



The Deuce Club

Volume I, Issue 6

t

October 2010

Special Point of Interest

- Since 1977, there have been more than 1100 executions in the U.S., 41 in 2010 alone

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CPR Successfully Preparing People for Parole

In the January 2010 issue of *The Deuce Club*, we published an article indicating that we would focus on giving parole preparation assistance to people serving time for violent felony offenses with no conditional release dates, particularly those that had been denied parole two or more times. Since that time, we have had some successes. Four persons that have received assistance from us have been granted parole release.

In July 2010, we held a parole preparation workshop at North Star Fund, a foundation, in Manhattan. Although this event was widely publicized by our Community Outreach Coordinator, only seven

persons attended the session. Three of the persons attending the workshop had family members scheduled to appear before the board in August. Two of the individuals travelled all the way by train from Virginia to attend the workshop on behalf of their husband and brother. They brought the background materials with them that would allow us to determine how best to prepare him for his appearance. After the workshop, we also had an opportunity to speak with the individual and advise him on how best to improve his chances of parole. He was granted parole in early August.

The husband of another

person was scheduled to appear before the board in mid-August after being denied parole once before. This individual was scheduled for deportation but it was clear from the parole transcript of his previous hearing that he did not embrace the deportation so as to convince the board to grant him parole for deportation only. We had an opportunity to speak with him before his appearance to advise him how to improve his performance before the board. Specifically, he was advised to tell the board that he wanted to be deported and had family to support his release if granted parole and parole plans for his country. When he ap-

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CPR’S 10th Anniversary Journal — To be published in January 2011

The journal will be in full color and contain the best articles on parole published over the past 9 years in *The Deuce Club*.

If you would like to place an advertisement, become

a sponsor, supporter or list the name of someone who died behind the walls to be placed the “In Memoriam” section, please complete the application on page 6.

Notice: Change in Membership Dues

For the first time in years, CPR has raised its membership dues.

Please see the new rates on page 7.

From the Editor — CPR: The little organization that could

As we prepare to publish our tenth anniversary journal in January 2011, it is a good time to look back at the formation of CPR. A little more than ten years ago, a meeting was held at the Legal Aid Society on Church Avenue in Lower Manhattan, not too far from Ground Zero. Claudette Spencer-Nurse, Susan Wright and a number of other family members, friends and advocates of incarcerated persons, looking at parole trends, that is, the routine and repeated denial of parole to people convicted of violent crimes, specifically homicide-related offenses, for political and not practical legal reasons, decided that something had to be done. Thus, as a first step, they convened this meeting, where there was overwhelming attendance. Shortly after the aforementioned meeting, CPR was formed, with Ms. Spencer-Nurse as its President.

(George Pataki had rode into the Governor's office by promising the electorate that he would be tough on crime, that he would reinstate

the death penalty, that he would do away with work release for "violent felons" and that he would abolish parole. Since then New York's death penalty has been ruled unconstitutional by our highest state court, the Court of Appeals, work release is practically non-existent for *all* "felony offenders," parole has been abolished for people convicted of violent crimes (determinate sentencing replaced indeterminate sentencing in 1998), and the "Pataki Rule," routine and repeated denial of parole to people convicted of violent crimes, specifically murder, which carries an indeterminate sentence, that is, a minimum and a maximum period of imprisonment, e.g., 15 years to life, which means that an individual sentenced to such a sentence is eligible for parole after 15 years but theoretically could be held for his/

"When only seven people show up to a free event that provides critical information to combat these parole denials...then something is seriously wrong."

her natural life (which is happening, in that many are dying in prison after repeated parole denials.)

When CPR was first formed, its founders knew that "assuring fairness in parole" would be a protracted battle, that is, that there would not be a quick fix. Many family members and friends of people being routinely and repeatedly denied parole, understandably so, wanted a "quick fix." Indeed, the whole idea of a quick fix seemed oxymoronic, in that their loved ones had been locked up anywhere from 15 to 45 years. Nevertheless, in the absence of a "quick fix," families, friends and advocates of people in prison being routinely and repeatedly denied parole must remain steadfast and continue to fight the good fight. This means showing up at events hosted by CPR or any other group

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Surviving and Growing in the New York State Prison System

I am currently serving 25 years to life sentence for murder, with no prior state prison experience. Aside from all of the stories that I've heard about prison (facts and fiction), I honestly did not know what to expect upon my arrival. However, after 18 years of existing in here, it has been a life altering experience, to say the least. I will now give you a brief glimpse of said experience.

When I arrived at the maximum security reception facility, Downstate Correctional Facility, in December '93, my family and community support was still very strong (I was already off of the streets for 16

months at this point). I was transferred to Green Haven Correctional Facility in January '94 (I did a total of 6 years there). While there, I received at least 2 visits a month; I received some form of correspondence 3-4 days a week; and I used the telephone 3-4 days a week. My appeal process was just about to start at this point, so there was still hope of shortly returning home (according to my trial attorney, within 18 months).

However, as the years elapsed and the appeals were affirmed/denied, my support group started to rapidly diminish. After my 10th year, I had five individuals there for me.

I currently have only two individuals by my side offering unconditional love and support. I receive 3-4 visits a year; I receive 1-2 letters/cards a month; and I use the telephone 1-2 times a year. The longer I am incarcerated the more detached I become from society. No one wants to feel alone and forgotten. The pain I experience in my heart on a daily basis (for the past five + years), the average person would not be able to endure for more than a month. Having a heart of stone in here helps me survive the madness, but in society, I will only be viewed and treated as an outcast.

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Realities of Reentry — “Great Expectations...”

I’m sure there is a book or movie (or both) that are supposed to be “classics” that have the title: *Great Expectations*; however, as you can no doubt tell, I haven’t read or seen either. Normally that would say something unsavory about my intellectual range or something to that effect, but in this case I’m sure many of you have not read or seen either, too. So literary imbecile that we are, I hope that at least you’ll read this article because as far as I’m concerned it has “Classic” written all over it!

I guess one of the realities of reentry that I have so far tried to avoid has to do with the whole post-release relationship issues and that’s whether married, dating, “baby mama,” significant other, “boo,” or whatever the current vernacular is these days for those engaged in a male/female relationship. I write this now with a bit of trepidation since part of what I’ll be talking about surely will not please my wife or will at least cause some uncomfortability on the home front. But hey, remember I’m no genius to begin with.

Michael Baisden, the radio personality (NY’s 98.7 KISS FM) recently had a show dealing with prison relationships and although I don’t agree with a lot that was said I can agree with the fact that relationships “under lock & key” are very tricky and require a more open mind than most are willing to have, especially men. His take, and my wife’s by the way, is that if you have a significant amount of time to do (three or more years) than you should ask the woman in your life to hold you down (e.g., packages, money and occasional visits), but also tell her to “live her life.” The understanding being that she’d do for you as best she can but being in an exclusive relationship is not part

of the deal. Now, I can just imagine some of the words you guys are using in response to that one and most are not fit for print, even in an adult prison newsletter. The other thing is and my wife has thrown this one at me more times than I can count and not use my toes; well “if the shoe were on the other foot....” They say when it comes to the prison relationship dynamic men are totally hypocritical and would never not “do them “ if the woman they were with was locked down. Can I hear an Amen?

So what does all this have to do have to do with “great expectations” you might ask, well the reality of reentry is that many of us have relationships and women waiting for us years, decades sometimes, and that creates for the woman a lot of expectations about just what your relationship will be like when you’re released. And therein lies the problem — *expectations* create a lot of discord because they oftentimes create a false sense of belief that things will be just as planned, dreamed or imagined. Let me tell you that oftentimes nothing can be further from the truth! This does not mean that ***all men in prison lie***, because truth be told, women lie, too, and they’re much better at it than we’ll ever be. It does mean that a lot of times when your circumstances change so do some of the plans. I will say it again and again, nothing can adequately prepare you for the realities of reentry. That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t plan, but that we all (i.e., men and women) need to be flexible enough to change when it becomes necessary to do so.

“...nothing can adequately prepare you for the realities of reentry. That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t plan, but that we all...need to be flexible enough to change when it becomes necessary to do so.”

One of the most poignant statements I have ever heard is that “the only people who like change are wet babies!” As we grow and learn we are supposed to change but too often we become stagnant and live by habits, good or bad. One of the things you will have to face upon release is that everything you’ve ever said, every plan or promise, will be hurled at you, especially if you don’t follow them to the letter. However, most of those were said

and/or made while you had no idea of what life would throw at you when your circumstances change—you know, “the best laid plans of mice and men....” I don’t think that I lied about the things I wanted and

planned to do, but I can assure you that a year and a half later a lot of those have not come to fruition. I’ll admit that I’ve had to eat my words on more occasions than I care to admit, and in some cases I definitely deserved to have them handed to me, but in others it was just that plans change as circumstances and opportunities presented themselves. Does that mean I’m some liar or BS artist? No, it means that life being what it is, you had better be flexible and certainly ready for what the will and purpose God has in store for you.

Be that as it may, I can assure you that that woman who has waited, pined for you to come home and do all you said is not going to be happy with these changes and that will be a problem of epic proportions. Now, some of us are really just full of it, all things being for real! If that’s you, then I’m not talking to you, but if you are serious about your plans then you need to share with her that things may have to change be-

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Parole Success

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peared before the board, the individual was granted parole for deportation only.

On August 24, 2010, we held our second parole workshop in a prison, Arthur Kill Correctional Facility. The first one was held on March 17, 2009 at Eastern Correctional Facility. It was attended by more than 70 persons. Although it was difficult to hear that many of these men had been denied parole numerous times, the workshop was a tremendous success. We had two hours to disseminate information to the participants about how best to improve their performance at their next hearing. The workshop ended with a mock parole hearing. An individual that was scheduled to appear before the board in September was given the honor of sitting on the "hot seat" and fielding questions from the mock parole commissioners. Everyone in attendance were able to give him valuable advice about how to better improve his performance and we wish him well when he appears before the actual board at Arthur Kill.

We reiterate our promise to provide individual assistance to everyone that attended the workshop at Arthur Kill. The price for this assistance is simply become members of CPR. As good as it was to see so many old friends, particularly True, Bird and Web, I look forward to the day when I can visit a prison and ask how many people know my husband (released 7 years ago after serving 25 years in prison for a total of 32 years) and nobody does because all of those persons have been released. I will continue to work towards achieving that goal.

Claudette Spencer-Nurse



Great Expectations

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cause circumstances may dictate that they do. Now, I'm a big proponent of controlling your destiny and not letting situations and circumstances run your life, yet I am now smart enough to know that life and God has a way of imposing their will upon you. Of course, that's no excuse for not living up to your responsibilities as a man or being the man you promised in your woman's life, nor does it provide a reason to abandon all that you've stood and planned for. Watch your words because when you have to eat them they won't be as sweet as when you uttered them! Also, please watch all those grandiose plans you're making because I'm more than sure they'll have to change or be scrapped altogether.

Be considerate and conscientious enough to discuss with your woman the very real possibility that things will change when you're released, but still try to do everything to live up to your words. Expectations have ruined more relationships post-release than any other single factor except maybe infidelity and that's a subject for another time. I walked out of prison "ready for the world" and that did not protect or prepare me for some of the changes that came (and continue to come) my way. We, me and my wife, have surely had some rough patches with expectations on both of our parts and thank God to date that has ruined us (yet). It is still a struggle and God only knows what's lurking just around the corner or what other words I'll have to eat?! What do *they* say, "expect the unexpected."

Jerome Wright



The little organization that could

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advocating for fairness in parole. When only seven people show up to a free event that provides critical information to combat these parole denials (*see* Page 1, "CPR Successfully Preparing People for Parole"), then something *is* seriously wrong.

What ever happened to that critical mass of people that showed up at the first meeting that led to the creation of CPR? Have their loved ones been released?

Ms. Spencer-Nurse, whose husband was released more than seven years ago, still works, from Trinidad, on behalf of CPR. When CPR was struggling financially, Board members came out of their own pockets to keep the organization afloat. For many years CPR refused to raise its membership dues. On Page 7 there is a Notice about CPR's change in membership dues. We think that this is a small price to pay to support an organization that has tirelessly worked for fairness in parole for people convicted of violent crimes when practically no other organization would touch the issue.

We also call on people who have been released from prison to join CPR and/or help it in its work. If time doesn't permit, then become a Benefactor. (See Page 7.) There is no excuse not to be involved in some shape, form or fashion.

CPR has been able to do the work it has done over the past ten years because of the commitment of a small group of people. They know who they are so there is no need to "shout them out." Imagine though the work CPR could do if more people became actively involved or supported it in some way?



Surviving and Growing in the New York State Prison System

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To survive in here, without getting physically injured or catching a new bid (an additional sentence), I strongly suggest the following: 1. Under no circumstances should you be inclined to steal anything from another prisoner (regardless of what he's here for). If you require something, simply ask for it; 2. Avoid gangs, drugs, gambling and homosexuals; and 3. Do not live beyond your means. If you do not already have enough money in your inmate account, do not attempt to acquire anything from someone else with the promise of returning such when you go to commissary; if it's not there simply do without. This will build and strengthen your discipline, a requirement in society. Remember, in here, all you have is your word – you will be judged and treated according to such.

You also have to be extremely conscious of your surroundings – learn to read body language (it could possibly save your life). The same way you experience mood swings applies to every individual around you (some more than others). Everyone has a different breaking point and means of dealing with their current predicament (you must recognize such). Always be respectful and expect to be held accountable for your actions. This is a “thinking” man's world; the war in here is not a physical one, but rather psychological.

You should look forward to having your days go by as smoothly as possible. However, doing this on a daily basis requires plenty of concentration, patience and energy – it's literally a job in itself (you're interacting with hundreds of different personalities). Although it can keep you out of unnecessary trouble and builds you into a better person, then the hard work and dedication will have been worth the effort. Always think before you react to a situation. This frame of thinking

will also prepare you to reenter society (a place the majority of us will return to eventually).

To alleviate some of my stress and pent-up pain and frustration, I usually jog (3-5 miles) and workout with weights and do calisthenics. Upon completion (1 1/2-2 hours), I take a shower and utilize the remainder of the recreation period by walking around the yard (usually with one or two associates). This is my method of clearing my head of negative thoughts, so that I can focus on what's really important – regaining my freedom and becoming a productive, law-abiding citizen. (If you are not careful, this place will transform you into a bitter individual.)

Furthermore, I utilize as much of my time as possible programming. This also helps to build a strong work ethic. I completed the majority of my “required” programs (ART, Vocational, RSAT, etc.) within my first four years upstate. I even participated in volunteer programs (AVP, AA, NA, etc.). I've also spent my years of incarceration by improving my “employability” (Mechanical Drafting, General Business, General Mechanic, and HVAC Technician). This type of training gives me options, which will give me a better opportunity of obtaining decent employment upon my release.

On the flip side, there have been days where I woke up and just felt like giving up the daily struggle for a better tomorrow and simply blending in with my environment (abandon all of my morals, principles and dreams). Feeling alone will do this to you. This is where some will join a gang or start doing drugs. In the past, I would turn to my family for additional strength to get me back on track. Today, I basically rely on the knowledge that a large percentage of society honestly

believe that “all prisoners are pieces of shit – not worth saving” (some of us simply made a bad/terrible decision). Therefore, I must remain strong so that I can go home and prove these individuals wrong, because I can show them better than I can tell them.

I've also kept my inner circle extremely small over the years (4-6 people). I socialize with men who are sincere about prison reform and future plans for our success. Plus I do my best not to get caught-up in prison politics. It's a headache that I can definitely do without. Individuals really need to concentrate on obtaining an education while they have the time and opportunity to do so – an education is the first step to success (with limited exceptions). Let's leave the daily politics to the real politicians. Individuals must learn how to put their priorities in their proper perspective; change their negative ways of thinking and making decisions. With an open mind, you can actually learn much in here; although if you're doing the right things in society, you won't have to.

Also, our youth of today must realize that coming to prison should not be perceived as a “badge of honor,” but rather a “badge of dishonor.” There is nothing to glorify or be proud of concerning prison. It's a living Hell, especially if you have to do 10, 15, 20 or more years. Therefore, our community leaders, family members and organizations must come together and educate the youth – they are our leaders of tomorrow. We must teach and lead them by example. They must learn to retain their dignity, humility and self-respect by working constructively with their community members to make life better and safer for all within such, as opposed to destroying it by saturating it with drugs, gangs and violence. No one

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CPR'S 10th Anniversary Journal

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<p>Enclosed please find the amount of \$_____ as payment for</p> <p>Full page: <input type="checkbox"/> \$350.00</p> <p>Half Page: <input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00</p> <p>Quarter Page: <input type="checkbox"/> \$125.00</p> <p>Sponsors: <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25.00 – One line (Max 10 words)</p> <p>Supporters: <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00 (Name Listed)</p> <p>In Memoriam: <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1.00 Names of individuals that died behind the wall will be listed.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Company/Organization; _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone Number (s): _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Website: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: COALITION FOR PAROLE RESTORATION OR CPR AND SEND TO P.O. BOX 1379, NEW YORK, NY 10013-0877</p> <p>CPR is a 501 (c) (3) organization and all payments are tax deductible.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ATTACH ADS OR EMAIL THEM TO CPR AT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">parolecpr@yahoo.com</p> <p>Complete below for information for Sponsors, Supporters, and In Memoriam</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Deadline for Submission: November 30, 2010</p>
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Surviving and Growing in the New York State Prison System

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deserves to live in constant fear in their own neighborhood, especially at the hands of their own people. "Where has the love and unity gone?"

The bottom line: our presence here on earth is far too precious

and limited to be wasted. Crime and violence do not pay. Utilize my personal experiences as your example – do not make the same mistakes. For all of those who refuse to believe this, the Department of Correctional Services has a secured cage waiting just for

you or the local cemetery has a more permanent resting place. The choice is yours to make – choose wise, my brother(s) [and sister(s)].

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Niagara Prison Family Support Group

Our mission is to provide families and friends to gain support, education, and learn advocacy skills needed for helping themselves and a loved one who is or who has been in the prison system.

For Families and Friends of Prisoners, formerly incarcerated people and their families and interested community members

Free and Confidential

3rd Tuesday of every month
6:00 PM—7:30 PM

Niagara Falls Public Library, 2nd Floor
1425 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305
(Library policy does not permit food or drink — bottled water is okay); children must be supervised at all times.

For further information and to leave a confidential message call 236-0257 or e-mail niagarafamilies@aol.com.

Affiliate of prison **Families of New York, Inc.**
40 North Main Ave, Albany, NY 12203
518-453-6659; Wwww.prisonfamiliesofnewyork.org



CPR's Incarcerated Family Support Group

Do you have questions about visitation, tickets, appeals? Is your loved one going to the parole board and needs assistance preparing or do you just need someone to talk to about having a loved one in prison?

Come to the **Incarcerated Family Support Group** sponsored by the **Coalition for Parole Restoration**.

Date: The Second Tuesday of every month

Place: North Star Fund
520 8th Avenue (bet. 36th and 37th Aves)
Manhattan

Time: 6-8 pm

For further information, contact **CPR** at 718-786-4174 or parolecpr@yahoo.com or visit us on Facebook.



Change in CPR's Membership Dues

As of September 1, 2010, CPR annual membership dues will be increased as follows:

Individual Person in Prison - \$5.00 per year

Family Membership - \$25.00 (includes one person in prison)

Benefactor Membership – \$250 or more

Membership includes a subscription to the newsletter and a copy of the parole preparation manual. Additional copies can be sent for \$5.00 per copy.



CPR to do parole board appeals

Claudette Spencer-Nurse, an attorney and one of the founders of CPR, will do parole board appeals.

The fees are as follow:

Administrative Appeal — \$1500

Article 78 — \$3500

Administrative Appeal & Article 78 — \$4000.

Checks should be made out to the **Coalition for Parole Restoration**.



LIFT — Change of Address

Please update your records for Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT):

LIFT
350 Broadway, Suite 501
New York, NY 10013
212-343-1122
www.LIFT hotline.org

LIFT provides legal information and support services to unrepresented litigants in child support, custody, and visitation cases.



Poet's Place — Celebrating Fifty Years of Life

I saw the best minds of my generation drop out of school and get their education on the streets, in the schools of hard knocks: in group homes, reform schools, jails, reformatories and prisons. They dropped out of schools that didn't teach *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed*; schools that didn't understand the psyche of *The Wretched of the Earth*; schools that didn't challenge; schools that placed a premium on memorization and rote at the expense of thoughtfulness and learning; schools incapable of tapping into the creative energy of these minds descended from minds that were once trained in the greatest institutions of learning on Mother Earth, in Songhai, Ghana, Mali and Timbuktu; schools that taught history that excluded them and their contributions; schools that alienated them; schools that taught cruelty; schools with low ceilings and finite possibilities.

I saw the brightest boys of my generation descend into insanity. They were in the best high schools the City had to offer, but their minds were light-years ahead of the curriculum. We knew they were different, their heads shaped like eggs, but brilliant, not of the world they were relegated. They tutored others in math and science and instead of graffiti wrote formulas on the walls. They were bored in lab so conducted their own experiments, on stray cats and dogs – we saw their remains throughout the projects. They flew homing pigeons from coops on the projects' rooftops, sent esoteric messages to other egg heads throughout the City's housing developments. They experimented with mind-altering drugs – Acid, LSD and angel dust. They were our angels, not of the world they were relegated. They leapt off of tall buildings, believing they could fly like their pigeons, and they did, for a brief moment in time, only to crash land in the concrete jungle, their wings crushed and their bodies broken.

I saw the best physical specimens of my generation, the fastest, the strongest, play three sports with effortless grace, not become all Americans. I saw them earn full scholarships to play basketball but drop out of school in their freshman year because they refused to ride the bench behind the starters, when they knew that they ran faster and jumped higher and that they shot hoops with the accuracy of marksmen. So they returned to the streets, their dreams of playing pro basketball dashed on the hardwood floors of colleges eager to exploit their talent; instead they played in the summer leagues, more dazzling than the sun. And when the sun set, not only did the freaks come out – “The Freaks Come Out at Night” – but the gamblers collecting their winnings from the games, the pimps, hustlers, con men and gang members, the whole wide underworld. Then their physical prowess was put to

other tests. I saw them outrun cop cars and motorcycles and police dogs. I saw them hurdle five-foot fences, leap from building to building, with cops hot in pursuit, and they seemed to always get away. Before extreme sports were invented, they were pushing their bodies to the outer limits, redefining the use of space. I saw them subway surfing and elevator surfing, engaged in thrills that could kill.

I saw the boldest boys of my generation, those that didn't die young, graduate from petty to major crimes. It started innocently enough, playing hooky from school, stealing lunch from the *bodega*, but gradually escalated to shoplifting, burglary, armed robbery and even murder. From juvenile delinquents to juvenile offenders to youthful offenders to adult criminals. In the projects they hunted the rats for sport, with BB guns and bow and arrows; and it turned out that the animals' remains I saw throughout the projects was not the result of tests of the brilliant egg heads, but the evidence of their torture. They were not only the boldest, but also the most alienated of my generation. They descended into another kind of madness, defined by cruelty. They hated a world that hated them – “The Hate that Hate Produced.” They hated this world of low ceilings and finite possibilities. They hated this world that would deny them their dreams. Thus they ended up in group homes, reform schools, jails, reformatories and prisons. A lawyer would later tell me that all of this was “inevitable,” which made me think of the Watchers, the Watchers from behind Venetian blinds, the projects' old ones in the know, septuagenarian seers, who predicted that many of my generation wouldn't amount to anything, that we'd end up in group homes, reform schools, jails, reformatories and prisons, that many of us would not live long, that many of us certainly would not live to see fifty years.

I saw the bravest boys of my generation find their way out of the projects and into basic training. They knew that there was no way they could be all they wanted to be in a housing development with low ceilings and finite possibilities. They went from leaping from building to building to jumping out of airplanes to fight in Granada and Panama. They were honor guards in championship games, those games the best physical specimens of my generation should've been playing in. They were in the Marines, in the Army and the Navy. They swaggered down the streets of Spain, ran with the bulls, found cheap thrills in Manila with “our little brown cousins,” redefined what it meant to be a warrior in Japan, fished in Korea and drank beer in Germany and convinced the frauleins that Hitler got it wrong, that these physical specimens were part of the Master

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Winners of the 4th Annual Citizens' Awards

CPR congratulates the winners of the Fourth Annual Citizens' Awards:

- **John (“Jay”) Coleman**

NYSDA's Client Advisory Board

Eddie Ellis Life Time Achievement Award

- **Todd and Lance Feurtado**

King of Kings Foundation, Inc.

Citizens Social Action Award for Grassroots Activism

- **Julia Long**

Policy Analyst, NYS Senate Standing Committee on Crime, Crime Victims and Correction, Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson

Julio Medina Freedom Award

- **Anthony McFadden**

The Doe Fund's Ready, Willing and Able Program

William Eric Waters Bridge Builder Award

- **Tina Reynolds**

Women on the Rise Telling HerStory (WORTH)

Glenn E. Martin Advocate of the Year

- **Sheryl Sohn**

Exodus Transitional Community

Citizens Social Action Award



Surviving the NYS Prison System

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I personally look forward to living a prosperous life with my family and loved ones, as a free man, where I can become an asset as opposed to a liability. As a man, it is my responsibility to raise and provide for my family --- not NY State's.

M. Hattley, #93A9739

A NYS Prison Lifer

The Sentencing Project Releases Disenfranchisement Report

The Sentencing Project released a new report, *Expanding the Vote: State Felony Disenfranchisement reform, 1997-2010, October 2010*, on felon disenfranchisement laws which found that 800,000 people have regained their right to vote since 1997 thanks to reforms in voting laws in 23 states. These include the repeal of lifetime bans in nine states; three states expanding the right to vote for those under community supervision (probation and parole); eight states easing the process to regain the right to vote after a completed sentence; and three states improving data and information sharing.

The *Baltimore Chronicle and Sentinel* reported on the 2007 changes made by Maryland, with attention being paid to the automatic restoration of voting rights to all people who complete their full sentence. This returned the right to vote to more than 52,000 people in the state. See other news coverage at *Chicago Now* and *The Crime Report*.

The report was also accompanied by the personal stories of three individuals affected by disenfranchisement laws.



The Sentencing Project
1705 DeSales Street, NW
8th Floor
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Celebrating Fifty Years of Life

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Race – you *could* take them out of the ghetto – none of them came back to the projects. Later, I saw them, military erect, at the funerals of their parents and their younger siblings, casualties of the wars on poverty and crime. We looked at each other, nodding, acknowledging that we were still here, more than survivors, smart, sane, in shape and unbroken – celebrating life.

E-Z Waters



CPR'S MISSION STATEMENT

The Coalition for Parole Restoration is a broad-based grassroots organization created to inform, organize and bring to light all aspects of the prison industrial complex as it affects our communities, families, people in prison and formerly incarcerated persons.

Our mission is two-fold: (1) to assist people in prison in obtaining parole release and (2) to assist formerly incarcerated persons and their families with transition and re-entry.

Membership & Dues Structure

* FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$25.00 PER YEAR
(PERSON IN PRISON INCLUDED)

* INDIVIDUAL PERSON IN PRISON - \$5.00 PER YEAR

* BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP – \$250 OR MORE PER YEAR

YEAR WILL BEGIN IN THE MONTH THAT THE MEMBERSHIP DUES IS RECEIVED AND END IN THE SAME MONTH THE FOLLOWING YEAR

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO RECEIVE CPR'S NEWSLETTER, WHICH IS PUBLISHED EIGHT TIMES A YEAR, A COPY OF THE PAROLE PREPARATION MANUAL, AND NOTICE OF ALL CPR-SPONSORED MEETINGS, RALLIES AND EVENTS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, POEM, ETC. TO THE NEWSLETTER, YOU SHOULD SEND IT BY EMAIL OR U.S. MAIL BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE MONTH IN WHICH THE NEWSLETTER IS BEING PRINTED. SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE 750 WORDS OR LESS AND WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT ANYTHING APPEARING IN THE NEWSLETTER. ALL WORKS MUST BE ORIGINAL. WE WILL NOT PUBLISH ANYTHING WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR.

COALITION FOR PAROLE RESTORATION

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