

Texas Defender Service

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Contact: Laura Burstein at 202-626-6868 or 202-669-3411 (cell) or lburstein@ssd.com

Victims, Jurors Urge Clemency for Tim Adams

Family, Church Members, Sunday School Teacher, Military and Work Supervisors Say Crime was an Aberration in Veteran's Life

(Austin, Texas) Attorneys for Tim Adams filed a clemency petition today urging the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to vote to spare Mr. Adams' life and to ask Governor Rick Perry to commute his death sentence to life in prison without parole. Mr. Adams is an army veteran with no criminal history, not even an arrest, until he snapped and killed his son while planning his suicide in 2002. His execution is scheduled for February 22.

"Our family lost one child. We can't bear to lose another. After my grandson's death, we lived through pain worse than anyone could imagine. Nothing good will come from executing my son Tim and causing us more anguish," said Columbus Adams, Mr. Adams' father and a 30 year veteran of the Houston Fire Department. "We pray that God will fill Governor Perry's heart with compassion. If not for Tim, then at least for our family."

Three jurors from Mr. Adams' trial have come forward to request a commutation of Mr. Adams' death sentence to one of life. They believe they were not presented at trial with a complete picture of Mr. Adams' character and religious background. They believe that information relating to Mr. Adams's upbringing, deep devotion to religion, and mental state would have caused them to stick with their initial inclination, which was to spare Mr. Adams and sentence him to life in prison.

Mr. Adams is loved and supported by members of his church, work supervisors, fellow soldiers from the military, and many others. For example:

- Mr. Adams was raised in a Christian home and was active member of New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Houston. His Sunday school teacher, Verlene Edmond, remembers Mr. Adams as "quiet" and "polite" as a teenager and supports a commutation of Mr. Adams' sentence.
- When Mr. Adams graduated from high school, he enlisted in the army and served his country. Mr. Adams' friend Roger West, now a Sergeant First Class in the United States Army and Purple Heart recipient, said that he wishes he could have "a whole platoon of guys like Tim." Mr. Adams was honorably discharged in 1989.
- Mr. Adams was always a hard worker who wanted to support his young family. He worked as a security guard at Greenway Plaza in Houston. He was such a good worker that he was quickly promoted to supervisor of all security shifts. Tim's supervisor, Diane Garcia, received "many, many positive comments and feedback on Tim's performance."

- Mr. Adams was a role model to his younger siblings. Chadrick Adams, Mr. Adams' brother, said his older brother taught him his work ethic and inspired him to earn a scholarship to and graduate from college. Chadrick Adams is a teacher in Houston.

From the beginning, Mr. Adams accepted responsibility for what he did. He pleaded guilty in open court and before the jury, even though he was not offered anything in return for his plea.

Mr. Adams has spent his time on death row reflecting on what he did, seeking forgiveness from his family, friends and God, and deepening his faith in Jesus Christ. He has been a model prisoner without a single disciplinary write-up on his record – not even for a minor infraction – during his eight years in prison.

Mr. Adams is not a danger to anyone and never will be. If the Governor commutes his death sentence, he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

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Mr. Adams' clemency petition is posted at <http://www.timothywayneadams.com/>.

To speak with Mr. Adams' attorneys or family members, please contact Laura Burstein at 202-626-6868 or lburstein@ssd.com.