



American Veterans in Prison

MCI Shirley Chapter

P.O.Box 1218 Harvard Road
Shirley, Massachusetts.
01464



c/o Rep. Benjamin Swan
837 State Street
Springfield, Mass. 01109

May 25, 2013

Dear

First and foremost, thank you for coming into this prison two days ago. It was such a pleasure meeting you. I am only sorry that we did not have more time to chat after the forum.

I am the commander of the AVIP and must say that I am extremely proud of my men for their respective presentations to Mr. Swan. They all worked so hard on putting it all together. Imagine if we had access to computers?

The comments from Mr. Swan after the presentations was flattering and inspiring. We absolutely will continue the good fight despite heavy opposition from the draconian control freaks that comprise the prisons in Massachusetts today. Men came up to me and said how inspired THEY were. I have a muslim friend who has over 40 years in prison say that he has never in his entire incarceration seen anything like it, and he was so happy he came.

I told everyone to be prepared for fallout and flak from the administration. Sure enough....On the following morning (yesterday) my cell door opened at 11:40. I thought it opened for lunch and rolled out in my wheelchair. I see the deputy superintendent, Karen DiNardo along with Sheila Kelly the director of classification and Captain Donald Crowley. They sat at a table in the common area and Karen was so very obviously "irritated". She said; "What happened yesterday will NEVER happen again. You AMBUSHED me." I asked her how I ambushed her and she said that we were not supposed to discuss the subjects that went down. I informed her that Mr. Swan had a copy of our agenda for over 5 weeks and was well aware of the topic matter. I also informed her that I had a letter from him saying he was looking forward to meeting with the men and veterans in the AVIP. She then went on to say I should not have asked Mr. Swan to tour the "hospital" as he can do that anytime he wants without my inviting him to do so. I explained that Mr. Swan is one of the co-signers of SB1139 dealing with compassionate release and the people in back are the ones who will be affected