



Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative Newsletter

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Quote of the month: No one will ever get out of this world alive, Resolve, therefore to maintain a reasonable sense of values

Lead Story Headline

Most of you know that during last years general assembly session I had a heart attack and stroke. My dear friend, State Senator Jill Carter, has often stated that this line of work is not for the faint of heart, I should have taken note because I almost died.

“Walter Lomax, who spent 39 years of his life behind bars for a crime he didn’t commit, was about to testify before a Maryland Senate committee Wednesday when he slumped over and his heart stopped beating. The nearest defibrillator wasn’t working. So while another one was located, a state trooper and the Frederick County sheriff administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation for 9½ minutes — probably saving Lomax’s life, Senate President Bill Ferguson (D-Baltimore City) said Thursday.

Sen. Dolores G. Kelley (D-Baltimore County), the lead sponsor of the bill, said the hearing was the culmination of much of Lomax’s life work: ensuring that other exonerees did not have to fight to be compensated for wrongful conviction. He collapsed while talking to a reporter.

“The whole room was somber” during the hearing, Kelly said. “All we knew was that his heart stopped for minutes. . . . That was all we knew at the time.” Trooper Luke Rafer said he was notified of a medical emergency on the third floor of the Miller Senate Building just before noon. He sprinted up a flight of stairs and saw Sheriff Chuck Jenkins performing chest compressions on Lomax. Another person was checking for a pulse. There wasn’t any.

Jenkins had been working on Lomax for four minutes when Rafer took over. He pressed Lomax’s chest. Still no pulse. More minutes passed and finally, Rafer said, he heard a young woman say: “I feel something.” Another person — a doctor, Rafer thinks — used a working AED to shock Lomax. Meanwhile, the trooper continued chest compressions until the ambulance arrived.”

“To actually see him coming back,” Rafer said, shaking his head and smiling. “I just kept thinking, I’ve got to keep the heart going.”

Thankfully because of the diligent efforts of The sheriff and state trooper, I am still alive today.

MRJI Up-Date:

There has been some highs and lows for us during the past year:

Some lows were my health issues, the closing of our Park Ave. office space, and leaving Fusion Partnership, who had been our fiscal sponsor.

Some of the highs have been, my health has improved, we are operating the office out of my home, (for now) and we are now our own fiscal sponsor. (We have our own 501 (c3)

There have also been progress on other fronts.

The Juvenile Class Action law suit has finally been settled. (Check with the ACLU)

The compensation legislation (The Walter Lomax Act) finally passed. Seven of us have been compensated so far.

The Parole reform legislation (removing the governor from the parole process) finally passed.

The second chance JRA legislation for juveniles passed.

Of the more then 200 people released under the Unger decision only about seven (7) have violated the terms of their probation.

We have began working on addressing the many challenges faced with reentry, and building a network of support systems to meet most of the needs associated with reentry.

As is so often mentioned, “The strength of any effort is measured by the strength of its results. You will receive the exact measure of that which you put in.. Put in the work, and you will receive the results. IJS

These are some photos from an event William 'Billy' Murphy gave following our successful victory of both the actual innocent petition, and our efforts towards being compensated.

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The strength of any effort, is
the exact measure of its re-
sult.
“Never give in – Never give
up.”

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State Senator Jill, (“The peoples champion”) Carter, stated in her floor leadership position from the senate floor yesterday that it is a ‘moral imperative’ that the parole reform legislation must pass.

A moral imperative is a strongly-felt principle that compels that person to act. It is a kind of categorical imperative, as defined by Immanuel Kant. Kant took the imperative to be a dictate of pure reason, in its practical aspect. Not following the moral law was seen to be self-defeating and thus contrary to reason. Kant believed that the shared ability of humans to reason should be the basis of morality and that it is the ability to reason that makes humans morally significant.

I thought some people need to read this; we can agree to disagree, without being disagreeable if you have morality. However, without it, know this; I never seek to make sense out of nonsense. Jill said it all at the bills passing,

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will.

When The roads you're trudging seem all up hill. When the funds are low and the debts are high, and you want to smile, but you have to sigh. When cares are pressing you down a bit, rest if you must, but don't you quit. Life is strange with its twists and turns as every one of us sometimes learns. And many a failure turns about, when he might have won had he stuck it out. Don't give up though the pace seems slow.

You may succeed with another blow. Success is failure turned inside out, the silver tint of the clouds of doubt. And you can never tell how close you are, it may be near when it seems so far. So, stick to the fight, when you're hardest Hit. It's when things seem worst that you must not quit. I don't know who wrote this.

Anonymous