

opioids can quickly lead to seriously grave consequences when not prescribed properly.

While I realize this letter has become quite lengthy I felt it important to try to explain my personal experience as a juror so that you might understand my position after I reviewed the clemency hearing transcript and the supporting documentation. I would ask that you consider the impact it had on me as a juror trying to fulfill a civic duty. In two weeks Tibbets will be put to death for these awful murders. Imagine my anger when I was able to review the clemency transcript as well as supporting documentation in favor and opposed to clemency. Pages of relevant information concerning details of the abandonment, foster abuse, and re-abandonment and that it began before Tibbets was even two years old. The shocking revelation that Tibbets sister was available to testify, but was not included in the penalty phase testimony. The revelation that the prosecutors got it wrong if not lied about Tibbets siblings having normal lives. All of the above are of great concern to me. One other thing struck me as very odd about the clemency hearing. Of the two murders only one carried the death penalty and that was for Mr. Hicks. Despite its horror and gruesomeness why does the murder of Judith Sue Crawford occupy so much of the parole boards clemency proceedings when her murder does not carry the death penalty? Perhaps there is a legal reason for this, but it does not seem rational. As the death penalty is for the murder of Hicks it stands to reason that the proceedings should be limited to that murder. Reading through the clemency transcript it almost seems as if the parole board has somehow overrode the jury and has decided that Tibbets should have the death penalty for the murder of Ms. Crawford.

All of these things lead me to one conclusion and that is that the system was and seems to be today very flawed in this case. The State of Ohio (through Hamilton County) called on me to fulfill a civic duty one that included an unenviable task of possibly recommending death for another man. I fulfilled this duty faithfully. Governor, if we are going to have a legal process that can send criminals to death that includes a special phase for mitigation shouldn't we get it right? Shouldn't the officers of the court (primarily the defense attorneys) treat the life or death phase with great attention to detail and the respect it deserves?

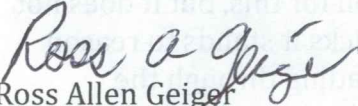
In conclusion, Tibbets is guilty and has forfeited forever his right to freedom. If the death penalty is reserved for the "worst of the worst", that is murderers that truly have no potential for redemption, then I ask you to grant mercy to Tibbets. Based on what I know today I would not have recommended the death penalty for the following mitigating factors:

- The truly terrible conditions, understated at trial, of Tibbets entire childhood
- The lack of preparation if not outright malpractice on the part of the defense for the sentencing phase
- The apparent withholding of information from the jury during the sentencing phase

- The apparent ineptitude of the defense team in not calling Tibbets sister to testify (what reasonable risk could this have had for Tibbets?)
- The prosecutors leading the jury to inaccurate conclusions about Tibbets siblings
- What I now believe were poor instructions to the jury regarding the autonomy of each juror in the sentencing phase
- The understated or not well understood impact that drugs and opioid prescription may have been a causal effect to increased drug abuse and a contributing factor to the murders
- The presumption that Tibbets does not have access to drugs or alcohol that are not prescribed by the prison medical staff
- The knowledge that he no longer poses a threat to society as he will be incarcerated until death
- The fact that clemency only has to be granted for the murder of Mr. Hicks

I urge you to show mercy by exercising your power of clemency by commuting his sentence of death by execution to one of death by imprisonment.

Respectfully,


Ross Allen Geiger
Loveland, Ohio