

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING HOUSE BILL 1382
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

NAME: Bruce E Bainbridge AGE: 37 AGE AT TIME OF ARREST: 24
CHARGE: Criminal Homicide DATE OF CONVICTION: January 10, 1980
TRIAL BY JUDGE: _____ JURY: yes DEGREE OF GUILT: 1st degree
COUNTY OF CONVICTION: Schuylkill

BRIEF OUTLINE OF CASE:

- July 16, 1979 out partying with a few friends.
- Later that day someone in the car I was driving, while at a convenience store got into an argument with alleged intended victim (David Dunsavage).
- I was pulled into argument - Broke it up - Continued on to party.
- Ended up in Pottsville early evening, came upon alleged intended victim. High speed chase began with two vehicles through Pottsville.
- I was driving and shooting a 22 pistol while on Rt 61 at the car in front.
- Upon re-entering Pottsville limits a final shot was fired for which a ricochet bullet hit bystander (John Grivnovics) standing on the sidewalk near a bus terminal. Died a short time later as a result of a single gunshot wound to the chest.
- January 10, 1980 I was convicted of first degree murder and related charges.
- June 23, 1982 sentenced to life in prison at Graterford.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS:

- G.E.D.
- Vocational Training; Electronics, Air conditioning & Refrigeration
- Montgomery County Community College, 42 credits toward Associate degree BM
- Villanova University, 54 credits toward Bachelor's program

CURRENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN INSTITUTION;

- Coordinator Family Resource Center
- Coordinator Reading Is Fundamental Project
- Coordinator Great Books Discussion Program
- Active member Holy Name Society
- Active Member Lifer's Inc
- Treasurer for Educational Council
- Clerk for Correctional Industries
- Victim Offender Reconciliation Project

ACTIVITIES WITHIN INSTITUTION:

Once I became confident in my ability to set and reach goals, and realized that I was cable of achievement, I made the conscious decision to work to improve the lives of my fellow prisoners, and make a significant contribution to the outside community.

Starting from 1976 until the present, I have been involved with the educational process from personal educational development, to tutoring fellow inmates through the Prison Literacy Project. This project was especially interesting to me since I recognized the importance of education and the powerful consequences it can have on shaping positive attitudes. I have also gone through the Thresholds Decision-Making program, and then became a teacher to train other inmates.

I made considerable efforts to rehabilitate myself and as a result, my accomplishments and achievements also include participation in treatment and therapeutic programs such as impulse control and communications under the prison's Staff Psychologist. I have committed myself to academic excellence, community service, and constructive organization leadership. In 1981 I became a member of the Lifers Organization and served as a member of the Judiciary Committee. I was appointed as chairman in 1987, where I received Chairman of The Year. I served one year as vice president, and three years as president, the position I hold today.

As part of my service to the outside community, I have organized youth programs such as the Pennsylvania Prison Runathon to raise funds for alternatives to incarceration to youth, and a pen-pal writing project with the Philadelphia Youth at Risk, a crime prevention program which utilizes life-term prisoners to communicate with delinquent youth as a way to stem the wave of violence out in the community. I have worked with the End Violence Project to promote the concept of ending violence in our society; helped to develop the Preventive Maintenance to End Violence Project which is now being used in Overbrook High school in Philadelphia.