

CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

November 2009
Non-Profit 501(c)3
Tax I. D. #68-0330408

Join Us To Make A Difference

A non-profit, public benefits organization serving families and friends of homicide victims.



Steven Watkins



STEVEN WATKINS

By: His Friend, Anne Plunkett

Steven Watkins was born February 7, 1976; the son of Dale and Penny Watkins. He grew up in the small rural community of Chandlerville, Illinois and until his mid-twenties, stayed pretty close to the area. Steven was very close to his family and had many friends. He had a contagious smile and a laugh that could make even the most sullen person smile. Steven joined the Coast Guard in 2000, and was stationed in the State of Virginia. He won custody of his little girl while in the military, and soon welcomed her into his home. After his time in the military, he moved back to Chandlerville and, in August of 2006, dated and married Jennifer Webster Watkins. Their marriage was short lived and rocky and, in November of 2007, (just a few

months after the birth of their daughter, Sidney), they separated. In June of 2008, Steven served Jennifer with divorce papers, citing extreme and repeated mental cruelty, and informed her he was seeking custody of their daughter. Shortly after finding out Steven's intentions, Jennifer accused him of abusing their daughter and brought a DCFS investigation against him. These accusations were unfounded and the investigation was quickly dropped by DCFS. Visitation was granted to Steven for every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30, with pick up at Jennifer's residence. Steven and Jennifer were scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, November 26, 2008, for further modification of visitation with Sidney. Steven was confident overnight visitation would be granted.

On November 25, 2008, the day started out like any other for Steven. He dropped off his oldest daughter, Alex, with his mother, stayed for a short visit and then headed off to work in Springfield. During the day, at some point, Steven spoke with

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Become a CAH Member!

CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

Who We Are

The majority of the board members of Citizens Against Homicide have had a family member murdered. They are surviving the devastating loss of a loved one and still suffer the continued emotional trauma of coping with our criminal justice system. We have joined together to create a voice for the survivors and friends of murder victims.

CAH Objectives

- ◇ Assist families through the complicated criminal justice system.
- ◇ Provide trial and courtroom support to victims.
- ◇ Accompany victims to parole hearings in their endeavor to keep the convicted murderer in prison.
- ◇ Provide information on pending crime legislation.

Protecting Your Own Interests

You can't prepare for the event that makes you a victim. You can only react. You need to know how to deal with the subsequent trial, sentencing and unavoidable parole hearings. CAH helps you take action to protect your own interests.

If you have friends or family who may be in need of our assistance, please pass along the information regarding our organization.

Location for Meetings

We hold monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month at 302 4th Street, San Rafael, CA. The monthly meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. We encourage anyone interested to attend meetings.

Officers

Jane Alexander	Co-Founder Emeritus
Jan Miller	Co-Founder
Gene & Shellee Cervantes	Victim Advocates
Perfect Printers	Newsletter Editors
Alice Ostergren	Treasurer
Carol Silveira	Corresponding Secretary
Anne Poverello	Victim Representative
Jaque MacDonald	Victims Voice-Publicity
Jude Cote	Recording Secretary
Marilyn Day	Communications

Advisory Board

Jack Miller	Bill Miller
Terri de la Cuesta	Chuck Mitchell
	Ed Sullivan

CITIZENS AGAINST Homicide

PMB #321

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Greenbrae, CA 94904

Tel 415-455-5944 Fax 415-721-0788

E-Mail VCTMSMURDR@AOL.COM

Website: www.citizensagainsthomicide.org

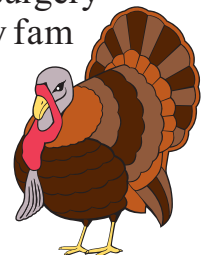
A Thanksgiving Message From Jan

As the weather starts to change from summer to fall, my morning walks start a little cooler and damper, and a little darker. This is always a welcome feeling. It lets me know that we are in November and that means many things are coming. I have a birthday in November and this year it is a "big" one. It also means Thanksgiving is approaching.

Thanksgiving is one of my most favorite Holidays. This year Thanksgiving is my Holiday to cook for the family. Already the list of usual dishes and special news dishes are starting to gather on my kitchen counter.

But the Holiday has another special meaning for me. I have always thought of this time as a time to reflect and to be thankful for all the good things that have happened in my life. I am sure many of you have experienced a murder in your life, as I have. For many, the murder becomes the greater part of your life and you fail to see all of the gifts that you have already been given. You miss out on the wonderful gifts that are continuing to be given to you. Since my daughter Veronica Perotti, or Roni as I call her, was murdered in June of 1984 and her murder is still unsolved, I feel that I do understand how that murder can and is a great part of my life. However I also know that I have to take the time to know and understand all of the many gifts that have been given to me. This is a time to think about the past year and to take some time to reflect on these gifts. This is the time to thank my God for allowing these "good things" in my life and to embrace and learn from them.

Early this year my son had emergency brain surgery and there were moments when I wondered if he was going to survive. Would he be able to return to his "old self" ...so many questions, so many why's? Yet, as this situation presented itself to us, and I do mean "us". Since we are a family that lives near each other, many of us work together and are very involved in each others lives. On the day when David ended up in a hospital and then in surgery and ICU all in less than 12 hours, so many family members and friends gathered in waiting rooms and moved to the next hospital and it's waiting room. It was truly amazing. His friend and cousin flew in and stayed to assist especially David and his



wife Kim. But really he was there for all of us. Kim's parents who were on a plane across country in hours and stayed to help as long as needed. There was an outreach that cannot be imagined. One just had to be there and witness the love and caring that just poured out to this immediate family, but also to all other surrounding families. There was so many to thank and simply no words could be found. The good news is that David is just about his usually self. He should be driving again by Thanksgiving, so I know one thing he will be thankful about.

I hope all of you reading this newsletter take the time to find the things in your life that you can be thankful about. Spend a lot of time on those thoughts and not just the negative of the one you lost. I believe that Roni is in heaven and is looking down upon all of us. Sometime I wonder if she was not guiding us that day in March when so many things had to happen for David to be saved. Think of your lost loved one as an angel in heaven looking out for you and your family.

A very happy, healthy and food filled Thanksgiving to everyone at CAH-Thankful to be involved in your life and your family.

Jan

A SPECIAL REQUEST...

In each newsletter we usually have one or more requests for parole letters to be written. You always respond with hundreds of letters and we have a wonderful track record of keeping these murderers in prison where they belong.

However we also receive many additional requests but the timing is such that we are not able to put them into a Newsletter. Usually this is because the families have learned about the up and coming Parole hearing date with less than 30 days advance notice.

We are then only able to send out an emergency email request for letters to be written. That limits the exposure to the number of people that will possibly write a letter to only the ones that receive our Newsletter by email. If anyone would like to be added to an emergency email list and yet still receive the Newsletter by regular mail we would like to hear from you and identify yourself as someone that just wants to be on the "Emergency Parole email list".

As always thank you so much for helping these families.



PAROLE HEARINGS

These parole hearings are imminent.
Send letters in support of these families today.

Parole #1

It was June 28, 1990 and Frances Luster's 18 year old son Kofi was out in one strike. Kofi and his friend Kori Johnson, were murdered execution-style in San Francisco. Kofi was a bright young man working for the summer at a Target store. He had just bought his clothes to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta. The next day their bodies were found in an alley near the Benjamin Franklin Middle School.

3 ½ years after the murders a suspect was arrested, he was a young veteran of the court, and was brought into the hearing room from San Quentin where he was serving time for another crime. At the same time police were looking for the murderer of Kofi Luster and Kori Johnson, Kofi's mother Frances was working on the passage of the "Three Strike, You're Out" initiative. A lot of numbers were being debated such as "it costs \$21,000 to keep someone in jail, say those against". It cost \$400,000 to keep trying them say those in favor of the initiative. Somehow such figures, whatever their accuracy, seem light weighted against the loss of a life and especially a life that is just venturing off to a college education, a life that may

have found its million dollars, and may have used that fortune in productive ways. These are the real losses, but the math is done in tears and not dollars. Remember 3 Strikes and your out...one strike and you are dead.

Please write a letter to keep the murderer of Kofi Luster in prison and not out on early release.

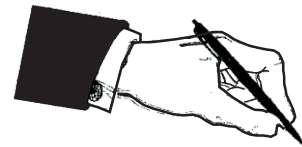
Parole Hearing Date:
December 9, 2009

MURDERER:
Silas Elijah Robinson
CDC# K156104

SEND LETTERS TO:
California Dept. of Corr. and Rehab
Office of Victim and Survivor Rights
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001
Fax #916-445-3737

COPY TO FAMILY:
Frances Luster
2744 Duhallow Way
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Write Today!



Sample parole opposition letter.

For California Only

<p>Today's Date</p> <p>California Dept. of Corr. and Rehab Office of Victim and Survivor Rights P.O. Box 942883 Sacramento, CA 94283-0001 Fax #916-445-3737</p> <p>Re: (Convict's Name) (Case Number)</p> <p>Please DO NOT grant a parole date to the aforementioned convicted murderer. The heinous nature of this crime should preclude this prisoner any consideration.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Your Name Address City/State/ZIP</p>



CASE UPDATES

Parole # 2

CAH's victim profile of the month of October, 1994 featured Lisa Marie Shivak (Amold). We also asked our readers to stop the parole of her murderer Jeffery Langnese. That parole block was successful and Jeffery Langnese remained in prison.

Once again we ask that you write to prevent this murderer from being released. Lisa Marie was beaten to death with the butt end of a shotgun. Langnese has shown no remorse, and has fought the system from the time he was incarcerated.

Parole Hearing Date:

December 9, 2009

MURDERER:

Jeffery A. Langnese

I.D. #D-38652

SEND LETTERS TO:

California Dept. of Corr. and Rehab
Office of Victim and Survivor
Rights

P.O. Box 942883

Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

Fax # 916-445-3737

COPY TO FAMILY:

Lucy and Frank Shivak
1126 Masterpiece Drive
Oceanside, CA 92057



Ivan "Bud" Foglesong

On July 21, 2007, Ivan "Bud" Foglesong was killed in a fiery explosion on the sprawling Holzapfel farm compound in Willows, California. Bud's profile was featured in our November 2008 Newsletter. For more that two (2) years, Bud's case was ruled accidental and considered a closed case by the Glenn County Sheriff-Coroner.

Tim Crews, Sacramento Valley Mirror Publisher, has led a relentless campaign (series of 32 and counting) to unearth the truth of how Bud Foglesong died and who was responsible for his death.

On October 24, 2009, the Sacramento Valley Mirror published the following headline, "Two men heard threats against victim, kept silent". This new, long-awaited information is a

welcomed breakthrough for investigators. Strange as it may appear, the information regarding the threats surfaced during a work break, where crew members were socializing. It is reported that one of the witnesses made the comment "yeah, he killed that guy". Additionally, the witness heard the infuriated "person of interest" say that Mr. Foglesong was going to sue him for a million dollars and that he was going to kill him. This "person of interest" was about to be indicted by the California Attorney General for an assault that left Mr. Foglesong's left index finger permanently damaged, but Bud Foglesong was killed before this indictment could take place.

Citizens Against Homicide is hopeful that justice will finally come to Ivan "Bud" Foglesong, and his family and friends.

Gregory Kniffin and Mary Giola Families

In last month's Newsletter we asked all of you to write letters to California Attorney General Jerry Brown to stop the appeal ordered by Judge Patel for the retrial of Ralph Thomas - CDC #D-39802. Ralph Thomas was found guilty by a jury of his peers and was rightfully sentenced to death for murdering Gregory Kniffin and Mary Giola.

Dear CAH Members,
Attorney General Jerry Brown has approved the appeal of Judge Patel's order for a retrial in the

Ralph Thomas case. I want to thank you so much for the support you and your members gave to getting this appeal approved. I thought the write-up posted on your website was excellent. I don't know how many emails were sent but we got the approval and now, hopefully, an appeal will bring a reversal (likely to take a year or more) of a very unjust and ill-founded legal maneuver in this case.

I will try to keep you informed about the outcome of the case.

Sincerely,

David Kniffin

DID YOU KNOW? Some Good News! Some Bad News!

As the result of DNA - old cold cases are being solved.

The San Francisco Police Department was able to solve the 1984 brutal murder of Mei Leung who was murdered at the age of 9. She was raped and murdered, her body was found in the basement of her apartment building in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco. We now know the Mei Leung was murdered by Richard Ramirez the "Night Stalker".

Ramirez it is learned lived in two different locations within 6 blocks of where Mei Leung lived and was murdered. Ramirez of course is still sitting on "Death Row" and has been there for over two decades for 13 Southern California murders.

DNA lead to the arrest of a 1990 Child Rape. A suspect has been arrested in the 1990 abduction and attempted murder of a 8 year old Texas girl. This was learned from the FBI's Houston Office. The tests that were completed in 1990 were not able to give conclusive results. But now, modern techniques allow DNA to be isolated from a single human cell.

Colorado authorities said that due to budget cuts they were going to release prisoners on early parole. They said they would not release sex offenders, kidnappers or killers. The plan was to save \$19 million as the state deals with a \$318 million budget short fall. BUT in the first round of prisoners released September 22-23 they released a man convicted in a child sex-assult case. They say the Parole board was not aware of his conviction....*Well what are they reading if NOT his record of convictions?????*

Another Colorado statistic....Parole recidivism rates are approaching all-time highs. Every year we see an increase in the number of prisoners who were paroled and are now returning to prison. From 2000 to 2008 releases to parole increased 126 percent while parole returns to prison for a new conviction increased 195 percent. *I ask what money is being saved??*

CASE UPDATES - CONTINUED

Gregory Kniffin and Mary Giola Families

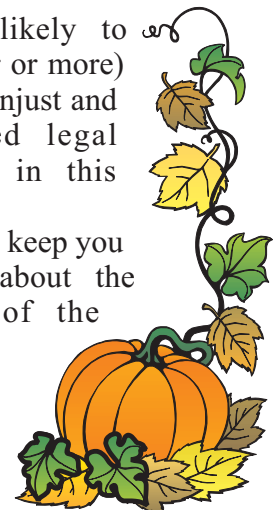
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Sincerely,
David
Kniffin



Victim Profile Con't from Page 1

Jennifer on the phone and an argument occurred over a court ordered visit with Sidney that night. Steven logged into his journal the time as he set off to get Sidney. He arrived somewhere around 5:20 p.m., at the residence Jennifer shared with her parents, Bob and Debbie Webster, and grandparents, Kenneth and Shirley Skinner. At 5:30 p.m., paramedics arrived at the residence; a 911 call had been placed for a resident having a panic attack. Upon arriving, the paramedics were shocked to see Steven dead on the floor. Police were also in route to this residence for a reported custody dispute in progress. They, too, were unaware of this bloody, chaotic scene. Mecca Paramedic, Mr. Bob Daniels, stated that when he arrived on scene, there were a dozen people in the residence and that they were more concerned for the panic attack patient than with Steven's body on the floor. He was the first to contact the coroner, after which, he was quickly ushered to tend to the patient and take her to the hospital for further evaluation.

The coroner arrived at 6:20 p.m., and pronounced Steven dead. It took nearly two (2) months for a coroner's jury to be called, but less than one (1) minute for them to declare the obvious, Steven died from a single gunshot to the back of the head with a 9mm Glock Model 17C, that was found on a cardboard box quite a distance from the body. Mr. Sager, the Coroner, gave his personal condolences to the family for the time it had taken to get the death certificate and the countless times they had to relive this nightmare. In January 2009, the State Journal Register reported that gunshot residue testing had not been performed on any of those in the home at the time of Steven's murder...but the Cass County Sheriff claims this did not harm the investigation. Also reported that same day, a search warrant was issued for the residence, two (2) months after the crime, to gather additional information. Steven Watkins was a father, a son, a brother, a nephew and a friend. He was an average person, not rich or famous and,

until his death, his name was not seen in the paper much. He was a high school athlete, a co-worker, a neighbor and a veteran. For anyone who did not get the chance to know Steven, you missed out on one of the kindest, most loving people you will ever come in contact with. Most importantly, Steven Watkins IS a murder victim. Someone whose fundamental right to life was taken away at the hands of someone else. He was someone who was shot in the back of the head for simply wanting to visit his daughter and, up to his point, he is a statistic; another unsolved murder case in the U.S. He was a father of two (2) wonderful little girls, who can no longer play with their dad or even know just how much they meant to him. They will never get the chance to know the joy they brought to him each day of his life.

If anyone has any information regarding the murder of my friend, Steven Watkins, please contact Jim Birdfell, Chief, Ashland Police Department, Ashland, Illinois at (217) 476-8191.

Update on Steven Watkins

Update: On October 2, 2009, Shirley J. Skinner, (74-year-old grandmother of estranged wife, Jennifer Watkins) was arrested in Clearwater, Florida, and charged with 1st Degree Murder in the shooting death of Steven Watkins. Bond was set at

\$5,000,000. Details of the alleged murder of Steven Watkins are delineated in the above profile. During a brief news conference, Col. Michael Snyders, Illinois State Police Deputy Director of Operations, stated the prosecution is ready

for trial. However, Col. Snyders also said the investigation is ongoing and there could be more arrests. Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to call Illinois State Police at (217) 557-8187.

CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

Membership/Contribution Form

(please print)

**Non-Profit 501 (c)3 Tax I. D. #68-0330408
All Contributions Are Tax Deductible**



Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Organization: _____ Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

City: _____ Your E-Mail: _____

Please enroll me as a member of Citizens Against Homicide. My \$50.00 membership fee provides me voting privileges and newsletter.

Instead, accept my \$ _____ contribution in support of Citizens Against Homicide and its efforts. November 2009 Newsletter



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