

* * F R E E J O E L A B R I O L A * *

What follows is a letter from the office of State Representative Benjamin Swan which details the support letter he sent to Governor Deval Patrick concerning the Commutation Petition of Joe Labriola.

We ask that the readers of this blog also contact Governor Patrick's Office and support joe Lab's bid for Commutation of Sentence. Joe has served 41 years for a murder he maintains he never committed. More importantly Joe has engaged in decades of meaningful work here in the Massachusetts prison system and his extraordinary efforts warrant such release.

Joe currently suffers with end stage Bronchiastasis/COPD and is confined to a wheelchair. It no longer serves any purpose to keep Joe in prison.

PLEASE CONTACT:

His Excellency Deval Patrick
Governor of the Commonwealth
State House
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 725-4005

T H A N K Y O U F O R Y O U R S U P P O R T ! ! !

* * F R E E J O E L A B R I O L A * *



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

REP. BENJAMIN SWAN
11TH HAMPDEN DISTRICT
ROOM 127, STATE HOUSE

DISTRICT OFFICE
815 STATE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109
TEL. (413) 739-8547
FAX (413) 739-8572

Vice-Chair
House Committee on Post Audit & Oversight

Joint Committee on Elder Affairs
Joint Committee on Public Service

TEL. (617) 722-2680
FAX (617) 722-2238
E-Mail: Benjamin.Swan@MAhouse.gov

December 4, 2014

[REDACTED]
MCI Shirley
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA 01464-1218

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is acknowledging receipt of your letter dated November 14, 2014; and is written to follow up on your following up on the Representative Swan ☺ As the Representative has promised, he has written a support letter to the Governor on behalf of Commander Joseph Labriola. Below you will find its content, and a copy for Mr. Joseph Labriola records is enclosed:

December 4, 2014

*His Excellency Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133*

Dear Governor Patrick:

This letter is written in support of Mr. Joseph Labriola (W34248), currently an inmate at MCI-Shirley as Commander of the American Veterans in Prison (AVIP), in his application for a commutation.

In my capacity as State Representative I have had an ongoing contact with Joseph for a number of years, and have found him to be an ideal candidate for commutation. Mr. Labriola's role as Commander of AVIP is appreciated, and plays a positive and stabilizing role in at MCI-Shirley; which demonstrates his rehabilitation and ability to perform as a productive law abiding citizen. He is a wheelchair bound Veteran, who has made numerous contributions to the quality of life for inmates across race and cultures. He is a human being who I am proud to acknowledge as a friend; even though I only met him in recent years.

Joseph Labriola served two years of duty in Vietnam; he has used his military training and experience as an attribute to work with other inmates in order to organize for positive changes in DOC. I am particularly impressed with the manner which he has used his leadership skills, working with a number of inmate organizations, most importantly, the manner in which he fought back racial divisions and homophobic beliefs.

In short, I hope that these few words will help to communicate my support for this veteran; one who has made a mistake some forty years ago and understands and regrets the mistake he made, and is willing to make every effort to be a law abiding citizen today.

Respectfully, I ask that Mr. Labriola is given your most positive consideration.

*Sincerely,
Benjamin Swan
State Representative
/sj*