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For Immediate Release:

Judge Who Sentenced Creech, Others, Don't Think He Should Be Executed

The judge who put Thomas Creech on Death Row doesn't think he should be executed, and neither do many prison officials who respect the man that Creech has become during his 40 years behind bars.

In a declaration attached to a clemency application for Mr. Creech, Judge Robert Newhouse says that "no purpose would be served by executing him now" after he has spent more than 40 years on death row "with the threat of execution hanging over him."

Instead, Judge Newhouse believes the time Mr. Creech has served already and will further serve by spending the rest of his life in prison is enough punishment. And because there is no risk in commuting his sentence to life in prison without the possibility of parole, Judge Newhouse thinks that executing him would "just be an act of vengeance."

An assortment of prison officials, prison nurses, guards and others with more than 100 years of collective experience echo the judge's opinion that Mr. Creech's sentence should be commuted to life without parole. In their declarations supporting clemency for Mr. Creech, these individuals cite Mr. Creech's stellar behavior, his positive attitude, and his high respect, kindness and deep compassion for staff and fellow inmates among the reasons the Parole Commissioners should grant him mercy.

Mr. Creech is 73. He is regretful and remorseful for killing David Jensen. He has steered younger prisoners onto better paths. He has found faith and shared it with others. He has improved himself and those around him, and lifted countless spirits through his poetry and music.

Mr. Creech's execution will be devastating to the staff members and others who have grown close to him, and could trigger secondary trauma that they may never recover from.

For these and other reasons, Mr. Creech is seeking a full clemency hearing.