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# HDR NEWS

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## AUGUST

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ISSUE 2  
8/2/25

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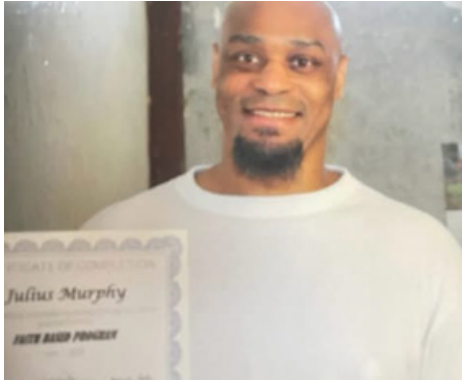
## **HUMANIZING DEATH ROW**

To end the death  
penalty and build a  
justice system rooted  
in humanity.

### **WELCOME**

Welcome to the official Humanizing Death Row Monthly Newsletter! Founded by Senior Spiritual Advisor, Reme, the purpose of our organization is to fight for a justice system rooted in humanity and serve as advocates for ALL neglected members of society. We extend our gratitude to all the members of our community. We are fighting for YOU!

# NEW MEMBERS TO THE HDR FAMILY



JULIUS MURPHY

## JULIUS MURPHY

Help Us Welcome Julius Murphy to the Humanizing Death Row Family!

We are honored to welcome Julius Jerome Murphy, a gifted writer currently incarcerated on Texas death row, to the Humanizing Death Row family.

Through his powerful words, Julius brings raw honesty, spiritual reflection, and deep insight into the human condition behind the walls. His voice reminds us that even in the darkest places, there is still purpose, creativity, and humanity.

Welcome to the family, Julius. We're honored to stand with you.

DEMETRIUS DEWAY SMITH



## DEMETRIUS DEWAY SMITH

PLEASE HELP US WELCOME DEMETRIUS DEWAY SMITH TO THE HUMANIZING DEATH ROW FAMILY

WE'RE HONORED TO WELCOME DEMETRIUS DEWAY SMITH, A NEW VOICE JOINING OUR HUMANIZING DEATH ROW FAMILY. DEMETRIUS IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED ON TEXAS DEATH ROW, AND THROUGH HIS STORY, WE ARE REMINDED ONCE AGAIN THAT EVERY PERSON IS MORE THAN THE WORST THING THEY'VE EVER DONE.

DEMETRIUS BRINGS WITH HIM STRENGTH, RESILIENCE, AND A WILLINGNESS TO BE SEEN—NOT AS A NUMBER, BUT AS A HUMAN BEING. BY SHARING HIS JOURNEY, HE JOINS A GROWING COMMUNITY OF MEN AND WOMEN DETERMINED TO BE HEARD, HEALED, AND UNDERSTOOD.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, DEMETRIUS. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.



COURTNEY LOCKHART

## COURTNEY LOCKHART

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, COURTNEY LOCKHART

WE'RE HONORED TO WELCOME COURTNEY LOCKHART INTO THE HUMANIZING DEATH ROW FAMILY. COURTNEY IS CURRENTLY ON ALABAMA DEATH ROW AND, LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, IS SEEKING HUMAN CONNECTION, UNDERSTANDING, AND A CHANCE TO BE SEEN BEYOND HIS SENTENCE.

EVERY VOICE MATTERS. EVERY STORY DESERVES TO BE HEARD.

LET'S CONTINUE TO BUILD A COMMUNITY ROOTED IN COMPASSION, DIGNITY, AND HOPE.

CHINCHILLA AKA XAVIER DAVIS



## XAVIER DAVIS

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, XAVIER DAVIS

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING XAVIER DAVIS TO THE HUMANIZING DEATH ROW FAMILY. XAVIER IS CURRENTLY ON TEXAS DEATH ROW AND IS SEEKING PEERS TO BUILD MEANINGFUL FRIENDSHIPS AND CONNECTION.

LETTERS CAN BE A POWERFUL REMINDER THAT NO ONE IS FORGOTTEN—AND THAT EVERY LIFE HAS VALUE.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WRITING TO XAVIER AND OFFERING SUPPORT THROUGH FRIENDSHIP, PLEASE REACH OUT. LET'S CONTINUE TO STAND TOGETHER IN COMPASSION, SOLIDARITY, AND HOPE.

# FEATURED ARTWORK



## ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY KRISTOPHER LOVE



## FEATURED ART

## ABOUT THE ARTIST



MEET KRISTOPHER LOVE — ADVOCATE, VISIONARY, AND CO-CREATOR  
WE ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE KRISTOPHER LOVE, CURRENTLY ON TEXAS DEATH ROW, AS A DEDICATED PERSONAL ADVOCATE FOR HUMANIZING DEATH ROW. KRISTOPHER PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE VISION OF OUR ORGANIZATION HE IS THE CREATIVE MIND BEHIND THE VERY NAME HUMANIZING DEATH ROW.

DESPITE THE CHALLENGES HE FACES, KRISTOPHER HAS CONSISTENTLY CONTRIBUTED POWERFUL IDEAS, HEARTFELT INSIGHTS, AND UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO HELP GROW THIS MOVEMENT. HIS BELIEF IN THE DIGNITY, HUMANITY, AND POTENTIAL OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS DEEPLY INFLUENCED OUR MISSION.

WE HONOR KRISTOPHER NOT JUST FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT FOR HIS COURAGE, LEADERSHIP, AND THE HOPE HE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE WITHIN AND BEYOND PRISON WALLS. HIS INVOLVEMENT REMINDS US THAT MEANINGFUL CHANGE OFTEN BEGINS WITH THOSE MOST AFFECTED.

THANK YOU, KRISTOPHER, FOR HELPING TO BUILD THIS FOUNDATION. YOUR VOICE MATTERS, AND YOUR IMPACT IS REAL.



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# POETRY FROM OUR MEMBERS

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WORD FORM-COURTNEY LOCKHART

IN THE 1ST OR 2ND GRADE I WAS IN THE THANKSGIVING PLAY AND I PLAYED THE TURKEY AND WHEN I CAME ON STAGE THE CROWD LAUGHED AND I LOOKED AND SAID WHAT YALL LAUGHING AT? AND I STARTED TO CRY. ITS A FUNNY STORY NOW BUT THAT MOMENT KINDA MADE ME SHY IN FRONT OF CROWDS. AS I WAS A LITTLE OLDER I REMEMBER WATCHING THIS OLD MOVIE CALLED " WEEKEND AT BERNIE'S " ( I THINK THAT'S THE NAME) WHERE THIS DEAD GUY WOULD START WALKING WHEN MUSIC WOULD PLAY OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND WHILE WATCHING THE MOVIE WITH FAMILY I GOT UP TO IMITATE BERNIE WALKING AND EVERYONE STARTED TO LAUGH THUS UNLOCKING A GOOFY SIDE OF ME WHICH I BELIEVED I HAD THE SWAGGER TO IMITATE THE ACTIONS OF PEOPLE TO MAKE OTHERS LAUGH. PEOPLE SAY I MAKE THEM LAUGH BECAUSE ITS LIKE I DON'T TRY I'M JUST FUNNY.

MY JR.HIGH DAYS WEREN'T BAD OR ANYTHING I MEAN I HAD FRIENDS AND ALL BUT I STILL HAD THAT SHYNESS ABOUT ME. IT WASN'T UNTIL MY SOPHOMORE YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL THAT I REALLY CAME OUT OF MY SHELL. I MUST ADMIT I WAS A BIT OF A CLASS CLOWN. I WAS JUST A TYPICAL TEENAGE KID WHO LOVED VIDEO GAMES PLAYING SPORTS AND JUST HANGING WITH FRIENDS. I ALWAYS WENT THROUGH SPRING FOOTBALL ONLY TO QUIT WHEN THE SEASON BEGIN I DON'T KNOW WHY. SAME THING WITH BASKETBALL PLAY A FEW GAMES OF THE SEASON AND JUST QUIT. ITS NOT LIKE I WAS BAD BUT I WASN'T KOBE OR JALEN HURTS EITHER. BUT TRACK I WAS GOOD AT I RAN THE 400, 800 AND THE 4\*4 RELAY. I REMEMBER ONE RACE I WAS SUPPOSED TO RUN ANCHOR BUT WE WERE DOWN IN THE RACE AND COACH SWITCHED ME TO 3RD LEG AND YES I GAVE US THE LEAD AND WE WON THE RELAY. WHAT I REMEMBER MOST ABOUT THAT RACE WAS HEARING MY MOM OVER EVERYONE IN THE CROWD WHILE I WAS RUNNING, YELLING RUN COURTNEY YOU BETTER CATCH HIM AND WHEN I PASSED THE GUY THE CROWD ERUPTED.

THAT RACE I RAN A 53 WHICH WAS MY FASTEST 400 EVER. AFTER THAT MY COACH BEGIN TO TALK TO ME ABOUT RUNNING IN COLLEGE ALTHOUGH JUST LIKE OTHER SPORTS I WOULD QUIT. AFTER LOOKING BACK I DIDN'T KNOW WHY I WOULD ALWAYS QUIT BUT IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I WAS ATTRACTED TO THE WRONG CROWD OF PEOPLE.

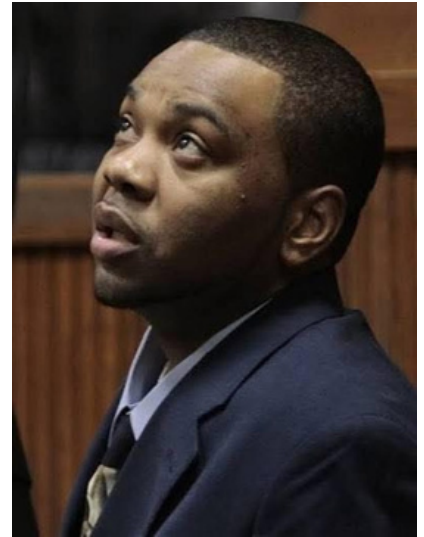
WE LIVED IN THE PROJECTS UNTIL I WAS IN THE 6TH OR 7TH GRADE. MY MOM MARRIED AND WE MOVED TO I GUESS YOU WOULD SAY THE WHITE PEOPLE SIDE OF TOWN. WHILE LIVING IN A HOUSE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD WAS ALL NEW TO ME I HAD NO FRIENDS AND MIND YOU I WAS STILL ATTENDING SCHOOL WITH MY OLD FRIENDS BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT WE LIVED IN. I DIDN'T REALLY GAIN FRIENDS IN THE NEW SIDE OF TOWN AGAIN UNTIL I WAS A SOPHOMORE AND WHILE ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL FUNCTIONS AT RIVAL SCHOOLS PEOPLE WOULD SAY HEY DON'T YOU LIVE BY ME WHY YOU DON'T GO TO SCHOOL WITH US? WHEN I DID START SCHOOL (10TH GRADE) IN THE DISTRICT I LIVED IN. IT WAS LIKE I WAS THE MAN I GUESS BECAUSE THIS PROJECT KID, NOW AROUND 60% WHITE KIDS COMING FROM A SCHOOL WERE IT WAS 80% BLACK WAS DIFFERENT. AND NOT ONLY THAT IT WAS DIFFERENT BEING AROUND FRIENDS WHO MOSTLY HAD BOTH FRIENDS AT HOME. THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT DID CHANGE ME IN A WAY AND IT WAS GOOD ALTHOUGH WHEN GOING BACK AROUND OLD FRIENDS THEY THOUGHT I WAS BOUJIE. I GUESS THAT'S WERE THE DISCONNECT CAME IN.

AS I GREW OLDER I WANTED TO WORK WITH KIDS FOR A LIVING AND EVEN THOUGH I WOULDN'T SAY IT OUT LOUD HERE I EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT. I JUST HAD THIS NEED TO HELP PEOPLE AND I STILL FEEL LIKE THAT TODAY AND ITS THE CAUSE OF MY FRUSTRATION A LOT BECAUSE THE ONES YOU HELP ALWAYS TAKE YOUR KINDNESS FOR WEAKNESS.

I FEEL LIKE I'M ALL OVER THE PLACE BUT LIKE I BEGIN THIS I JUST WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ME NOT JUST WORDS I SAY OR WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT ME.

I'M JUST A SIMPLE GUY WHO LOVES TO LOVE AND MAKE OTHERS HAPPY WHEN THEY ARE SAD. I JUST LIKE BE LIKED BY EVERYONE BUT I KNOW THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN.

COURTNEY LOCKHART  
ALABAMA DEATH -ROW



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# ***POETRY FROM OUR MEMBERS***

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## A POEM

DO I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN EVERYTHING  
YOU BELIEVE IN,  
TO BELIEVE IN YOU?  
TO BE HONEST THERE IS SOMETHING  
VERY UNSETTLING ABOUT IT,  
THINK ABOUT IT...  
DOESN'T THE DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE  
MAKE THE WORLD GO ROUND,  
GUESS I NEED SOME SQUARES IN MY  
CIRCLE.  
ME AND URKLE OR SHOULD I SAY URKLE  
AND MYSELF,  
WERE JUST CONVERSING ABOUT  
FINANCIAL LITERACY  
PIVOTING,  
IF YOU WANT PEACE THEN YOU MUST  
PREPARE FOR WAR.  
PROPER PREPARATION PREVENTS POOR  
PERFORMANCE,  
THE MORE YOU SWEAT IN TRAINING THE  
LESS YOU BLEED IN WAR.  
EXCUSES ARE NO EXCUSE BECAUSE IF  
YOU EXCUSE YOURSELF,  
WHO WOULD BE THERE TO BELIEVE IN  
YOU?  
BETTER YOU,  
BECAUSE WHO BETTER TO BELIEVE IN....

XAVIER DAVIS- AKA-CHINCHILLA  
TEXAS DEATH ROW



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# POETRY FROM OUR MEMBERS

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## YOU NEVER SAID

You never said  
Serving you would be easy  
And you never said  
Delivering me out of my pain would be speedily  
You never said  
All of my prayers would be answered  
And you never said  
My life wouldn't be endangered  
You never said  
I wouldn't ever doubt  
And you never said  
That I would fall from your grace  
You never said  
I wouldn't get angry at you  
Because I don't understand your way  
And you never said  
I would always have joy  
But you have said  
That you'll help me to cope with pain  
And that you'd answer me knowledge  
Enough to know you and your purpose  
For me is good, though I don't always understand you  
For you have said  
You are truth and your way is truth  
And in this I thank you.

**JULIUS JEROME MURPHY**

Texas death row  
Humanizing death row

you



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# WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDER

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## REME'S PRAYER

### A PRAYER FOR MY FAMILY & FRIENDS



Dear God,

As we come together in prayer,  
we lift up those on death row.  
Grant them hope and strength,  
and let them feel Your presence  
in their lives. May Your love  
bring them comfort and peace.

Amen.

*Reme*

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*"Remember those who are in prison,  
as though in prison with them..."*

♥ HUMANIZING DEATH ROW

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"NOT IN MY NAME"  
ORIGINAL WORKS FROM OUR FOUNDER

### Not In My Name

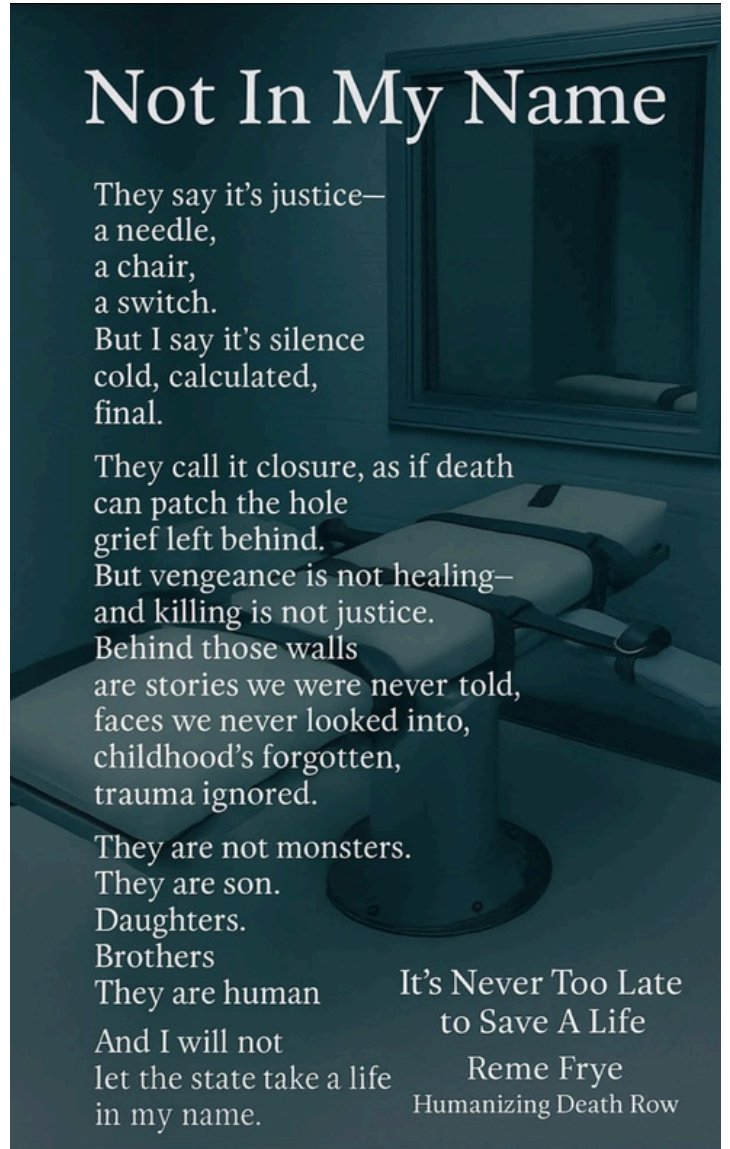
They say it's justice—  
a needle,  
a chair,  
a switch.  
But I say it's silence  
cold, calculated,  
final.

They call it closure, as if death  
can patch the hole  
grief left behind.  
But vengeance is not healing—  
and killing is not justice.  
Behind those walls  
are stories we were never told,  
faces we never looked into,  
childhood's forgotten,  
trauma ignored.

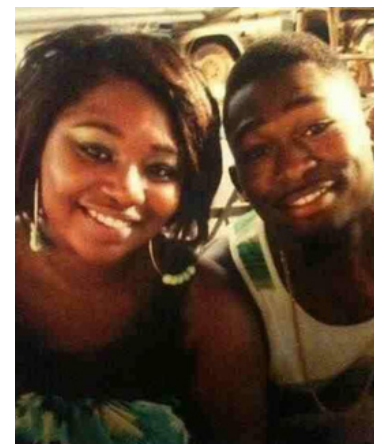
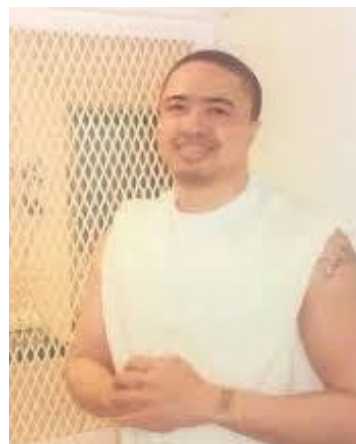
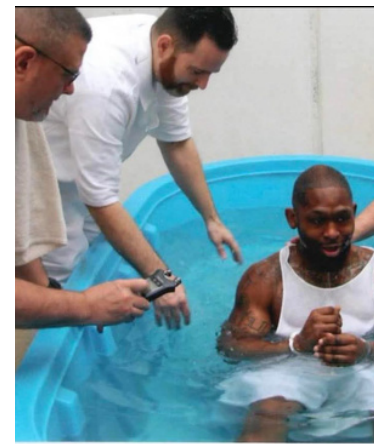
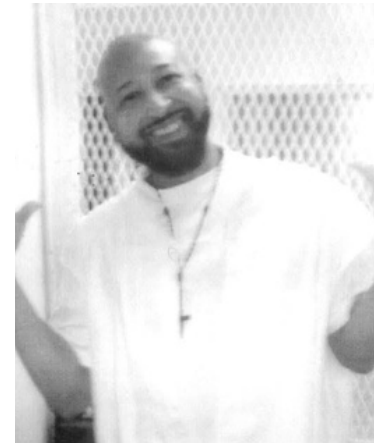
They are not monsters.  
They are son.  
Daughters.  
Brothers  
They are human  
And I will not  
let the state take a life  
in my name.

It's Never Too Late  
to Save A Life

Reme Frye  
Humanizing Death Row







MEMBERS LISTED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JULIUS MURPHY, COURTNEY LOCKHART, XAVIER DAVIS, DEMETRIUS DEWAY SMITH, PERRY EUGENE WILLIAMS, TILON CARTER, BLAINE KEITH MILAN, PAUL WAYNE SLATER, TREMANE WOOD, HOWARD GUIDRY, DILLON COMPTON, DAMEON MOSLEY, MABRY J LANDOR, RODERICK HARRIS, KERSEAN RAMEY

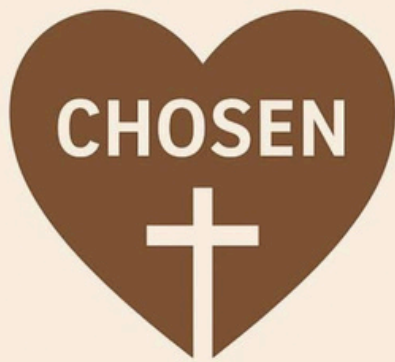




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# ***CONTACT US***

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## **HUMANIZING DEATH-ROW**

### **Are You Looking for A Spiritual Advisor?**

If you need support from a spiritual advisor, we are the right organization for you! Chat with our founder, Reme, through Secures to get started.

### **ARE YOU CREATIVE?**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ARTISTS, POETS, SINGERS, AND WRITERS! SEND YOUR WORK IN TO REME FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

### **WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH**

There are several ways to reach us to become a member of our organization with more to come!

**WEBSITE:** [HUMANIZINGDEATHROW.ORG](http://HUMANIZINGDEATHROW.ORG)

**EMAIL:**  
[HUMANIZINGDEATHROW@YAHOO.COM](mailto:HUMANIZINGDEATHROW@YAHOO.COM)