

mfgt

Michelle:

Thanks for your comments. It is amazing to me how many people are locked up in the U.S. I don't know any details from other states but I can assure you that one of the major causes of the increased incarceration rate in Wisconsin is the longer periods of time prisoners are spending per conviction.

In 1984, when I came to prison, average time served on life sentences was 13-15 years. I have now served over 27 years and expected to be paroled in 2011. Instead, I was pulled out of a work release center and returned to a prison based solely on my original offense and prior criminal record.

I am not the only one - thousands of prisoners are being warehoused for decades in Wisconsin prisons. The parole commission routinely denies compassionate release to ailing prisoners in their 70s and 80s, preferring to see these old folks die in prison. Their last days on earth are filled with abuse, neglect and suffering. What a shame.

In case you're wondering why it took me so long to respond to you, let me explain the process. I received your comment a week after you posted it. I am responding the day after that and it must go by snail mail to the blog site where it is scanned into the blog site. It may take a while, but I'll always respond to any comments you make.

Bye for now.

Harlan
May 3, 2012