



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to another edition of Second Chance Quest’s Newsletter. The focal point of SCQ-Newsletter is to serve both the prison population and the public by bringing awareness to issues that are pertinent and relevant to both groups. Furthermore; we seek to bridge the gap in hope that together we can work diligently to better our nation.

Our message statement at Second Chance Quest is: *“The ends you serve that are selfish will take you no further than yourself. But the ends you serve that are for all in common, will take you into eternity.”*
-Marcus Garvey

Most support and feedback are welcome in our newsletters. We would like to encourage you to sign up and become a member of this vastly growing non profit organization. We look forward to hearing from you. Kindly encourage a friend today, to log on to our website, follow us on social media and join this national movement!

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RALPH NORTHAM UNVEILS AGENDA TO REFORM VIRGINIA’S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Richmond, VA – Today, Lieutenant Governor Northam unveiled his agenda to reform Virginia’s criminal justice system. In a Medium post published today, he outlined the current administration’s efforts to make the system fairer, and presented his plans to continue making progress as governor.

The plan is a comprehensive approach to reform, including:

- Increased support for substance abuse treatment programs
- Continuing the restoration of rights of those who have paid their debts to society
- Decriminalizing marijuana possession
- Ending the practice of suspending a driver’s license simply because a person can’t afford to pay court costs
- Raise felon larceny threshold to \$500
- Invest in mental health in jails and prisons
- Encourage community-based alternatives to juvenile correctional centers
- End the school-to-prison pipeline

In the post, Lieutenant Governor Northam wrote, “The work of creating a fair and equal criminal justice system is far from finished..We must continue marching towards those ideals written in our founding documents—that all people are to be treated equally under our laws.”

A More Fair And Just Virginia Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam

For much of its history, Virginia, the “cradle of American democracy,” failed to live up to our ideals. All too often, our Commonwealth still treats whites by one set of standards and people of color by another. While we’ve made progress in closing this gap, the work of creating a fair and equal criminal justice system is far from finished.

I’m proud of our administration’s efforts to reform our criminal justice system. Forty states in America have made the restoration of rights automatic. It was past time for Virginia to become a progressive leader on this issue. That’s why Governor Terry McAuliffe took bold action and restored the rights of more than 130,000 men and women who’d paid their debts to society.

Some have characterized this in political terms. However, they don’t describe the origins of how this constitutional amendment came to be. At the time, Senator Carter Glass said the provisions were

VOICES FROM BEHIND THE WALL!!!

"YOUNG, IMPRESSIONABLE AND IN PRISON"

Young, impressionable and in prison. Three descriptive qualities which can be used to characterize the multitude in the penal system. For some this is their first time being locked up, while there are those that have been through these gates several times in a cycle call recidivism. I, at twenty-two years old, fit this niche in society. My crimes have gotten me to this point in my young life, as well as the crimes of my juvenile past. I was a ward of the state through the Department of Juvenile Justice and am now one through the Department of Correction.

Now, I could go on a rant about the injustices I've suffered at the hands of my warders, and about the lack of effort to provide rehabilitative services on the part of the courts, but I won't because I was raised to not "pass the buck", but instead to, "buck-up" and own my life and the decisions I've made. In reality, I did it to myself and in order for me to gain anything positive from this experience (however agonizing and uncomfortable) I must first realize that just as I made the decision to commit the offence, I must put forward even a greater effort to better myself. I refuse to be in-and-out of these facilities for the better part of my life.

[Asad]

"CHANGES"

Sometimes suddenly... Without warning or any preparation, you either accept it or reject it with little to no hesitation!

Sometimes it's a process... You weigh the odds and consequences;

You make plans for the future, and you stick with your decisions.

Everybody criticizes... Sometimes constructive other times destructive. Regardless of people's opinions, you must "somehow" be productive!

The person in the mirror... somehow is always looking back, so be straight with yourself so you know who you're looking at!!!

Make the change to be the change, means changing your own life, no matter what it's up to you... So take the time to get it right!!

[The Madd Poet]

PHILANTHROPIC PERCEPTION

The time has come for us to move forward in the spirit of returning what has been taken from society, our families, and you as a man - Responsibility! Listening to us whimper, I begin to wonder, why even complain if we choose not to change our actions? Quick to place blame on everyone else but ourselves. How can we continue to ignore the fact that our children are being raised without us, due to our crimes, someone's life will never be the same, the list goes on...

I've been pulling licks (crimes) for most of my life, but never gave thought to whom I may have hurt. "We deserve to be treated like humans", came the cry of the prisoners, but evidently we weren't concerned about the well being of the victims when we demanded their valuables, or smoked (kill)



that youngin' for running his mouth, What about their lives, their rights? I guess your response may be, "damn them... Welcome to your harsh reality...huhh! If that's the case, why should anyone have sympathy for you, us, when we could care less about our victims? Can you even understand where I'm coming from?

Depending on our wishful thinking, and hoping the mood of the politicians will change in our favor, in reinstating 65% parole eligibility. That would spell the difference between day and night for countless prisoners. In the meantime, we need to take this time to change ourselves and incorporate a sense of giving back to society. Giving back to society indicates that you have change and should be afforded the opportunity to be paroled. It will speak volumes of your growth and your maturity as an adult. "Power is not in holding, but in giving away." - **Maestro Ben Zander [Abdus-Salaam] Os expel mi, si**



WORDS FROM THE WISE...

"Shortsighted behavior, motivated by a desire for instant gratification and social acceptance. Comes at the expense of your future." -T.D. Jakes

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE?

"As men, we sometimes let our selfish and inconsiderate egos speak for us. We should be more patient with situations and with each other. We often do what we think is best for us in that "right now" moment, which can cause future issues. Let's create the habit of being considerate and things will change for the better." -Shaun

RALPH NORTHAM UNVEILS AGENDA TO REFORM VIRGINIA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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meant to “eliminate the darky as a political factor in this state.”

This makes it clear: The restoration of rights is not about politics.

This is about the American ideal of providing second chances. Oftentimes, individuals who receive restitution are already making positive contributions to their communities. They are coaches, mentors, and businesspeople. They pay their taxes, and Governor McAuliffe’s actions meant they were no longer second-class citizens at the ballot box.

I’ve been a strong proponent of nonpartisan redistricting reform ever since I entered the Senate, co-sponsoring legislation with the late Senator John Miller to bring some sanity to redistricting. The Governor and I worked with Democrats in the Senate to stop Republican efforts to further gerrymander our legislative districts, and as governor, I’ll be a bulwark against further attempts to make voting more difficult and ensure redistricting is done fairly. Because in a democracy, we should be encouraging more people to vote, not less.

We’ve also gone to great lengths to reform our juvenile justice system, reducing recidivism for juveniles released from correctional facilities. With the tools available to us now, we’ve transformed the system by using data to put our young people on a better path. As governor, I will continue to encourage community-based alternatives to juvenile correctional centers (JCC). JCCs should always be the punishment of last resort, and I will continue this administration’s efforts to make them smaller and more rehabilitative.

We’ve seen the tragic consequences of not providing enough focus on diverting those with mental health problems from our jails and prisons to appropriate facilities. We took a

step in the right direction when we announced \$30 million in December for increased resources to improve mental health and substance abuse treatment, but we’re still asking too much of our law enforcement officers —we need to do more to get them the help they need.

This year, our administration introduced a package of reforms I believe are vitally important to our Commonwealth. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Ferguson report illuminated the negative impact fines, tickets, and fees have on low-income people trying to pull themselves out of poverty. This is why we want to do away with the practice of suspending a driver’s license simply because a person can’t afford to pay court costs. By taking away an individual’s transportation, you take away their ability to pay the fine and entrap them in a never-ending cycle of fines and fees.

The administration also proposed expanding the type of defendant who can file a writ of innocence. As DNA testing technology advances, we need to provide those who pled guilty because years ago they viewed that as their best option an opportunity to petition the court based on new evidence. It’s the only way to ensure we provide additional measures of fairness to our system.

Finally, a priority for both the legislature and our administration has been to raise the felony larceny threshold to \$500. We are currently tied for dead last in the United States for the lowest threshold. States like Georgia and Texas have already raised their thresholds well above our current levels. Virginia should be leading the way, not falling behind.

While we’re taking steps in the right direction, in order to secure these reforms, our next governor must be willing to continue the efforts started by Governor

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Check out our petition on
change.org

WORDS FROM THE WISE...

“I had a Dream!”

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE?

“Why did we stop dreaming?

We as a people once grow up with dreams, so why stop? You know as kids, dreams was all we had to look forward to, whether it was playing sports, teaching or whatever your dream may have been, but we had dreams none the same. These days, we so worried about the next person, thinking about what they have or what they doing, that we forget to follow our own dreams.

Instead of killing each other, and robbing each other, we should think about the plans we made as kids, and don’t lose sight of those dreams. We all had dreams, and I don’t know about anybody else but I plan on living mine one day, and if it’s my time to go I’ll die trying. Dreams are made to be fulfilled. And always remember, anything is possible!”

-D.J.

CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

Second Chance Quest's Mission in Mentoring Children of Incarcerated parent (s): Statistics shows that the odds of children whose parents are incarcerated greatly increase in their running a muck with the Justice System as they get older. Furthermore; many become unruly, depressed, and develop low self-esteem.

According to an article by Mr. Henrie M. Treadwell of The Times of Trenton, he wrote: "Studies suggest that girls with an incarcerated household member have sex at younger ages, are less likely to use contraceptives, have more sexual partners and are more likely to become pregnant before the age of 20. Other researchers report that high levels of incarceration affect the ability of African-American male adolescents to imagine their future, due to the absence of so many men as role models in their homes and neighborhood. Overall, research indicates that 23 percent of children with a father who have served time in jail or prison have been expelled or suspended from school. Parental incarceration is correlated with higher school dropout rates, lower academic achievement, greater involvement with juvenile justice and ultimately more involvement with the criminal justice system as offenders themselves."

Mr. Treadwell further states, "Currently, in the United States, one in 134 adults is in jail or prison. Among African-American adults, the number is nearly one in 20." He further states, "In 2007, approximately 1.7 million African-American children, or one in 15, had a parent, in prison on any given day. Data for jails, probation and parole are not available."

We at Second Chance Quest believes, as a society, we owe it to the decency within each of us that once a trusted study points to the cause of the ills of our society, we do everything in our collective power to remedy that ailment. For surely, this is an ailment that affects our entire nation, for we all foot the bill in paying higher taxes.

It is in this regard, along with many troubling statistics, that have led to the formation of this specialized branch of Second Chance Quest, which is dedicated solely in mentoring children of incarcerated parents.

Objective/Mission: To mentor at-risk children, namely, those who are found to have one or both parents in prison. Second Chance Quest will continue to play a pivotal role in these children's lives until adulthood, in an ongoing effort to reduce the cycle of incarceration.

We will bring these children to our facility twice a week in which they will have access to a social-worker, and interaction with professionals from every walk of our society. These professionals will be advised and share their own life stories with the children in the hope of encouraging them that they too can become whatever they want to be in life.

Second Chance Quest's program will enable these children to focus on education, enhance self-development, and minimize interaction with the perils of the street.

SCQ Goals:

- Retain diverse staff of professionals and volunteers
- Empower youth to become productive members of society
- Improve quality of life for at-risk youth
- Give youth a sense of pride, and self-worth
- Tear down the walls of poverty and racial barriers
- Strive as one unit to improve youth, communities, and the nation

SCQ Activities:

- Camping
- Fishing
- Parks
- Sporting events
- National landmarks
- Access to multiple educational opportunities

Every child we turn away from the slippery slope of crime benefits each and everyone of us, and make our nation ever so much more safer for our children. Do join us in this concerted effort, do aid us with your tax deductible donations, and do become a volunteer member of Second Chance Quest.

WORDS FROM THE WISE...

"Jails and prisons are designed to break human beings, to convert (to change into something of a different form) the population into specimens in a zoo, obedient to our keepers but dangerous to each other." Angela Davis

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE?

"If you stop to take a few seconds to read this, ponder on it and consider your current surrounding!!!" -**Baker-El**



EXPLORING MILITARY SERVICE AS AN ALTERNATIVE SANCTION (PART 2)

By: Travis Wade Millburn, Eastern Kentucky University

Military Regulations, Coerced Enlistments, and Military Service as an Alternative:

Coerced enlistments, or the notion of them, are not a new phenomenon. For decades there have been several claims of judicial actions allowing military enlistment in lieu of imprisonment. Nevertheless, although there is supporting anecdotal evidence, official documentation of only one legal use of enlistment has been found (Mattock, 1960). The first recorded time that military service was used as an alternative of which I am aware occurred in the United States during world war II. This practice was used between 1940 and 1947. According to Mattock (1960), 2,942 male inmates from the state of Illinois were paroled from prison (not sentenced to military service) contingent upon their service with the U.S. Army. The recidivism rate for the men that were paroled during the same time frame as the men that were paroled into the military was more than four times greater than that of the almost 3,000 prisoners that served in the Army. Of the military parolees, only 3.4 percent were found in violation of their parole terms (Mattock, 1960). The prevalence of using military service as an alternative sanction increased in the 1960s during the Vietnam war. This type of coerced enlistment was not generally a problem involving crooked military recruiters, but instead involved civilian judges with good intentions for the criminals that they were sanctioning. Others with malevolent objectives (e.g. Counselors in reform Schools, legal guardians, police officers, and probation officials) have intervened to force such a deal on offenders (Dilloff, 1976). Anecdotal evidence gathered through interviews with various law enforcement officials supports this claim. Each branch of the military has addressed Military Service as an alternative Sanction in Some fashion and the regulations are derived from a federal statute designed to keep undesirables from enlisting in the military. 10 U.S.C. 504 (2006) states: (a) Insanity, desertion, felons, etc. - No person who is insane, intoxicated, or a deserter from an armed force, or who has been convicted of a felony, may be enlisted in any armed force. However, The Secretary concerned may authorize exceptions, in meritorious cases, for the enlistment of deserters and persons convicted of felonies (p. 257). Importantly, this federal statute does not address those that have been convicted of misdemeanors, which may be the people most likely to be considered for military service in lieu of other criminal sanctions."

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McAuliffe and attack systemic inequalities that create pockets of hopelessness.

It begins with investing in pre-K education because, as a pediatric neurologist, I know it's far more cost-effective to help a child grow at three or four, than it is for society to pay to make up the gap in high school. We must end the school-to-prison pipeline and create a pipeline from our high schools and community colleges directly to jobs for those who choose not to attend a four-year college.

We need to change sentencing laws that disproportionately hurt people of color. One of the best ways to do this is to decriminalize marijuana. African Americans are 2.8 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession in Virginia. The Commonwealth spends more than \$67 million on marijuana enforcement—money

that could be better spent on rehabilitation.

As a doctor, I'm becoming increasingly convinced by the data showing potential health benefits of marijuana, such as pain relief, drug-resistant epilepsy, and treatment for PTSD. By decriminalizing it, our researchers can better study the plant so doctors can more effectively prescribe drugs made from it.

It's clear there are still systemic inequalities within our judicial system. There is an emerging bipartisan consensus we need to reform our drug laws as they continue to hold back potential medical breakthroughs, and do long-term damage to communities of color. Decriminalizing marijuana is not a panacea, but it is a good place to start making progress.

At the same time, we must continue to expand access to new substance abuse treatment options and drug courts. Our administration has made progress in combating the opioid epidemic, but with three Virginians dying each day from accidental overdose we can't afford to slow down.

Progress in our country has always been too slow, and creating change has always been difficult, but we must continue marching towards those ideals written in our founding documents—that all people are to be treated equally under our laws. We still have a ways to go before the reality matches our creed, and I won't stop fighting to make our country and our Commonwealth live up to our beliefs.

To learn more about
Lieutenant Governor
Ralph Northam, or to support
visit www.ralphnortham.com

PETITION FOR PARDON

Mr. T. Bravo - President - SCQ

Second Chance Quest wants to encourage all prisoners to seek pardons from the governors of their perspective states. The information below is relevant to the prisoners in the State of Virginia.

Pardons are usually considered for exceptional situations. Virginia governors are normally reluctant to substitute their judgment for that of the courts. However, if an individual is able to provide substantial evidence of exceptional circumstances, he or she may submit a petition for pardon to the Governor. (If this petition for clemency is denied, the petitioner has no right of appeal, but may reapply after a two-year period.)

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There are three types of pardons: Simple, Conditional, and Absolute.

SIMPLE

A Simple Pardon is a statement of official forgiveness. While it does not expunge (remove the conviction from the record), it often serves as a means for the petitioner to advance for employment, education, and self-esteem. Evidence of good citizenship is required, as well as favorable recommendations from the Officials involved in the case and from the Virginia Parole Board.

A Simple Pardon is also an act by the Governor on behalf of the Commonwealth where official forgiveness is granted for a crime for which a person has been convicted. The Virginia Governor’s power of executive clemency only extends to Virginia convictions. The Office of the Governor has no jurisdiction over expungements, out-of-state convictions, or federal convictions. Currently to petition for a simple pardon, you must be free of all conditions set by the court on all convictions in all states followed by a waiting period of five years. To calculate the eligibility date to petition for a simple pardon, find your conviction date; add any conditions of the court including all suspended time, supervised and unsupervised probation, and good time behavior on all convictions in all states then add 5 years. To obtain a copy of your criminal record, contact the Virginia State Police – Criminal Records division. If a Virginia felony was involved, you MUST have been granted your Restoration of Rights before

appealing for a simple pardon. If a simple pardon is granted, a notation will be added to the criminal record showing the word “pardon” next to the conviction. A simple pardon does not remove the conviction from a criminal record. A simple pardon does not restore the right to possess a firearm. You must petition the appropriate Circuit Court pursuant to Va. Code §18.2-308.2.

CONDITIONAL

A Conditional Pardon is only available to people who are currently incarcerated. It is usually granted for early release, and involves certain conditions; if the conditions are violated, you can be sent back to prison. There must be extraordinary circumstances for an inmate to be considered for this type of pardon. It is an act by the Governor to modify or end a sentence imposed by the court. The Governor only grants a conditional pardon when there is substantial evidence of extraordinary circumstances to warrant it; such a pardon is not regarded as a substitute judgment for that of the convicting court. If you are a family member, you may file on behalf of a petitioner only with written consent from the petitioner

ABSOLUTE

An Absolute Pardon is rarely granted because it is based on the belief that the petitioner was unjustly convicted and is innocent. An absolute pardon is the only form

of executive clemency that would allow you to petition the court to have that conviction removed from your criminal record. It is a pardon that may be granted when the Governor is convinced that the petitioner is innocent of the charge for which he or she was convicted. An individual is eligible to petition for an absolute pardon ONLY if he/she pled Not Guilty throughout the judicial process and exhausted all forms of judicial appeals and other remedies. An absolute pardon is rarely granted. In 2004, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation giving individuals convicted of crime the opportunity to have the court itself consider claims of innocence, even after a conviction. If the court finds it made an erroneous conviction, the court then issues a Writ of Actual Innocence. (This legislation is in the Code of Virginia in Sections 19.2-327 through 19.2-327.13.) In most circumstances, this avenue for pardon must also be tried before appealing to the Governor. Writ of Actual Innocence paperwork should be filed with the Office of the Attorney General, not with the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. If all remedies have been exhausted as required by law, you may then submit a petition for an absolute pardon to the Governor, along with evidence that the court has rejected your claim under the new law above, or an explanation of the legal basis for why you believe the new law is not applicable to your situation.

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All petitions for pardon require you to submit the enclosed Virginia Pardon Questionnaire. All pardons will be processed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Office.

Feel free to direct all questions to:

Pardons Staff
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
PO Box 2454 • Richmond, VA 23218-2454
(804) 692-2542 • pardons@governor.virginia.gov

Secretary of the Commonwealth
Kelly Thomasson
PO Box 1475 • Richmond, VA 23218
(804) 785-2441

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING AND VOTING FOR THE RIGHT CANDIDATE:

Greetings to you brothers and sisters... A special thanks to the founding members of Second Chance Quest for starting such a positive movement. It is my hope that my words will enlighten, inspire, and motivate you towards progression.

I dare not make this about me, but about "us". For it is us, who can take "us" higher! The realities of life should be clear and in focus. Our world is rife with unproductive politics, race division, and social media rhetoric. Don't be distracted!

Our focus must be razor sharp, and provide deliberate action. Second Chance Quest is providing a vehicle for ideas and positive action - get involved!

This November, Mid-Term Elections, are critical in the continuation of parole for Virginians. I along with SCQ are urging Virginia prisoners to encourage their families to get out and vote in support of Lt. Governor Ralph Northam, Democrat for the next Governor of Virginia. Governor McAuliffe has been strong in his stance for parole, voters rights for ex-felons, and many other issues pertinent to prisoners. Lt. Governor Northam will give us the opportunity to continue that process! Please be inspired! The fight can seem daunting at times, but we must endure the adversity. The political process directly affects many important factors of life. It's

not good enough to show up every four years during the presidential elections. Your voice is needed on all levels of the process (Local, State). I urge you to write your elected officials, and have your family email or call them. We must humanize our stories, and show the possibilities of our contributions to society. We can want freedom - But what are we going to do with it?

My sincerest regards to all the supporters of this newsletter. We owe a measure of gratitude to the Second Chance Quest family. "Real words, from real people, inducing real change!" Stay inspired, get educated, and be involved...

By: Free 17

NEWLY APPOINTED VIRGINIA PAROLE BOARD CHAIRPERSON:

Adrienne Bennett has served as a member of the Virginia Parole Board since her appointment in October of 2015. On January 5, 2017 she was appointed to serve as chairman of the Virginia Parole Board. She has been an active member of the Virginia State Bar since 1998. Prior to her appointment to the Parole Board, she was a solo-practitioner for over 11 years, previously having been a partner in a small law firm and also having worked in both Norfolk and Virginia Beach Public Defender's Office. Ms. Bennett devotes the majority of her legal career to advocating in and out of court on behalf of abused, neglected and sexually exploited children as a certified Guardian ad litem. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 1994, with a B.S. in Political Science and a minor in Sociology. She received her Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1998. The Department of Corrections analysis shows Virginia has one of the lowest recidivism rates in the U.S.,.

By Jim Nolan, Richmond Times-Dispatch. More felons are making good on their second chances in

Virginia than just about any other state in the nation, according to an analysis by the Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) that compares recidivism rates. The analysis shows that among the 45 states that report three-year reincarceration rates, Virginia's rate was the lowest, at 23.4 percent in the three-year period ending in 2015. Specifically, of the 11,496 felons under supervision in the state system in 2012 who had the opportunity to recidivate - known as "State Responsible" offenders - VDOC said 2,687 were re-incarcerated within three years. The next closest State was Oklahoma with a 24 percent rate, followed by South Carolina, at 24.9 percent. Delaware finished last in the analysis with a recidivism rate of 69.7 percent, although its figures included local and State Offenders. VDOC officials said roughly nine out of every ten states inmates incarcerated in Virginia likely will be released one day, so Gov. Terry McAuliffe celebrated the recidivism numbers as good news. "Since the beginning of my administration, we have aggressively pursued policies and initiatives that rehabilitate

incarcerated individuals, so they can develop the tools and skills to be successful," McAuliffe Said. He hailed the results at a news conference Tuesday in Richmond attended by Secretary of Public Safety Brian J. Moran and Virginia Department of Corrections Director Harold Clarke. "This announcement is a strong indication that our correctional system reforms are helping ex-offenders become successful citizens once they leave prison," the governor added. "lower recidivism rates mean fewer crimes, fewer victims, and a safer Commonwealth." Not all trends seen in the analysis were positive. Using data from an earlier three-year period, the analysis shows that recidivism of Department of Corrections facility offenders known to have a "mental impairment" grew from 48.4 percent in 2009 to 55.6 percent in 2012. By comparison, the same classification of offenders with no known mental impairment experienced a drop during the same period from 21.1 percent to 19.2 percent.



**SECOND CHANCE QUEST,
WHAT IT MEANS TO ME:**

This organization will be a difference maker. It's a movement geared at paving the way for those who have made a few mistakes in their lives and are so deserving of a second chance. This organization will help bring about that second chance, and a brighter future for countless men and women. We all make mistakes, but what counts is how one corrects those mistakes! This organization will work diligently to give those men and women the opportunity at being responsible human beings. Once again, via military service or an adult style boot camp in exchange for early release and total expungement of all criminal records.

-Wykeen

**WHAT CAN I BRING TO THE TABLE
OF SECOND CHANCE QUEST?**

Second Chance Quest is a nonprofit organization founded by prisoners in Virginia. Second Chance Quest promotes the release of nonviolent prisoners who have served considerable time and poses no threat to public safety. We urge the President of the United States, state governors, and other policy makers to introduce and/or enact legislation and use existing mechanisms-like furlough, parole, compassionate release, clemency, etc.- to release nonviolent state and federal prisoners into military "programs" at the various branches of the United States Armed Forces (U.S.A.F.), or an Adult Boot Camp as an alternative sanction. At a time when the nationwide trend is shifting from "tough-on-crime" political rhetoric to "smart-on-crime" practices to reduce the mass U.S. prison population. Second Chance Quest will play a vital role in decarceration by/through what we call "Pathway To Freedom", which is the strategic release of nonviolent felons from prisons, jails, and detention facilities into the various branches of the U.S.A.F.

Second Chance Quest's "Pathway to Freedom" will create an avenue where nonviolent prisoners can EARN early release, have their civil rights restored, and have their criminal records expunged- all of which is contingent on nonviolent prisoners further repaying their debt to society by patriotically serving and protecting its freedoms through military service/duty, or undergoing an Adult Boot Camp program.

With the highest incarceration rate in the world, the United States currently has 2.5 million people confined in prisons, jails, and detention centers (many of them confined for nonviolent crimes) with an estimated cost of between \$75 to \$85 billion to American taxpayers. It is widely known that nonviolent felons are less deserving of the most severe punishment due to their minimum threat to public safety.

That being said, the primary goal and objective of SCQ is to: Lobby state and federal legislators to introduce and pass bipartisan "pathway to freedom" legislation that will require state and federal prison systems to conduct specialized review of suitable nonviolent prisoners to participate in the "pathway to freedom" program.

The evolution of Second Chance Quest shall be ongoing and we invite feedback and discussion on this and all related issues.

-Uhuru

WORDS FROM THE WISE...

"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back in the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a minute, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger for my long walk is not yet ended."

Nelson Mandela

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE?

"My understanding of this quote is no matter what happens in life you have to keep striving for improvement. You may be at the bottom of the stairs, but can get to the top, one step at a time. Not saying you won't miss a step, or even get tired of stepping. As long as you can look back and see the progress you have made. Once you get to the top the battle is still not over, you still got to strive, because your next battle may be a mountain you have to get to the top of! In other words, 'Always keep on pushin'!' Never get stagnated! Always strive for improvement or betterment of self." **-Reese**

MY GOAL FOR SECOND CHANCE QUEST:

My goal for Second Chance Quest is to develop it into a probable vehicle to reduce recidivism by showing a person who has made mistakes in life that they can change and live a productive life. I do believe that if a prisoner had the opportunity to serve his country in return for a clean slate and a chance to regain the admiration of their families, this country would find it difficult to produce a finer soldier. Those men and women if given the opportunity to experience different cultures and share in the company of different people, would return home with a wealth of knowledge to share with their children, and in turn, steer their children away from a life of crime and break the endless cycle of imprisonment. We have to establish an alternative sanction to imprisonment. I believe the military or an adult style boot camp is the answer. My personal goal for Second Chance Quest:

- 1) Reduce the amount of people coming in here (prison).
- 2) SCQ to be a vehicle to a success story amid bad times amongst diverse individuals.
- 3) Implement a program where prisoners and the public can feel good about.
- 4) To start a program our families can be a part of and be proud of.

-Willis

SECOND CHANCE QUEST: NOT JUST AN OPTION.

In the real society we live in, storybook endings are just what the name suggests. Fiction, a fantasy for little boys and girls to dream about; but there comes a time when reality must be addressed, reality can't be dressed up, forgotten or escaped.

All too often, usually due to racial inequality, poverty, and poor schooling conditions in our neighborhoods, men, women, boys and girls are forced to turn to crime as a means to provide for themselves and their families. When there are a limited number of jobs that pay above minimum wage, people will find alternative avenues to make ends meet. Whether it's selling drugs, prostitution, boosting (theft), or now the more popular credit card scams, many have even become drug addicts. Most, are good people who had great dreams just like everyone else, but their options quickly ran out, and for most, it led to a jail cell.

Second Chance Quest will offer a link to the military, and therefore a means to escape to a better life all while serving the country and protecting the freedoms of the American people. This is a positive way to provide for one's family and to be a positive role model for one's children.

-Keyen



WORDS FROM THE WISE...

"You must first be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Ghandi

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE?

"Change is not hard, if you want it! The thought process of change must start within self. Whatever you think you become in your everyday life, you can't be too quick to judge another person for their actions, but rather, take enough time to judge your own actions within? We are what we repeatedly do! Who are we becoming as a people, and what change do we need in the world? Change self-hate for each other then you change the world."

-Flame



WORDS FROM THE WISE...

"Strategy One: Taking so many drops of good white blood and putting them into as many Black women as possible, varying the drops by the various tones that you want, and then letting them breed with each other until the circle of colors appear as you desire. What you've got is a multiplicity of colors. Crossbreeding completed, for further severance from their original beginning, we must completely annihilate the mother tongue and institute a new language that involves the new life's work. You know, language is a peculiar institution. It leads to the heart of people."

Willie Lynch

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE?

"What is your understanding? Take this and learn... Know the tactics that are still being used today." **-K.P.**

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

“The power of the Universal Declaration is the power of ideas to change the world. It inspires us to continue working to ensure that all people can gain freedom, equality and dignity. One vital aspect of this task is to empower people to demand what should be guaranteed: their human rights.”

-**Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Articles 1-10, we will feature several articles in each of our upcoming newsletters up to the final article.

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self governing or under the limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6: Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

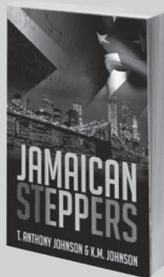
Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation to this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8: Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10: Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and any criminal charge against him.

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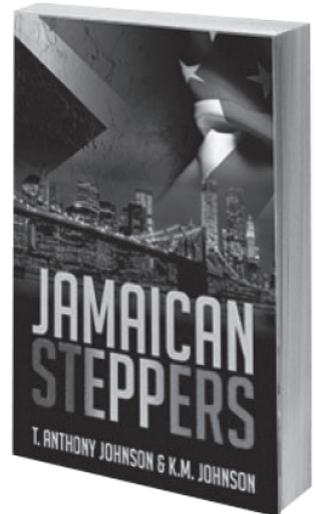
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Prisoners:
\$2.00

Families: \$25.00
(can include 1 prisoner)
\$10 Renewal annually

Non Profits:
\$50.00

Businesses:
\$65.00

members receive a 1-year subscription to our newsletter which is published quarterly. Members will also have member only access on our website where you can access the newsletter and other members only privy information. Donations will be used to support the mission of Second Chance Quest. Second Chance Quest is a nonprofit organization. We are privileged to be under the fiscal sponsorship of International Youth Organization 501(c)(3).

All donations to Second Chance Quest must be made out to:



International Youth Organization

703 S 12th Street,
Newark, NJ 07103

(973) 621-1100

Memo: For Project Second Chance Quest

Contributions made this way may be tax deductible.



PO Box 855
Maplewood, NJ 07040

<<Name>>
<<Facility>>
<<Address>>
<<City>> <<State>> <<Zip>>

FEEDBACK FROM THE “FREE” WORLD

These are some of the responses supporters gave when asked why they signed the petition.

I'm signing it because Rehabilitation is needed...

Bryant—North Augusta, SC

•••

To dismantle an unjust judicial system

Marsha—West Hempstead, NY

•••

I am a One time Felon. I Committed my felony at age 20. I was raised wrong and in a very broken home. I believe that you are still so young at 20 and have no idea what you are doing in life especially if you have such horrible role models. If you are fortunate enough to make it into true adulthood, married with a family, as a provider and functioning member of society then you should be able to have a true second chance. **Kenneth—Los Angeles, CA**

•••

I'm signing this because the judicial system needs to be reformed.

Dianne—Perth Amboy, NJ

•••

No one deserves to be harshly punished!!

Antionette—Evans, GA

True second chance

Antoine—Elizabeth, NJ

•••

People deserve a second chance, and in our society, a lot of older people with records only have them because of the racism that exist in America during the time of Jim Crow laws and policies like stop and frisk. If they did stop and frisk in neighborhoods outside of just the hood there'd be even more people with records. Give these people a chance to truly add to society.

Angel—Roselle Park, NJ

•••

After you paid your debt you deserve a real fair chance to start over.

Tawana—Wahiawa, HI

•••

Why not sign for something I believe in. The start to end injustices begins here!

Angie—Orange, NJ

•••

Because I think our system is unfair and jails were built to incarcerate black people.

Camesha—Montclair, NJ

I would like to try & get my non violent charge expunged!!!

Charlotte—Wilkes-Barre, PA

•••

I signed because everyone deserves a chance to redeem themselves we all make mistakes so ask yourself what would Jesus do.

Michelle—Roselle, NJ

•••

It just make sense to give someone a 2nd chance to turn their life around and become great

Vanessa—Linden, NJ

•••

I think the criminal justice system needs all the help it can get, and if my signature can help make a positive change then that is certainly what I would like to see happen. I mean, why would you rather house prisoners in overcrowded prisons at an estimated \$29,000 a year when they could be in the free world working on highways, or picking up trash, giving back to the community in some form or fashion. It just seems like common sense to me!

Ranae—Dallas, TX

Virginia Pardon Petitioner Questionnaire

Mail to: Pardons, Secretary of the Commonwealth, PO Box 2454, Richmond, VA 23218

You must answer all questions and provide all relevant information necessary for your petition to be reviewed. If a question does not apply, put N/A in the blank. Documents (or copies of documents) submitted to our office for pardon consideration cannot be copied or returned. For this reason, please be sure to retain copies of all documents sent to our office. **To ensure an accurate petition, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of your criminal history from the Virginia State Police Criminal Records Division prior to submitting a pardon request.**

Please print or type the complete information in each blank.

1. Type of Pardon requested: (Select one) Review attached eligibility requirements before selecting.
_____ Simple _____ Absolute _____ Conditional
2. Petitioner's Full Legal Name: _____
3. Petitioner's Name at the time of conviction and/or any aliases: _____
4. Date of Birth: _____ 5. Social Security Number: _____
6. Mailing Address: _____
7. Home Phone/Cell Phone: _____ 8. Work Phone: _____
9. Email Address: _____
10. Inmate Number (if applicable) _____
11. Is this request related to immigration? _____ If so, what is your court date? _____
12. Contact information for individual(s) authorized by petitioner, to speak to our office:

On a separate sheet of paper, please provide the following information. Be sure to print your name and date of birth at the top of each additional page. Information may be typed or printed legibly on front of paper only.

- Include an explanation of why you feel the Governor should grant you a pardon.
- List your employment history for the last ten years. When available, include the start date, finish date, employer's name, employer's address, job title, and reason for leaving.
- List your educational accomplishments to include the names of schools attended, years attended, and any degrees or certifications received.
- List any military history. Include dates of service, branch of service, and type of discharge. If you did not receive an Honorable Discharge, state the reasons.
- List any community service or volunteer work you have performed.

-- Adult and Juvenile Criminal History --

On a separate sheet of paper, please provide all of the following information. Please indicate the conviction(s) for which you are seeking a pardon. Be sure to print your name and date of birth at the top of each additional page. Information may be typed or printed legibly on front of paper only.

- List **ALL** arrests even if they were dismissed by the court. Describe the events that lead to your arrest (what did you do to get arrested?)
For each arrest, list the following:
 - What were you charged with at the time of your arrest?
 - What were you convicted of by the court?
 - What is the date for each conviction?
 - What is the convicting court for each conviction?
 - Did you plead not guilty, guilty, or have a plea agreement?
 - Did you appeal the court's decision? If yes, provide date of appeal was dismissed.
 - Have you petitioned the Attorney General's Office for a Writ of Actual Innocence? If yes, provide date of petition.
 - What was the sentence for each conviction? When available, provide a copy of the Sentencing Order for each conviction.
 - If a Virginia felony was involved, include a copy of your Restoration of Rights paperwork.
 - Do you have any out-of-state or federal convictions? If yes, what were you charged with at the time of your arrest? What is the date for each conviction?

By signing, you are indicating that the information provided on this document and all attached documents is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge. Any untruthful statements may reflect unfavorably on your request.

Signature of Petitioner _____ Date: _____