

CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

December 2008

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.



RUBEN WAYNE NORWOOD



*Ruben Wayne Norwood
by his granddaughter
Nicole Renee Cunningham*

My name is Nicole Renee Cunningham. I am 23 years old, married with two children. I am writing this letter for my grandfather Ruben Wayne Norwood, who was murdered by Paul Allen Sharp and Robert Lee Clevenger on May 9th, 1988.

My family has missed my grandfather dearly for 20 years. He was a son, a husband, a brother, a father, a grandfather, an uncle, a friend and a good man! We all wish we could have things the way they were with my Papa Wayne alive and well. That is all it is, is a wish that

won't come true no matter how much we pray! Wayne's mother will be without a son. My grandmother will be without a husband. My cousin's and I will never know the joy of having a grandfather. We did not make those decisions; Paul Allen Sharp made those decisions for my family. Paul's family knows he is alive and well. They can write, call, or visit. We cannot. All we have are pictures, memories and a video of a funeral. We have the pain of missing a wonderful man who did no harm to anyone. My family tries to move on with our good memories. Then a few years go by and we have to relive the moment to make sure justice is served. We do not wish any harm or pain, like we have endured, for Paul Allen Sharp. What we all wish we cannot have back. The life with Wayne Norwood alive and well. Life can always be changed, for the better or worse. Life can be given to someone and life can be taken away. Death cannot be changed, it is for all eternity. Paul Allen Sharp was given life in prison. That can all be changed to a life of freedom. My Papa Wayne is dead, that will never change. The large painting of Papa Wayne above my grandmother's

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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

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

Advisory Board

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

CITIZENS AGAINST Homicide

P. O. Box 2115
San Anselmo, CA 94979

Tel 415-455-5944 Fax 415-454-0298

E-Mail VCTMSMURDR@AOL.COM
Website: www.citizensagainsthomicide.org

LETTERS

Dear Citizens Against Homicide,

My name is Sal LoBue and I am the father of Rosellina LoBue. My beloved daughter Rosellina LoBue was murdered on October 7, 1987 when she was only 18 years old. It happened in San Jose, California at a Photo Drive Up on 11th and San Carlos Streets, near San Jose State University. A man by the name of Erik Sanford Chatman stabbed my daughter 52 times with a knife just to rob her for the few dollars that were in the cash register. He left her on the floor to die. He had no mercy on my daughter and therefore I hope the state of California will not have any mercy on him.

The murderer of my beautiful daughter is serving his death penalty conviction at San Quentin Prison. It has been over 21 years since the violent murder of my daughter occurred. My wife has since passed away from brain cancer that developed as a result of our daughter's tragic death. I am now almost 85 years old and truly pray that this execution will take place before I die. I wish my beautiful wife could have lived to hear the news.

The laws these days seem to only benefit the murderers. There seems to be no relief for the victims that are left behind. I would hope that all of us could lobby for stricter punishments for these evil people so that these heinous crimes could be stopped.

Sincerely,
Sal LoBue

Dear Jane and all Staff Members:

Finally, after almost a year, Ricky (my son and Chad's father) and I have just received word that **Frank Christopher Vasquez** was denied parole for his part in murdering Chad. In 1993, Frank was sentenced to 60 years in prison and a fine of \$10,000 when he and a group of Hispanic boys brutally murdered Chad. Six perpetrators are in prison, and they have all been up for parole, most of them more than once. The good news this time is that Frank Vasquez's request for release has been set off for five years. Fifteen years ago, they came up every year. Then, with much hard work from us and from many survivors all over Texas, the State of Texas gave the Parole Board an option of from one to five years as a set off. In all of the fifteen years, we never got more than a two-year set off for any of the perpetrators until this time.

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PAROLES....

My daughter Janet Herstein was murdered by Ray Dell Sims also known as David McGown. He is at San Quentin State Prison and has a scheduled parole hearing January 22, 2009.

There is nothing that will bring back our Janet. But it is very necessary that we work together to keep this murderer in prison. Since Ray Dell Sims has been in prison there have been no similar murders in my area. Prior to Janet's murder there had been one a year for five years. This murder was not his first offense. He had been in trouble with law enforcement agencies for 20 years before this conviction. These offenses were for various crimes in different cities with different punishments.

I personally feel more secure for my family and people I know and love with him behind bars. We can keep him out of circulation. He gave up his right to a free lifestyle when he took Janet's life.

He was sentenced to life in prison by a judge and a jury. Exactly how long is

“life in prison?” Thirty - one years?
Please send a letter today.
Thank you for all your help.

Edna Herstein -
Janet's mother

MURDERER:
Ray Dell Sims
DOC #B00358

SEND LETTERS TO:
Jim Davis, Chairman
Board of Parole Hearings
P.O. Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812

COPY TO:
Edna Herstein
c/o Crime Victim Assistance
Center
2233 Kern Street
Fresno, CA 93721

**Write
Today!**



*Sample parole
opposition letter.*

*This sample address is
for California. Be sure to
use the address as directed
in each individual Parole request.*

Today's Date

Jim Davis, Chairman
Board of Parole Hearings
P.O. Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: (Convict's Name)
(CDC# or ID# Number)

Please **DO NOT** grant a
parole date to the
aforementioned convicted
murderer.
The heinous nature of this
crime should preclude this
prisoner any consideration.

Thank you,

Your Name
Address
City/State/ZIP

TIS THE SEASON

By Jan Miller

By the time you are reading this Newsletter, we will all have celebrated Thanksgiving and hopefully all of you had a wonderful Holiday. All of us at Citizens Against Homicide hope that you took time out from your busy schedules to spend time with family and friends, and found something for which to be truly thankful for.

As we finish the dishes from Thanksgiving, we are mentally preparing for the Christmas Season. Were you one of the shoppers out at the mall the day after Thanksgiving? Were you among those who started at 4:30 am, or were you one of the many who started on the evening of Thanksgiving by going shopping at the stroke of midnight? I am one of the lucky ones at least in my opinion. I don't shop! My husband, Jack, takes care of all of our family shopping. This includes six children and their spouses, as well as our 15 grandchildren, and he's already finished, and proud as a peacock, I might add. I do have to do all the wrapping.

However, I was enlisted to do some 4:30 am babysitting so that my son and his wife could get to their early morning shopping. Would you believe it, the grandchildren slept in longer than their usual 6:00 am. How lucky can Noni Jan get?

Some thoughts I would like to share with you...

Two Glasses of Wine (author unknown):

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 glasses of wine...

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured it into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "YES."

The professor then produced two glasses of wine from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things: your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions; things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full."

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else; the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "There is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you." "Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. Do one more run down the ski slope. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first; the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the wine represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of glasses of wine with a friend."

If you are reading this Newsletter, many of you have lost one of the 'golf balls' of your life. We at Citizens Against Homicide do understand and we are here to help you in any way that we can. Hopefully, we have over the years helped you or created a way for you to help someone else. Our motto is that **"together we can make a difference"**. Maybe we were able to share that glass of wine with one or more of you over the years.

I am now asking each and every one of you to do something very important. I want each of you to pray with all your heart for one of the most precious 'golf balls' of CAH. Jane has learned she is very ill. She would never ask! But I am not afraid to ask that you each pray each day for her health.

On that sad note we all do wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope to see many of you in 2009. We have much work to do and will need many hands to do it.

VICTIM PROFILE

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dining table, where we eat family meals without him, will never change. We cannot make all the decisions in our lives but we live with the decisions we make. We also live with the decisions Paul Allen Sharp has made for my family. Paul lives with his decisions now and that is why I am writing. I am asking for your decision that life does not change for Paul Allen Sharp. My family and I will bear the pain for life because of decisions Paul Sharp made. My Papa Wayne will spend eternity gone, never living a full life. The decisions Paul Sharp made were tough for everyone. My family has no choice but to deal with the facts, Wayne Norwood is gone; Paul Sharp murdered him and should share the suffering with us.

My grandfather served our country in the Army as an Operational Sergeant for 28 years. He spent four tours in Vietnam. He was only retired a couple of years when he was murdered. He was only 49 years old. He was a good man to our country. He was good to our communities. He was good for our children. We do not serve Wayne, or any other victims of murder well by letting their killers have free life. What do we teach our children? That crimes are cheaply paid for. That life is ours to take away, not the Lords. Our United States money says "In God We Trust." Along with the trust in our faith

we need to trust the honest, decent, good U.S. citizens to keep our country safe for our children and ourselves. We need to make sure the dangers to society are well kept from harming us. Let our criminals know that violence will not be accepted. My grandfather spent his life protecting this country from violence. Now our family is asking for Tennessee's help doing the same.

On May 9, 1988 Paul Allen Sharp struck Ruben Wayne Norwood, my grandfather, over the head with an automotive dent puller. Paul Sharp robbed my grandfather and left him to bleed to death. This crime was random, very violent and hideous. The pain Paul Sharp has caused will go on for life in our family. Paul Sharp was sentenced to mandatory life in prison. I am asking the state of Tennessee to please deny Paul Sharp parole and a life of freedom.

The violence of this crime was unacceptable in 1988. In this violent world today this crime should be unacceptable. Please read my letter and understand the pain and suffering Paul Allen Sharp has caused to my grandfather and my family.

Please deny Paul Allen Sharp parole.

Thank you for your time and hearts.

LETTERS.....con't from page 2

I know that, with all the wonderful letters sent by **Citizens Against Homicide** and from so many others, the Parole Board had to be impressed. I am quite sure that is the reason we got a five-year set off for Frank Vasquez. Thank you all so very much. I was in the process of writing a letter of thanks to each one of you who sent a letter to the Parole Board for Chad; however, at that time the part of Louisiana where we live was hit by Hurricane Gustav and Ike. Three years prior to that, we were hit very hard by Hurricane Rita. Our lives here have been turned upside down once again. So, please forgive me for giving up on my letter to you.

Jane, last but not least, you are my hero. You have always taken time to talk with me personally, and I appreciate it. You and your organization have come through for us so many times. I wish I could be close enough to return what you have done for us.

Ricky and I thank you. We love you all

Sincerely,
Dot LeBleu
Lake Charles, LA

Ricky Ketchum
Sulphur, LA

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: _____

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. December 2008 Newsletter



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**Citizens Against Homicide
P. O. Box 2115
San Anselmo, CA 94979**