

Incarcerated Geriatric Prisoners

It's been a long time since I've written anything. I began losing faith, hope and the *losses* in my life have been great. Some say I deserve this, some will say I don't deserve a 2nd chance, my victim doesn't get a 2nd chance. I say you are right. But am I irredeemable? Am I incapable of change, transformation, remorse? As a human being, am I incapable of change?

As a reader, I ask you, what does it take to change the essence of a man? A person? A human being? What does it take for someone's core value's to change?

I want to share with you an event I cocreated with my friend Kevin Evans. Kevin is the President of the Gray Panthers organization chapter here in SCI Phoenix. Together we brought in over 100 outside guests, including lawmakers from the State House & Senate. Under the leadership of Senate Chairwoman Amanda Cappelletti, we held the largest hearing on the over 50 prison population to ever take place in any Pennsylvania State Prison. I worked so hard on this with Attorney/Senate Judiciary Committee executive director Danielle Phillips. We had 3 forms of media there. Student journalists from the Philly Student Press Association (phillystudentpress.org), ABC 27 newscaster Dennis Owens (ABC27.com & thisweekinpa.com), and Dr. James Peterson from WURD Philly radio. Dr. Peterson wrote about our event at:

thephiladelphiacitizen.org/end-pa-death-by-incarceration-hb-1550/

Ask everyone reading this, please read his article. After reading, you tell me, why does everyone deserve to die in prison? And if you feel that we don't automatically deserve death by incarceration, then what are we prepared to do about it? Why do we continue to routinely sentence people to die in prison in Pennsylvania? Pa is 1 of 6 states that offers no chance at redemption or a 2nd chance through good behavior and worthwhile acts. Let me be clear, I am not saying I deserve to be forgiven, what I am saying is: Why is this not an option? Why is everything in Pa about revenge or vengeance? I took a mans life. I deserve to be here but do we all deserve to die here? I have a friend Frederick Page. He was highlighted in a report done by the Sentencing Project in Washington DC. Fred was given a death by incarceration for a boat load of burglaries in the mid 1980's. Fred was high on drugs and a drug addict. He stole a total of \$50. Yeah you read that right, 50 bucks. He was given over 100 years in prison. Fred has watched his entire family die off. His wife died recently of a heart attack. He has been here for about 4 decades for stealing 50 bucks. He has never been in serious trouble in here and he is a Villanova college graduate. That alone is very impressive. What about Craig Datesman. Killed his childhood friend 40+ years ago. The victims family said they want Craig home but the system isn't designed that way in Pa. We have a draconian system based on punishment, revenge and vengeance.

Do we all want to be judged for our worst day? Our worst mistake? Worst bad decision? Worst act or deed? No we don't. Even you as a reader, what have you done that

you seek forgiveness for? Think about it. Fred didn't take a life, there were no physical victims in his crime. Some property damage and a total of 50 bucks stolen. but Pa being the vengeance state that it is sentences him to death by incarceration.

I urge you to read Dr. Peterson's article and if you agree, email me at:

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Get involved in this fight to change laws.

I know some people believe that everyone should die in prison but I say again, read the article by Dr. Peterson and tell me WHY? Don't use the 2 things people in power use, the victims doesn't get a 2nd chance or they say it's a slap in the face to the court who sentenced you. This isn't about either of those. I am asking you, why a human being, regardless of who they are or were, cannot be given an opportunity to earn a 2nd chance based upon who they are now, not who they were decades ago. If you'd like to further this discussion, go to connectnetwork.com and sign up to email me directly. My name is Robert Pezzeca #DX1148 I am incarcerated at: SCI Phoenix.

I am a father, grandfather, boyfriend in a committed relationship, those are just 3 things, come learn that I am not my crime, I am so much more. Thank you.

I AM
PRISON
DAD