a commitment to these three pillars, implementation of a “Norway Model” might lead

to some positive practices or experiments on a small scale, but the systemic change so many are advocating for won’t come unless those crucial and systemic elements are put into place.”

San Quentin State Prison (now renamed San Quentin Rehabilitation Center) has been earmarked for this new “California Model” program, where Newsom is determined to create all the amenities of a free and flowing “college campus” atmosphere. The cost for this—prohibitive. Chances for success based on the abandonment of the critical Norwegian Model pillars described above—highly improbable!

Presently, Death Row inmates are being transferred to general population and dispersed throughout the California prison system. Letters have already been sent to families with the following:

“We want to inform you about the ongoing efforts led by the CDCR to dissolve segregated death row units at San Quentin and California Central Women’s Facility. All transfers should be completed by summer 2024. People on death row will be disbursed to appropriate institutions within CDCR’s system. This does not alter the court’s decision, and all condemned inmates remain subject to the death penalty verdict. This plan was created under voter approved Proposition 66, where the Condemned Inmate Transfer Program will be permanent and mandatory”. Can you imagine

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April 10, 2024 Parole Hearing Results

STEVEN KRUKOW
CDCR# F82008

Hi Shellie,

I just wanted to update you on the Parole Hearing that took place on Wednesday April 10th. Steve was NOT granted Parole for 7 Years!

The Commissioner mentioned several times that he had reviewed numerous letters that had been received. I am so grateful to you for helping me with that, it truly made a difference in the outcome. I hope to never have to live through that again. Thank you!

I think the letters do make a difference and I feel people need to know that writing a letter still has an impact.

—Sharon Taylor

Promises

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how victims' families (whose murderers are on death row) felt after receiving this letter?

The Official Voter Information Guide for the November 8, 2016, General Election reflects one sentence in the "what your vote means if you vote 'yes' section—'Condemned inmates could be housed at any state prison.'" However, in the summary section, which is what the majority of voters read, there is no mention the condemned could be housed at any state prison. The voters were led to believe that Prop 66 was designed to streamline death penalty appeals. With the passage of Prop 66, a projected savings to California taxpayers would be over \$30 million annually, according to former California Finance Director, Mike Genest. Question: Is this \$30 million savings legitimate and, if so, where did this annual savings of \$30 million go?

We want our members to keep in mind how many changes have occurred the past several years. How many promises to victims' families have been broken. Remember when we were promised no violent offenders would be considered for early releases to parole? Today, murderers are being released at an unprecedented rate and well in advance of previously set parole dates. This leaves the door wide open for death row inmates.

Citizens Against Homicide believes this is just the beginning of Newsom's

underhandedness. Are we to rely on the guarantee that current death row inmates, who have been transferred to various prisons, will maintain their death penalty sentences, or will Newsom continue attacking the death penalty with lawfare?

Remember when Jerry Brown appointed Rose Bird as Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court? The death penalty was completely abolished and voters were promised "life without". That administration took advantage of a trusting California voter base and lied. Countless death row murderers were released to parole enjoying the privileges of freedom while the innocent human beings they chose to execute are gone forever.

How can we trust an administration that continues to manipulate and lie—time after time?

Victim Rights has clearly become a non-entity. Newsom has embarked on an anti-victim legislative crusade since taking office and has turned his back on victims in favor of convicted felons. We cannot continue down this path of destruction. Victim advocacy organizations and families of homicide victims have endured continuous push-back, manipulation, bullying and lies. We have lost our representation and must count on our own voices today. We can never give up! Together we CAN make a difference.

**GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM
AND COMPANY ARE NOT ABOVE
THE LAW!**

Parole & Clemency Hearings

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

The family of Lawrence “Hoss” Harrison is requesting our help in keeping his murderer in prison where he belongs. Following is a sample letter below. Feel free to copy/paste/email. Parole Hearing date is July 30, 2024. Thank you for your support in this effort.

(Date)

Board of Parole Hearing
P.O. Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036
Attn: Pre-Hearing Correspondence
bph.correspondenceunit@cdcr.ca.gov

RE: Watts, Phillip C.—CDCR# H-89135
Parole Hearing Date—July 30, 2024

Dear Chairman
and Parole Board Member,

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer Phillip Clark Watts, CDCR# H-89135.

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 his attack; savagely 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 an unthinkable crime and a terrible lack of justice that this convicted killer is entitled to a parole hearing at all. Of utmost concern today is the current administration’s agenda to empty prisons at all cost; that commitment offense is rarely considered during parole hearings. It is imperative the Board think about this murderer’s victim, 82-year-old “Hoss” Harrison. Please take into consideration Watts’ brutal, senseless and unconscionable act of violence upon him. There is something terribly wrong with an individual who displays such an uncontrollable rage toward others.

Mr. Harrison was loved by everyone who knew him. He was a kind and giving gentleman who was simply enjoying his golden years until this monster entered his life inflicting a reign of terror upon him. It is inconceivable this sweet elderly man would be subjected to such a violent end to his life. Mr. Harrison does not get a second chance to live out his golden years; he is gone forever at the hands of Phillip Watts; a taker of human life. Therefore, convicted murderer Watts does not deserve a second chance or the privilege of freedom.

Phillip Watts made a personal decision to execute an innocent

and defenseless elderly man for personal/financial gain. His complete disregard for human life, sociopathic tendencies, sense of entitlement and brutality of this crime clearly indicates he is a continued threat to society, which cannot be ignored by this Board. Please support 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

(NAME/SIGNATURE)

Quote of the Month



“One of the most cowardly things ordinary people do is to shut their eyes to facts.”

—C.S. Lewis

Parole & Clemency Hearings

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

April 30, 2024

Board of Parole Hearings
Attn: Pre-Hearing Correspondence
P.O. Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

RE: Raul Higgins—CDCR# P29949
Parole Hearing Date: May 22, 2024

Dear Chairman
and Parole Board Member,

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer, Raul Higgins. On November 20, 1998, Higgins went to the home of Carolyn Marie Bolger (his ex-girlfriend). After a short visit, Higgins took her two youngest children to school. He then returned to her home for the sole purpose of overpowering her and brutally strangling her to death. He then abandoned her lifeless body, only to be discovered later by her 16-year-old son.

On May 22, 2024, Carolyn's family must endure the fear and uncertainty of the 6th parole hearing for this murderer. They must, once again, relive the horrendous events that led to her brutal and senseless murder. It is absolutely inconceivable that, in light of the heinous nature of Higgins' crime, diminished mental capacity and Governor Newsom's own decision to deny his release to parole—"I find the evidence shows that he currently



poses an unreasonable danger to society if released from prison at this time. Therefore, I reverse the decision to parole Mr. Higgins"—that he would again be considered to live in a free society.

A thorough examination by medical experts concluded Higgins' psychological diagnosis of "borderline personality disorder with Narcissistic tendencies." They further concluded that his condition "is not amenable to treatment and only controlled because he is in prison." Time will never change this murderer's behavior of entitlement, lack of respect for women and fits of anger when rejected.

Raul Higgins made a personal decision to plan and carry out the execution of an innocent young

mother of five and must continue to accept the consequences of his actions. The Board must take into consideration the victim, Carolyn (the brutality she had to suffer before succumbing from strangulation) and her five children, who had to grow up without her. Carolyn does not get a second chance to live; she is gone forever by the hand of a cold and calculating murderer. Therefore, Raul Higgins does not deserve a second chance or the privilege of freedom.

As a result of Higgins' complete disregard for human life and lack of remorse, justice demands this convicted murderer, once again, be denied parole. He must remain in prison for the maximum time allowed by State of California law.

I respectfully request you review this matter and come to the same conclusion that Carolyn Marie Bolger's family and friends have held since her brutal and senseless murder. Anymore today, the only people serving life sentences are those who have lost loved ones to murder.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Shellie Cervantes
Victim Advocate/Consultant
Citizens Against Homicide



ROOSTER RUN GOLF CLUB

2301 East Washington Street
Petaluma, California

Course Rules

Collared Shirt Soft Spikes Only

Prizes

- Hole-in-One
- Closest to the Pin
 - Long Drive
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place
- A & B Flights

Silent Auction

If your company is interested in donating items for the tournament goodie bags, silent auction, it would be of a great benefit to Citizens Against Homicide and to the success of the event. Please use this link if you are interested in donating:

<https://citizensagainsthomicide.ejoinme.org/itemdonation>

Tournament Information

Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 Rain or Shine!
 Location: Rooster Run Golf Club
 Format: Scramble
 Maximum # of Players: 124
 Player Fees: \$200
 Entry Fee Includes: Green fees, golf cart, driving range, lunch and dinner.

Tournament Schedule

Registration: 10:00 Putting Contest: 11:00
 Lunch: Noon
 Shotgun Starts 1:30
 Dinner: 6:15 (Awards and Auction)

Registration

To register for play or to become a sponsor, please use this link:

<https://citizensagainsthomicide.ejoinme.org/registrationandsponsorships>



-30th Annual- Charity Golf Classic

August 2, 2024

Benefiting the Members of
CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

Hosted at:

ROOSTER RUN GOLF CLUB
2301 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA



Citizens Against Homicide is a nonprofit public benefit organization started by local victims, and other interested parties, to serve the families of homicide victims.

Because the law enforcement community has become increasingly aware of the rights of victims within the criminal justice system, it is critical for victims, law enforcement, and the public to work together.

All proceeds from this golf tournament will be used to sustain activities which help victims cope with the criminal justice system and raise public awareness of victims rights.

Such activities include attending trial and courtroom hearings, monitoring paroles, supporting law enforcement, serving on judicial and legislative watchdog committees, educating the populace concerning the rights of families of homicide victims, and helping families obtain information leading to the resolution of unsolved murders.



CAH Helps Balance The Scales

Tax I. D. #68-0330408

Sponsorship Opportunities

PUTTING CONTEST SPONSOR: \$700
Includes two foursomes and logo on check in tables!

AWARDS SPONSOR: \$7,000
Includes two foursomes and logo on check in tables!

SHIRT SPONSOR: \$7,000
Includes two foursomes and banquet table sign!

TEE PRIZE SPONSOR: \$5,000
Includes two foursomes and logo recognition on 30th anniversary gift!

LOGO BALL SPONSOR: \$3,000
Includes one foursome and logo ball insignia!

LUNCH SPONSOR: \$3,000
Includes one foursome and lunch table sign!

BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR: \$3,000
Includes one foursome player entry and special cart sign!

WINE SPONSOR: \$3,000
Includes one foursome player entry and banquet table sign!

DESSERT SPONSOR: \$3,000
Includes one foursome player entry and banquet table sign!

HONORARY SPONSOR: \$1,000
Includes entry for two players.

HOLE SPONSOR: \$500

If you would like to become one of our tournament sponsors or contribute with a monetary donation, please use this link:
<https://citizensagainsthomicide.ejoinme.org/registrationandsponsorships>.

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

\$_____.

Tax I. D. #68-0330408

Unclaimed Restitution

English

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

Spanish

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

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

The Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services has funds available through a federal grant which allows for reimbursement 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.

