

DATE TYPED: April 19, 2010  
DATE PUBLISHED: April 21, 2010

**IN RE: MICHAEL FRANCIS BEUKE, OSP #A176-128**

**STATE OF OHIO  
ADULT PAROLE AUTHORITY  
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

Date of Meeting: April 12, 2010

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the  
Adult Parole Authority held at 770 West Broad Street,  
Columbus, Ohio 43222 on the above date.

**IN RE: Michael Francis Beuke, OSP #A176-128**

SUBJECT: Death Sentence Clemency

CRIME, CONVICTION: Aggravated Murder with aggravating circumstances specifications, Attempted Aggravated Murder (2), Kidnapping (3), Aggravated Robbery (3), Carrying Concealed Weapon.

DATE, PLACE OF CRIME: Between May 14, 1983 and June 3, 1983 in Hamilton County, Ohio

COUNTY: Hamilton

CASE NUMBER: B832526

VICTIM: Robert Craig  
Bruce Graham – Non-death penalty crimes  
Gregory Wahoff – Non-death penalty crimes

INDICTMENT: 7/5/1983: Aggravated Murder with aggravating circumstance specifications, Attempted Aggravated Murder (2), Kidnapping (3), Aggravated Robbery (3), Carrying Concealed Weapon.

TRIAL: 10/5/1983: Found guilty by jury

DATE OF SENTENCE: 10/25/1983

SENTENCE: Aggravated Murder with aggravating circumstance specifications: DEATH  
Attempted Aggravated Murder (2): 7-25 years  
Kidnapping (3): 7-25 years  
Aggravated Robbery (3): 7-25 years  
Carrying Concealed Weapon: 3-10 years

ADMITTED TO INSTITUTION: October 27, 1983

JAIL TIME CREDIT: 120 days

TIME SERVED: 318 months (does not include JTC)

AGE AT ADMISSION: 21 years old

CURRENT AGE: 48 years old

DATE OF BIRTH: February 14, 1962  
JUDGE: Honorable Norbert A. Nadel  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Arthur M. Ney, Jr.

**FOREWORD:**

Clemency in the case of Michael Francis Beuke, A176-128 was initiated by the Ohio Parole Board, pursuant to Section 2967.03 and 2967.07 of the Ohio Revised Code and Parole Board Policy #105-PBD-01.

On April 6, 2010, Michael Beuke was interviewed via video-conference by the Parole Board at the Ohio State Penitentiary. A Clemency Hearing was then held on April 12, 2010 with seven (7) members of the Ohio Parole Board participating. Arguments in support of and in opposition to clemency were then presented.

The Parole Board considered all of the written submissions, arguments, information disseminated by presenters at the hearing, prior investigative findings as well as judicial decisions and deliberated upon the propriety of clemency in this case. With seven (7) members participating, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to provide an unfavorable recommendation for clemency to the Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor of the State of Ohio.

**DETAILS OF THE INSTANT OFFENSE (B832526):**

The following account of the instant offense was obtained from the Ohio Supreme Court opinion, decided March 26, 1986:

On the morning of May 14, 1983, Gregory M. Wahoff picked up a hitchhiker, later identified as the subject, Michael Beuke. Beuke produced a .38 caliber revolver and ordered Wahoff to drive east on I-275, explaining that he just wanted to take Wahoff's car and would bring it back. After exiting the freeway briefly to refuel the car at a Sohio gas station whose attendant later identified Beuke at trial, Wahoff re-entered the freeway and was directed to drive to Trustee Lane or Road, a small dirt road in Hamilton County, Ohio.

At the end of this road, Beuke told Wahoff to stop the car and get out. After both men exited the car, Wahoff offered the Beuke his wallet by throwing it at him. Leaving the wallet where it fell, Beuke ordered Wahoff to walk to a wooded area. When Wahoff refused, Beuke asked him, "Do you want to die here?" At that point, Wahoff tried to get the gun from Beuke by running towards him. He missed his chance and kept on running, but did not get far. Beuke shot Wahoff in the back, the bullet lodging against his spine, and Wahoff fell to the ground, paralyzed. When he caught up with Wahoff, Beuke placed the gun against Wahoff's face and fired a second shot. Fully conscious, Wahoff played

dead. Apparently convinced that he had killed Wahoff, Beuke got into Wahoff's car and drove away.

Beuke was seen driving out of Trustee Lane by a nearby resident who later identified him at trial. Beuke drove Wahoff's car, a red or maroon GTO, back to an area near where he had been hitchhiking on Colerain Avenue. The car broke down and Beuke had to push it some distance into a Ponderosa Steak House parking lot. As he pushed the car, he was seen by another witness who was also able to identify him at trial.

Meanwhile, the sheriff's department had been called to the scene of the shooting. On a hillside near Trustee Lane, a sheriff's deputy found Wahoff conscious but unable to walk. The bullet was surgically removed from his back and given to the police. A second bullet was recovered from the hillside two days later. Wahoff's car was found on May 16, 1983 in the Ponderosa Steak House parking lot where Beuke had left it. Latent fingerprints belonging to Beuke were recovered from the car. The police also learned that a large green plastic cup was missing from Wahoff's car.

On May 23, 1983, Kim E. Wilson, a high school student who lived on Romohr Road in rural Clermont County, Ohio, watched as her mother helped Beuke free a 1974 green Thunderbird which was stuck off the side of the road. Beuke had borrowed the car from a friend and co-employee, Michael J. Cahill. Kim apparently directed Beuke to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Voss where Beuke measured rooms for carpeting ordered from Beuke's employer, Harry's Corner. Both Kim and Peter Voss were able to later identify Beuke at trial.

On June 1, 1983, Kim was walking down Romohr Road when she saw a red hat on the side of the road. As she drew near, she saw a body in the bushes down in the ditch. Testimony by a road department employee established the grass there had been cut at approximately 11:00 a.m. The body was lying on top of the clippings. Union Township police and an investigator with the Clermont County Prosecutor's office responded. The body was identified as being that of Robert S. Craig, a resident of Hamilton County. Two hundred and sixty dollars was found in Craig's shirt pocket and another five dollars in his wallet. He had been shot twice in the head and once in the chest. One gunshot wound was located between the victim's eyes. Craig's car was later recovered in a parking lot in the Tri-County Mall in Hamilton County. Upon opening the car's trunk, the police found fresh fish in storage containers.

Following Craig's killing, Beuke revealed to Cahill that he was the "mad hitchhiker" sought by the police in connection with shootings in the area. He told Cahill that he had been picked up by Craig on I-275 and that, before he actually killed Craig, Craig had forgiven him. Beuke also mentioned that, since that day, he always smelled fish even though no fish were around. Beuke also admitted to Cahill that he had shot another person.

Craig was employed by Inland Reef, a fresh fish supplier located in Hamilton County. He had a history of picking up hitchhikers and engaging them in conversation about religion.

On June 1, 1983, at approximately 11:00 a.m., Craig left Inland Reef to make a delivery of fish to a restaurant in Hamilton County which he had reached, on other occasions, via I-275 and I-71. The June 1 delivery, however, was never completed.

On June 3, 1983, Bruce B. Graham saw a male hitchhiker carrying a red gas can while Graham was driving down I-74 to Cincinnati. Graham assumed that the man had run out of gas somewhere on the expressway. He picked up the man in order to take him to an exit and obtain gas for his car. Graham identified Beuke later at trial as the man he had picked up.

While Graham drove, Beuke pulled a short-barreled revolver out of his jacket and instructed Graham to drive a certain route, telling him that he "needed" his car and that he was just going to tie him up loosely so that Graham could later escape. He ordered Graham to exit the freeway in Indiana and drive to a secluded rural area. When Graham stopped the car, Beuke immediately fired the gun at him. The bullet grazed Graham's head, inflicting a minor but bloody wound. A struggle for the gun ensued. Graham eventually jumped out of the car and ran, but, as he fled, Beuke fired several shots, one striking Graham in the shoulder. Graham made his way to a farmhouse and Beuke drove off in Graham's car. Graham, who had approximately \$160 in cash, was never asked for his wallet.

Graham was taken to a hospital where the bullet was removed from his shoulder and given to Indiana police. A description of Graham's car was disseminated and a few hours later the car was discovered at I-74 and North Bend Road, not far from the Hamilton County site where Graham first picked up Beuke. There was a bullet hole in the windshield and blood splattered in the car.

Eventually, Cahill informed the authorities about the criminal activities Beuke had described to him. A broadcast seeking Beuke's apprehension followed. The green Thunderbird was found a few blocks from Beuke's home and, pursuant to a warrant, the car was searched on June 29, 1983. The green cup which had been taken from Wahoff's automobile, the gas can used in the Graham assault, and a blood-stained blue and white football jersey were found in the trunk.

At 11:52 a.m. on June 29, a Hamilton County sheriff's detective recognized Beuke from a composite which had been circulated. Beuke first responded to questioning by giving a false name. Thereafter, Beuke admitted his identity and told the detective, "You have got me." At the time of his arrest, Beuke had a .38 caliber revolver wrapped inside a windbreaker that he was carrying.

Beuke was indicted on: one count of aggravated murder, with two specifications, (1) for causing the death of Robert Craig as part of a course of conduct involving the purposeful attempt to kill two or more persons, and (2) for causing the death of Craig in the course of an aggravated robbery; two counts of attempted aggravated murder of Wahoff and Graham; three counts of aggravated robbery for the theft of automobiles belonging to Wahoff, Craig, and Graham; three counts of kidnapping for the abduction of Wahoff,

Craig, and Graham; and one count of carrying a concealed weapon.

Beuke's jury trial began September 19, 1983. Evidence presented by the prosecution included Wahoff's and Graham's testimony, fingerprints belonging to Beuke found on the Wahoff and Craig automobiles, bullets removed from Craig and Wahoff identified as having been fired from Beuke's gun, and Beuke's admissions to Cahill. The prosecution demonstrated Beuke's familiarity with the areas where Craig, Wahoff, and Graham were taken and shot, as well as the locations where their cars were found. The trial concluded on October 5, 1983 after the prosecution presented a total of thirty-nine witnesses and without Beuke's having testified or offered any other direct evidence in his defense.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty on all ten counts of the indictment as well as the two specifications making Beuke eligible for the death penalty.

### **PRIOR RECORD**

**Juvenile:** Michael Beuke has no known juvenile arrest record.

**Adult:** Michael Beuke has the following known adult arrest record:

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Disposition</u></b>
6/20/1980 (Age 18)	Drug Abuse, Not to be Distributed	Cincinnati, Ohio	Paid Out
11/07/1980 (Age 18)	1. Theft (under \$150) 2. Drug Abuse, Not to be Distributed	Delhi, Ohio	1. 30 days confinement, \$75 fine & costs, 1 year probation; 2. Paid Out
1/26/1981 (Age 18)	Theft (under \$150)	Cincinnati, Ohio	30 days confinement, costs remitted.
2/25/1981 (Age 19)	Probation Violation	Municipal Court	Guilty of Violation, probation terminated.
7/16/1982 (Age 20)	Speeding Pace Car Control	Cincinnati, Ohio	Paid Out
9/14/1982 (Age 20)	No Driver's License	Cincinnati, Ohio	Paid Out
12/20/1982 (Age 20)	Trafficking in Drugs	Cincinnati, Ohio	10/27/1983: Dismissed.

1/29/1983 (Age 20)	1. Parking Overtime 2. Parking Violation	Cincinnati, Ohio	1. \$4 fine & costs; 2. Costs remitted.
6/29/1983 (Age 21)	Aggravated Murder, Attempted Aggravated Murder (2), Kidnapping (3), Aggravated Robbery (3), Carrying Concealed Weapon (B832526)	Cincinnati, Ohio	INSTANT OFFENSE

**Institutional Adjustment:**

Michael Beuke was admitted to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on October 27, 1983. His work assignments while incarcerated at the Mansfield Correctional Institution included Library Aide, Tutor, Clerk and Artist. He was assigned to the extended privilege unit while at this institution. Since his transfer to the Ohio State Penitentiary, his work assignment has been as an Environmental Porter and Library Aide. Beuke is also currently assigned to the extended privilege unit at OSP.

Since his admission, Beuke has never been placed in disciplinary control. He has received approximately nine (9) conduct reports since he was admitted to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in 1983. Beuke's last conduct report was in 1994. These conduct reports include Disobedience of a Direct Order (1988 & 1994), Possession of Contraband (1983 & 1990), Disrespect to Staff (1991), Dealing (1991), Violation of Posted Rules (1992) and Attempting to Violate a Class II Rule (1988 & 1989).

Currently, Beuke is actively involved in religious service musical programs, bible studies and worship services. He has been a member of both the inmate library and religious services advisory committees. Beuke has also participated in several community service programs and donated numerous art projects to various community service agencies.

Additional programming completed by Beuke includes Alcohol Anonymous meetings, the Laubach Tutoring Workshop in 12/1996, the Service Learning Workshop in 3/2006 and the OSP Poetry Workshop in 5/2008. He also recently completed "Coping with Change" in 7/2008 and "Commitment to Change" in 10/2008.

**APPLICANT'S STATEMENT:**

On April 6, 2010, Beuke was interviewed via video-conference by the Parole Board from the Ohio State Penitentiary. He read a prepared statement which is attached to this report.

Beuke then responded to questions from the Board Members as follows:

- Beuke indicated that he is asking for a commutation of his sentence to life with parole eligibility. He is unsure when the appropriate time for release would be,

but he would like his sentence to be commuted so that parole would be a future possibility.

- Beuke stated that he committed the crimes at the urging of Michael Cahill, and for the purpose of stealing a car to use in a bank robbery. They wanted to have a stolen car that could not be traced back to either. After stealing the car, Beuke was supposed to meet up with Cahill to commit the robbery. However, Cahill would not show up as planned. Beuke admitted that he committed the same act three times, and further admitted that he shot the victims so they could not identify him. Beuke stated that he and Cahill discussed and planned the shooting and killing of the victims in order to not be identified. He further stated that he and Cahill had planned to rob a bank because he needed money to defend himself in a pending drug charge, and Cahill needed money to start a business.
- Beuke stated that during that time in his life, he was heavily using drugs and alcohol, and was under the influence while committing all offenses. He stated that he started using drugs and alcohol because he wanted to try them.
- Beuke denied any prior instances of violence or any maladjustment during his school years, except for a suspension during his senior year in high school, which was drug related. He further stated that he has no history of mental health treatment, other than seeing a counselor in the fourth grade because he was being picked on at school. He indicated that he is not currently on the mental health caseload, or taking any medications. He did state that he suffers from seizures.
- Beuke stated that he accepts responsibility for his crimes and has attempted to redeem himself since his incarceration. He is actively involved in Catholic services, has taught himself to play the keyboard, plays hymns during church services and has dedicated his life to providing his artistic works to local schools and the community.
- Beuke stated that he is uncertain whether he received a fair trial, but he does not believe that he or any other defendant is deserving of the death penalty.

### **ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CLEMENCY:**

Kenneth Murray of the Office of the Federal Public Defender submitted the following arguments supporting clemency both in the written application and at the clemency hearing:

- Beuke's socially, financially and emotionally impoverished developmental history helps us to understand his criminal behavior. He grew up in an exceptionally rigid, poor and emotionally cold family. The only child of Herman and Marie Beuke, Michael was criticized by his father for everything he did. Mr. Beuke worked at a local St. Vincent de Paul thrift store for more than twenty years earning only \$93.00 per week. For the family's other needs, they relied on the generosity of members of their church and the assistance of local charities that provided food to the poor.
- Beuke is a changed man who has a positive impact on those around him, including the inmates on death row and the people outside the prison with whom he has contact. He is a model prisoner who assists prison personnel while also



providing services to the community. His religious conversion and community service are notable.

- Beuke seeks a commutation of his death sentence to life in prison so he can continue his penitent services for which he promises: “Should my life be spared, I would continue to be of some service to prisoners and to whom God puts in my life. There can never be enough times for me to say I’m sorry.”
- Beuke has discussed his profound remorse with priests and religious advisors at length. Father Rosenbaum who ministers to Beuke noted: “Michael is probably the most remorseful prisoner that I have ever met”.
- Beuke has reached out to all the victims of his offenses. He has offered to talk to them, and will keep that offer open until his execution, if not granted clemency. Beuke expressed sincere, genuine remorse for his crimes and advised that he continues to pray for his victims and their families during their healing process.
- Beuke does not deny his guilt, nor does he contest the facts or procedural history of his case.
- Throughout his time on death row, Beuke’s focus has not been on himself but on how he can help others. His prison sentence and the structure of prison life have provided him the opportunity to mature into a man who can and does reach out to help others. The prosecutor argued at his trial that there is no hope for Beuke, but he has proven the prosecutor wrong. Beuke is rehabilitated, and is an example of how the system can work.
- Beuke suffers from neurological damage that contributed to his previous violent behavior. Understanding the neurological damage and the associated deficits that he faces are important to understanding his crimes. Factors related to Beuke’s brain damage support a decision to commute his sentence to life. If the Board decides not to recommend clemency based on the information already presented, a sixty (60) day reprieve is requested to perform the neurological exam and provide the Board and the Governor further information that would assist both in understanding Beuke’s actions.

Paul and Betty Mossey and Yvonne Guzley presented, with the assistance of Ashley J. McDonald of the Office of the Federal Public Defender, the following information in support of clemency:

- Paul and Betty Mossey report they have known Beuke for 22 years. Mrs. Mossey informed Parole Board Members of the bond she established with Mrs. Beuke (Michael’s mother), often transporting her to see her son until she passed away in 2006. Mr. Mossey advised Board Members of how Beuke resolved a difficult situation involving their son. They view Beuke not only as a family friend, but as their spiritual son, whose actions and community service over the past 27 years warrant clemency.
- Yvonne Guzley, a friend of Michel Beuke, informed the Board that she has been Beuke’s pen pal and friend for almost 20 years. Ms. Guzley reports they have grown into close and dear friends; she considers him an older brother. Ms. Guzley stated that Beuke has grown and matured into a deeply caring and responsible man. He is an example of how a person can change, and how

dedicated his is to his efforts to change. She cannot thank him enough for his friendship. He is kind hearted, and helps and counsels others, including his fellow inmates. Ms. Guzley requested consideration of a commutation to life without the possibility of parole.

- A video submitted by Sister Alice Gerdeman, Director of the non profit organization “Families That Matter” detailed Michael Beuke’s redemption and contributions to the organization. Sister Gerdeman, also reports that Michael Beuke serves on the Board of Directors, and is a converted, changed man deserving of clemency.
- Supporters of Michael Beuke presented a DVD entitled “Light from the Darkness - The Redemption of Michael Beuke” which included interviews from clergy, family friends and other supporters providing a detailed overview of his life prior to incarceration, and his many efforts to give back to the community through his service to others.

### **ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO CLEMENCY:**

Ron Springman of the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office and Stephen Maher of the Ohio Attorney General’s Office presented the following arguments in opposition to clemency:

- Michael Beuke was known to the Hamilton County area as the “Mad Hitchhiker”, a homicidal murderer who forced his victims at gunpoint to secluded areas in an effort to kill them.
- Overwhelming evidence was presented at trial to include the .38 caliber revolver which was used in the commission of all crimes. Beuke’s fingerprints were also found on two (2) of the victims vehicles, he was in possession of the victims’ property and several eye witnesses testified at trial as to Beuke’s involvement.
- There is no evidence to support claims of parental abuse and neglect. Beuke was reared in a stable religious home. There is no documented history of mental or emotional illness of either of his parents.
- Psychologists who examined Beuke after his arrest opined that Beuke displayed an inflated sense of self and manipulative tendencies. Given that there is a lack of apparent motive in this case, it is also likely that Beuke committed the offenses just for the sake of killing.
- Beuke’s reconnection with his religious beliefs is largely due to a strong Catholic upbringing, as supported by the fact that his parents sent him to a Catholic school. His parents also enrolled him in the Boy Scouts organization.
- Beuke used a gas can as a ploy in order to receive assistance from unsuspecting victims who were known for assisting hitchhikers in distress.
- Beuke blamed drugs and alcohol as influences in his decisions during the commission of his crimes; however, he is able to recall every detail of his crimes twenty seven years later.
- Significant planning by Beuke occurred in order to avoid detection of his crimes.
- The Board must consider whether Beuke is sincere in his expressions of remorse and redemption, or whether those expressions are further evidence of his tendency

to manipulate. Beuke accepted a rather broad range of responsibility for the offenses, but denied that he told Cahill that victim Robert Craig stated that he forgave Beuke right before Beuke killed him. It is likely that Beuke does not want to admit this very callous act to his friends and supporters, as it strikes at the core of the Christian religion, and refutes the argument that he is remorseful and redeemed.

Jon Megois of the Hamilton County Probation Department presented the following information:

- He has been employed by the Hamilton County Probation Department for over 30 years, and conducted Beuke's Pre-Sentence Investigation. He interviewed Beuke in the Hamilton County Jail after his arrest in 1983. Beuke made a statement at that time indicating that he and Michael Cahill needed cars in order to rob banks. He needed the money to defend an upcoming drug case and Cahill was in need of funds to provide for his family.

#### **VICTIMS' REPRESENTATIVES:**

Mrs. Susan Craig, wife of Robert Craig, relayed that her husband was her best friend. They were the parents of two wonderful children; a seven year old daughter and a three year old son. She was also pregnant at the time of her husband's death with a son whom she later named Robert Samuel Craig, Jr. Mrs. Craig went on to report that if Michael Beuke has changed, that is wonderful. However, the law has handed down the sentence of death. Michael Beuke should be ready to meet his maker, if he is right with God. In closing, Mrs. Craig stated "Michael Beuke should not be granted clemency; he should never be allowed to walk with people again."

Mrs. JoAnn Wahoff, wife of the victim Gregory Wahoff, also addressed the Parole Board. Mrs. Wahoff described the struggles she and her family endured attempting to provide care for a husband who spent 23 years in a wheelchair with seventy-five percent (75%) of his body paralyzed. Her husband became bitter and suffered throughout the remaining years of his life. Mrs. Wahoff stated that she does not believe that Michael deserves clemency.

Karin Ho of the Office of Victim Services read a letter provided by victim/survivor Bruce Graham (attached). Mr. Graham's letter indicates that he has forgiven Beuke for his crimes, and he asks the Parole Board to grant Beuke clemency in the form of life without the possibility of parole.

#### **PAROLE BOARD'S POSITION AND CONCLUSION:**

The Parole Board considered all of the written submissions, arguments, information disseminated by presenters at the hearing, the interview with the applicant, prior investigative findings as well as judicial decisions and deliberated upon the propriety of

clemency in this case. Clemency in the form of a commutation or reprieve is not recommended for the following reasons:

- The offenses were extremely aggravating, as evidenced by the fact that they were committed against multiple, stranger victims on three separate occasions. The offenses were committed with prior calculation and design, as Beuke posed as a hitchhiker and lured the victims who thought they were helping him.
- These offenses caused extensive fear to the community prior to Beuke's capture.
- Beuke's twenty-seven (27) years of good conduct, programming, community service and religious conversion do not outweigh the aggravating circumstances.
- There were insufficient arguments presented to demonstrate that Beuke likely suffers from brain damage, and that a neurological exam after twenty-seven (27) years of incarceration would reveal information that would outweigh the aggravating factors.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Ohio Parole Board with seven (7) members participating, by a vote of seven (7) to zero (0), recommends to the Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor of the State of Ohio, that executive clemency be DENIED in the case of Michael Francis Beuke A176-128.

Michael Francis Beuke, A176-128  
Death Penalty Clemency Report

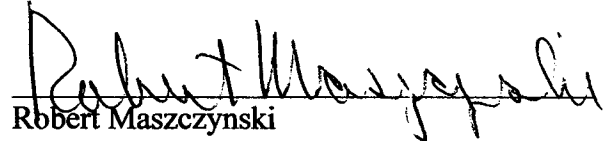
Adult Parole Authority  
Ohio Parole Board Members  
Voting **Favorable**

Ohio Parole Board Members  
Voting **Unfavorable**



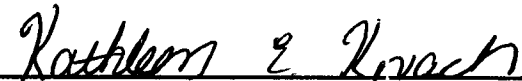
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Cynthia Mausser, Chair



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Robert Maszczyński



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Kathleen Kovach



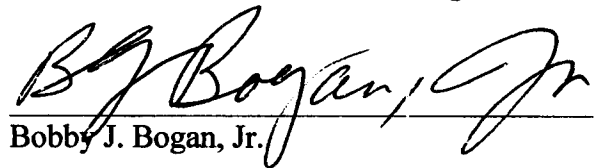
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Ellen Venters



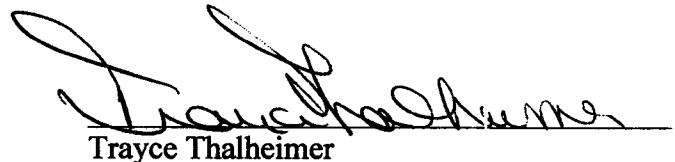
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R. F. Rauschenberg



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Bobby J. Bogan, Jr.



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Trayce Thalheimer

Dear Governor Strickland,

My name is Michael Beuker, and as you are aware, I'm on death row and have an execution date of 5/13/10.

I am not writing this to make excuses, nor justify anything that I did. I fully accept responsibility for the crimes I committed.

Words cannot adequately describe the feelings that I have for having committed those terrible crimes. I wake up feeling the pain that I caused others and with a deep sense of sorrow, I go to sleep with these same thoughts, praying that God will ease the pain I have caused my victims. I could never say I am sorry enough times to let them know how badly I feel.

My prayers throughout each day are always of their needs, that they have been healed, that they may be given

some peace and comfort in their lives. I think of them continually, especially when speaking of God's love to the other inmates & staff. I speak of how God has touched my life and allowed me to be of some service, even in a setting like death row.

Acknowledging that I cannot change the crimes committed, I have been in my own way trying to do God's will. During the week I attend 2 Bible Study services, a rosary service, and Holy Communion when Fr. Shou comes to the block. Once per month I attend Mass. Having taught myself, with the aid of another inmate, the keyboard, I play hymns for the services and Mass as well.

I participate in as many prison sponsored service projects as I can, including the creation of posters, banners,

and displays. Some of these projects were quite large and I enlisted the help of a few inmates to add their artistic abilities to their completion. The projects varied from a grade school stage at Thanksgiving, life size Santa Claus display, to political debate posters.

God has also given me the opportunity to be a tutor to some inmates. He has allowed me to be of service to Him in ministering to others, both within prison walls and outside of them.

In living my faith, I look to help others wherever and whenever possible. Should my life be spared, I would continue to be of some service to prisons and to whomever God puts in my life.

There can never be enough times for me to say I'm sorry.  
Peace & God Bless,  
Michael Kente



**Letter from Victim**  
**Bruce Graham**

**dated 3/26/2010**



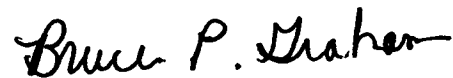
appreciated by others in the prison and the outside community, including local schools. I have included copies of some papers and certificates Michael gave me at our meeting for your review.

I do not think one more life taken at this point would solve anything. I would feel better if Michael's life was spared. He could continue to work to help others and be an asset both inside and outside the prison.

I am not against the death penalty, but believe it should be on a case by case basis. I believe Michael has reformed his life and his ways.

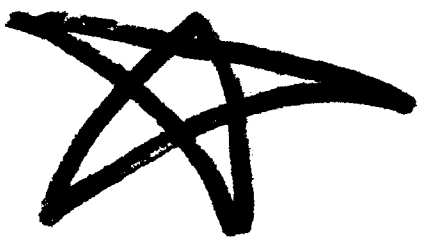
Thank you for your consideration and I hope you will take my request to heart. If you have questions of me, Karen Ho of Victims' Services can provide you with my unlisted phone number.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce P. Graham".

Bruce P. Graham

Thank  
you



Thank you for making  
something special like  
this for family to  
see friends. My  
favorite part was  
when we made the  
"Bear Bago" that  
was cool. One more  
thing. God bless  
you all.  
Mike & Libby



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May 21, 2008

Thanks for doing  
the art work for our  
play. It looked very  
nice. We played very  
a success!

Thanks again!

Devin & Wade Strachan  
Rowenell Elementary  
Flushing, MI



# The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Awards this Certificate of Appreciation to:

**Michael Beuke 176-128**

For your help in the school box top project

Awarded on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2007

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Nowak, OSP Correctional Program Specialist



# The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

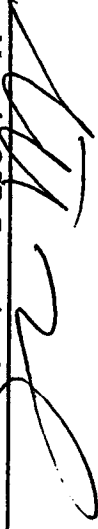
Awards this Certificate of Appreciation to:

**Michael Beuke # 176-128**

For your craft donations to the Sojourner House

**June 2007**

Awarded on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2007

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Nowak, OSP Correctional Program Specialist





# The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Awards this Certificate of Appreciation to:

**Michael Beuke #176-128**

For unselfishly donating your time & talent in completing  
Community Service projects during the month of

**January 2007**

Awarded on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2007

Scott Nowak, OSP Correctional Program Specialist



# The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Awards this Certificate of Appreciation to:

**Michael Beuke 176128**

For your art work projects

Your time, talent & art has been used to  
benefit local charity organizations.

Awarded on this 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2006

  
Scott Nowak, OSP Correctional Program Specialist



# The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Awards this Certificate of Participation to:

**Michael Beuke 176-128**

For your participation in the

**M.A.D.D. Red Ribbon Campaign**

Awarded on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2006

  
Scott Nowak, OSP Case Manager

  
Betty McDonough, Deputy Warden of Special Services

LAUBACH LITERACY ACTION  
VOLUNTEER TUTOR WORKSHOP  
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This is to recognize that Michael Beuke  
has satisfactorily completed a 12 hour workshop with emphasis on tutoring  
(Literacy/BSL) Literacy                      sponsored by a Laubach Literacy Action member program,  
and/or conducted by an LLA certified trainer.

OCTA-GONE, Mansfield, Ohio  
Program

Trainer Nancy Taylor  
Executive Director, Laubach Literacy Action Joe D. Witz  
President/CBO, Laubach Literacy International Bob Cavall

December 6, 1996  
Date

