



RICHMOND CHAPTER

**SOCIETY OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS
of the
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, INC.**

July 8, 2008

OFFICERS
2007-2008

HENRY O. HANDY, JR.
CHAIRMAN

JOSEPH W. ROHR
CHAIRMAN-ELECT.

LANNIE R. CRUMP
SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE

HENRY O. HANDY, JR.

JOSEPH W. ROHR

LANNIE R. CRUMP

JAY COCHRAN, JR.

THOMAS F. DRUMM

HUGH J. MCMENAMIN

THOMAS J. O'DONNELL

The below listed members of the Richmond Chapter of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI respectfully and urgently request you to grant pardons to Joseph Dick, Derek Tice, Danial Williams, and Eric Wilson, petitions for which are currently pending in your office. We have carefully examined the facts in their cases and believe that these four men have been wrongfully convicted for a rape and murder that they did not commit.

We have not reached this conclusion lightly. As former law enforcement officers, most of whom spent decades investigating serious violent felonies, we worked to hold violent offenders accountable for their crimes. However, we also believe that law enforcement has an obligation to protect the innocent from wrongful conviction. Otherwise, the respect that our justice system requires and deserves will be tarnished. We believe a tragic mistake has occurred in the cases of these four former Navy sailors, three of whom are currently serving life in prison without the possibility of parole.

From our review of the facts of these cases, we conclude that only one person sexually assaulted and murdered the victim in this case. Fortunately, that man, Omar Ballard, has been convicted and is being punished for his violent acts. The evidence that Omar Ballard committed this crime alone is overwhelming. The DNA profiles produced from the crime scene evidence, the autopsy results, the physical condition of the crime scene, and many other pieces of physical evidence, when considered together, convince us that this was a single-offender crime. Once implicated by DNA evidence, Omar Ballard confessed to the police and bragged that he committed the crime by himself. Ballard's confession is completely consistent with the physical evidence.

On the other hand, the "confessions" of the four Navy veterans are completely inconsistent with the physical evidence and have all of the hallmarks of false confessions.

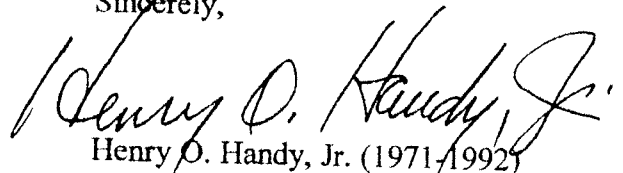
The members of our Chapter have vast experience in questioning suspects and we know, first hand, the power of certain interrogation techniques to produce confessions. However, we also know that in rare cases, these techniques can produce false confessions. For this reason additional investigation is essential to help insure confessions are reliable.

The confessions of Joseph Dick, Derek Tice, Danial Williams, and Eric Wilson are completely uncorroborated. The statements obtained from these men clash starkly with the known facts of the case and the physical evidence. Our experience tells us that these confessions should be discounted entirely. We are convinced that these confessions are false and that all four of these men are innocent of these crimes.

In closing, we want you to know that in service to our country justice was our guiding principle. In our view, justice has not yet been served in this matter and can now only be served by your granting complete pardons to Joseph Dick, Derek Tice, Danial Williams, and Eric Wilson.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Henry O. Handy, Jr. (1971-1992)
Chairman

Concurring Members:

Jay Barron (1969-2001)	Mike Johnston (1980-2003)
Tom Carter (1969-2001)	Joe Jordan (1963-1989)
Bryan Childress (1963-1986)	Lou Lueders (1946-1975)
Jay Cochran (1952-1979)	Hugh McMenamin (1966-1994)
Walt Coffin (1965-1985)	Denise Miller (1982-1986)
Lannie Crump (1971-1982)	Thomas O'Donnell (1965-1999)
Jack Davis (1965-1990)	Joe Rohr (1976-1996)
Bill Dawson (1951-1979)	Larry Smith (1983-2006)
Tom Drumm (1963-1984)	Frank Stokes (1971-2001)
Bill Falls (1978-2003)	Ed Stonko 1958-1980)
Mike Gallogly (1972-2001)	Paul Storer (1976-1999)
John Holroyd (1971-2003)	Allan Trosclair (1969-1982)
Gene Hutcherson (1967-2001)	

Cc: Larry Roberts, Esq.
Counsel to the Governor
Office of Governor Timothy M. Kaine
Richmond, Virginia