

*Earl Eastridge,
Dad
675 King's Highway
Fredericksburg, VA 22405
November 10, 2000*

*John R. Simpson, Commissioner
United States Parole Commission
5550 Friendship Boulevard
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815*

Reference: Parole of Wayne Eastridge #179-164

Dear Commissioner Simpson,

My son, Joseph Wayne Eastridge, was convicted in Washington DC in January 1976 for murder. Since his conviction, I have spent much time and thousands of dollars for lawyers and investigators to prove his innocence – to no avail.

Then Centurion Ministries, seeking justice for innocent prisoners, responded to the case and came up with evidence proving him innocent.

During two District Court hearings, two judges admitted that he was not the murderer, but they still left an innocent man in prison. Why?

A parole officer who released another of the defendants remarked that he had studied all of the transcripts and couldn't understand why they were in for first-degree murder in the first place. In fact, the other defendants were released five years ago, while my son is still in prison.

Wayne had no previous criminal record, was a high school graduate, and spent three years in the army during the Vietnam conflict, and was honorably discharged. Wayne put his life on the line for freedom and justice. He was on a support team for paratroopers, delivering supplies to units in Vietnam.

He and one of his friends simply went to a party at a place in Arlington where they had never been before, and then ended up at a nightclub where there was a fight. Bullets were fired, evidently by the

gentleman who was killed, with Wayne almost being shot himself. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time then got him twenty-four of the best years of his life in prison.

Mr. Simpson, this has been a horrible twenty-four years for our family, as we have tried again and again to prove that Wayne was not involved in the killing.

In order to visit him, we had to travel to Atlanta, Fort Leavenworth, Lewisburg, Lorton, Texas, Tennessee, back to Lorton, and finally to Youngstown, Ohio, where he is now.

As I am now 82 years old, much of this travelling took place while I was far beyond the age when I could have retired. His mother is now in a nursing home, and it is questionable whether she will even be able to recognize him when he gets to see her once again.

I'm really tired, and would like to have a few remaining years with my son, and would like him to see his mother again before she passes away.

I know that you had nothing to do with his conviction, but we hope that you can use your authority to release my son, so that we can have some time together. On this Veteran's Day, as a World War II veteran, I'm hoping that you'll be able to help.

He has a job, an aunt left a house to him, he has much community support, and he will be a good citizen for the rest of his life.

Please help us.

God bless you,

*Earl Eastridge,
Wayne's Dad*