



Innocence: List of Those Freed From Death Row



Last exoneration June 8, 2015 (#154)

For Inclusion on DPIC's Innocence List:

Defendants must have been convicted, sentenced to death and subsequently either-

- a. Been **acquitted** of all charges related to the crime that placed them on death row, or
- b. Had all charges related to the crime that placed them on death row **dismissed** by the prosecution, or
- c. Been granted a complete **pardon** based on evidence of innocence.

For a fuller description of the criteria used in this list and the reasons why these criteria were chosen, see [Section V of DPIC's most recent Innocence Report](#). See also an [excerpt below](#) from an article in the Baltimore Sun by Dan Rodricks regarding the use of the term "exonerated."

The list includes cases in which the release occurred 1973 or later.

NR*	NAME	ST	RACE	CONVICTED	EXONERATED	YEARS BETWEEN	REASON	DNA**
1	David Keaton	FL	B	1971	1973	2	Charges Dismissed	
2	Samuel A. Poole	NC	B	1973	1974	1	Charges Dismissed	
3	Wilbert Lee	FL	B	1963	1975	12	Pardoned	
4	Freddie Pitts	FL	B	1963	1975	12	Pardoned	
5	James Creamer	GA	W	1973	1975	2	Charges Dismissed	
6	Christopher Spicer	NC	B	1973	1975	2	Acquitted	
7	Thomas Gladish	NM	W	1974	1976	2	Charges Dismissed	
8	Richard Greer	NM	W	1974	1976	2	Charges Dismissed	
9	Ronald Keine	NM	W	1974	1976	2	Charges Dismissed	
10	Clarence Smith	NM	W	1974	1976	2	Charges Dismissed	
11	Delbert Tibbs	FL	B	1974	1977	3	Charges Dismissed	
12	Earl Charles	GA	B	1975	1978	3	Charges Dismissed	

13	<u>Jonathan Treadway</u>	AZ	W	1975	1978	3	Acquitted	
14	<u>Gary Beeman</u>	OH	W	1976	1979	3	Acquitted	
15	<u>Jerry Banks</u>	GA	B	1975	1980	5	Charges Dismissed	
16	<u>Larry Hicks</u>	IN	B	1978	1980	2	Acquitted	
17	<u>Charles Ray Giddens</u>	OK	B	1978	1981	3	Charges Dismissed	
18	<u>Michael Linder</u>	SC	W	1979	1981	2	Acquitted	
19	<u>Johnny Ross</u>	LA	B	1975	1981	6	Charges Dismissed	
20	<u>Ernest (Shujaa) Graham</u>	CA	B	1976	1981	5	Acquitted	
21	<u>Annibal Jaramillo</u>	FL	L	1981	1982	1	Charges Dismissed	
22	<u>Lawyer Johnson</u>	MA	B	1971	1982	11	Charges Dismissed	
23	<u>Larry Fisher</u>	MS	W	1984	1985	1	Acquitted	
24	<u>Anthony Brown</u>	FL	B	1983	1986	3	Acquitted	
25	<u>Neil Ferber</u>	PA	W	1982	1986	4	Charges Dismissed	
26	<u>Clifford Henry Bowen</u>	OK	W	1981	1986	5	Charges Dismissed	
27	<u>Joseph Green Brown</u>	FL	B	1974	1987	13	Charges Dismissed	
28	<u>Perry Cobb</u>	IL	B	1979	1987	8	Acquitted	
29	<u>Darby (Jesse) Tillis</u>	IL	B	1979	1987	8	Acquitted	
30	<u>Vernon McManus</u>	TX	W	1977	1987	10	Charges Dismissed	
31	<u>Anthony Ray Peek</u>	FL	B	1978	1987	9	Acquitted	
32	<u>Juan Ramos</u>	FL	L	1983	1987	4	Acquitted	
33	<u>Robert Wallace</u>	GA	B	1980	1987	7	Acquitted	
34	<u>Richard Neal Jones</u>	OK	W	1983	1987	4	Acquitted	
35	<u>Willie Brown</u>	FL	B	1983	1988	5	Charges Dismissed	
36	<u>Larry Troy</u>	FL	B	1983	1988	5	Charges Dismissed	
37	<u>Randall Dale Adams</u>	TX	W	1977	1989	12	Charges Dismissed	
38	<u>Robert Cox</u>	FL	W	1988	1989	1	Charges Dismissed	
39	<u>James Richardson</u>	FL	B	1968	1989	21	Charges Dismissed	
40	<u>Clarence Brandley</u>	TX	B	1981	1990	9	Charges Dismissed	
41	<u>John C. Skelton</u>	TX	W	1983	1990	7	Acquitted	
42	<u>Dale Johnston</u>	OH	W	1984	1990	6	Charges Dismissed	
43	<u>Jimmy Lee Mathers</u>	AZ	W	1987	1990	3	Acquitted	
44	<u>Gary Nelson</u>	GA	B	1980	1991	11	Charges Dismissed	
45	<u>Bradley P. Scott</u>	FL	W	1988	1991	3	Acquitted	
46	<u>Charles Smith</u>	IN	B	1983	1991	8	Acquitted	
47	<u>Jay C. Smith</u>	PA	W	1986	1992	6	Acquitted	
48	<u>Kirk Bloodsworth</u>	MD	W	1984	1993	9	Charges Dismissed	Yes
49	<u>Federico M. Macias</u>	TX	L	1984	1993	9	Charges Dismissed	
50	<u>Walter McMillian</u>	AL	B	1988	1993	5	Charges Dismissed	
51	<u>Gregory R. Wilhoit</u>	OK	W	1987	1993	6	Acquitted	
52	<u>James Robison</u>	AZ	W	1977	1993	16	Acquitted	

53	Muneer Deeb	TX	O	1985	1993	8	Acquitted	
54	Andrew Golden	FL	W	1991	1994	3	Charges Dismissed	
55	Adolph Munson	OK	B	1985	1995	10	Acquitted	
56	Robert Charles Cruz	AZ	L	1981	1995	14	Acquitted	
57	Rolando Cruz	IL	L	1985	1995	10	Acquitted	Yes
58	Alejandro Hernandez	IL	L	1985	1995	10	Charges Dismissed	Yes
59	Sabrina Butler	MS	B	1990	1995	5	Acquitted	
60	Joseph Burrows	IL	W	1989	1996	7	Charges Dismissed	
61	Verneal Jimerson	IL	B	1985	1996	11	Charges Dismissed	Yes
62	Dennis Williams	IL	B	1979	1996	17	Charges Dismissed	Yes
63	Roberto Miranda	NV	L	1982	1996	14	Charges Dismissed	
64	Gary Gauger	IL	W	1993	1996	3	Charges Dismissed	
65	Troy Lee Jones	CA	B	1982	1996	14	Charges Dismissed	
66	Carl Lawson	IL	B	1990	1996	6	Acquitted	
67	David Wayne Grannis	AZ	W	1991	1996	5	Charges Dismissed	
68	Ricardo Aldape Guerra	TX	L	1982	1997	15	Charges Dismissed	
69	Benjamin Harris	WA	B	1985	1997	12	Charges Dismissed	
70	Robert Hayes	FL	B	1991	1997	6	Acquitted	
71	Christopher McCrimmon	AZ	B	1993	1997	4	Acquitted	
72	Randal Padgett	AL	W	1992	1997	5	Acquitted	
73	Robert Lee Miller, Jr.	OK	B	1988	1998	10	Charges Dismissed	Yes
74	Curtis Kyles	LA	B	1984	1998	14	Charges Dismissed	
75	Shareef Cousin	LA	B	1996	1999	3	Charges Dismissed	
76	Anthony Porter	IL	B	1983	1999	16	Charges Dismissed	
77	Steven Smith	IL	B	1985	1999	14	Acquitted	
78	Ronald Williamson	OK	W	1988	1999	11	Charges Dismissed	Yes
79	Ronald Jones	IL	B	1989	1999	10	Charges Dismissed	Yes
80	Clarence Dexter, Jr.	MO	W	1991	1999	8	Charges Dismissed	
81	Warren Douglas Manning	SC	B	1989	1999	10	Acquitted	
82	Alfred Rivera	NC	L	1997	1999	2	Charges Dismissed	
83	Steve Manning	IL	W	1993	2000	7	Charges Dismissed	
84	Eric Clemmons	MO	B	1987	2000	13	Acquitted	
85	Joseph Nahume Green	FL	B	1993	2000	7	Charges Dismissed	
86	Earl Washington	VA	B	1984	2000	16	Pardoned	Yes
87	William Nieves	PA	L	1994	2000	6	Acquitted	
88	Frank Lee Smith - died prior to exoneration	FL	B	1986	2000 **	14	Charges Dismissed	Yes
89	Michael Graham	LA	W	1987	2000	13	Charges Dismissed	
90	Albert Burrell	LA	W	1987	2000	13	Charges Dismissed	
91	Oscar Lee Morris	CA	B	1983	2000	17	Charges Dismissed	
92	Peter Limone	MA	W	1968	2001	33	Charges Dismissed	
93	Gary Drinkard	AL	W	1995	2001	6	Charges Dismissed	

94	<u>Joaquin Jose Martinez</u>	FL	L	1997	2001	4	Acquitted	
95	<u>Jeremy Sheets</u>	NE	W	1997	2001	4	Charges Dismissed	
96	<u>Charles Fain</u>	ID	W	1983	2001	18	Charges Dismissed	Yes
97	<u>Juan Roberto Melendez</u>	FL	L	1984	2002	18	Charges Dismissed	
98	<u>Ray Krone</u>	AZ	W	1992	2002	10	Charges Dismissed	Yes
99	<u>Thomas Kimbell, Jr.</u>	PA	W	1998	2002	4	Acquitted	
100	<u>Larry Osborne</u>	KY	W	1999	2002	3	Charges Dismissed	
101	<u>Aaron Patterson</u>	IL	B	1986	2003	17	Pardoned	
102	<u>Madison Hobley</u>	IL	B	1987	2003	16	Pardoned	
103	<u>Leroy Orange</u>	IL	B	1984	2003	19	Pardoned	
104	<u>Stanley Howard</u>	IL	B	1987	2003	16	Pardoned	
105	<u>Rudolph Holton</u>	FL	B	1986	2003	16	Charges Dismissed	
106	<u>Lemuel Prion</u>	AZ	W	1999	2003	4	Charges Dismissed	
107	<u>Wesley Quick</u>	AL	W	1997	2003	6	Acquitted	
108	<u>John Thompson</u>	LA	B	1985	2003	18	Acquitted	
109	<u>Timothy Howard</u>	OH	B	1976	2003	26	Charges Dismissed	
110	<u>Gary Lamar James</u>	OH	B	1976	2003	26	Charges Dismissed	
111	<u>Joseph Amrine</u>	MO	B	1986	2003	17	Charges Dismissed	
112	<u>Nicholas Yarris</u>	PA	W	1982	2003	21	Charges Dismissed	Yes
113	<u>Alan Gell</u>	NC	W	1998	2004	6	Acquitted	
114	<u>Gordon Steidl</u>	IL	W	1987	2004	17	Charges Dismissed	
115	<u>Laurence Adams</u>	MA	B	1974	2004	30	Charges Dismissed	
116	<u>Dan L. Bright</u>	LA	B	1996	2004	8	Charges Dismissed	
117	<u>Ryan Matthews</u>	LA	B	1999	2004	5	Charges Dismissed	Yes
118	<u>Ernest Ray Willis</u>	TX	W	1987	2004	17	Charges Dismissed	
119	<u>Derrick Jamison</u>	OH	B	1985	2005	20	Charges Dismissed	
120	<u>Harold Wilson</u>	PA	B	1989	2005	16	Acquitted	
121	<u>John Ballard</u>	FL	W	2003	2006	3	Acquitted	
122	<u>Curtis McCarty</u>	OK	W	1986	2007	21	Charges Dismissed	Yes
123	<u>Michael McCormick</u>	TN	W	1987	2007	20	Acquitted	
124	<u>Jonathon Hoffman</u>	NC	B	1995	2007	12	Charges Dismissed	
125	<u>Kennedy Brewer</u>	MS	B	1995	2008	13	Charges Dismissed	Yes
126	<u>Glen Chapman</u>	NC	B	1994	2008	14	Charges Dismissed	
127	<u>Levon Jones</u>	NC	B	1993	2008	15	Charges Dismissed	
128	<u>Michael Blair</u>	TX	O	1994	2008	14	Charges Dismissed	Yes
129	<u>Nathson Fields</u>	IL	B	1986	2009	23	Acquitted	
130	<u>Paul House</u>	TN	W	1986	2009	23	Charges Dismissed	
131	<u>Daniel Wade Moore</u>	AL	W	2002	2009	7	Acquitted	
132	<u>Ronald Kitchen</u>	IL	B	1988	2009	21	Charges Dismissed	
133	<u>Herman Lindsey</u>	FL	B	2006	2009	3	Acquitted	
134	<u>Michael Toney</u>	TX	W	1999	2009	10	Charges Dismissed	
135	<u>Yancy Douglas</u>	OK	B	1995	2009	14	Charges Dismissed	
136	<u>Paris Powell</u>	OK	B	1997	2009	12	Charges Dismissed	
137	<u>Robert</u>	TX	W	2001	2009	8	Charges Dismissed	

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138	Anthony Graves	TX	B	1994	2010	16	Charges Dismissed
139	Gussie Vann	TN	W	1994	2011	17	Charges Dismissed
140	Joe D'Ambrosio	OH	W	1989	2012	23	Charges Dismissed
141	Damon Thibodeaux	LA	W	1997	2012	15	Charges Dismissed Yes
142	Seth Penalver	FL	W	1999	2012	13	Acquitted
143	Reginald Griffin	MO	B	1983	2013	30	Charges Dismissed
144	Glenn Ford	LA	B	1984	2014	30	Charges Dismissed
145	Carl Dausch	FL	W	2011	2014	3	Acquitted
146	Henry McCollum	NC	B	1984	2014	30	Charges Dismissed Yes
147	Leon Brown	NC	B	1984	2014	30	Charges Dismissed Yes
148	Ricky Jackson	OH	B	1975	2014	39	Charges Dismissed
149	Wiley Bridgeman	OH	B	1975	2014	39	Charges Dismissed
150	Kwame Ajamu	OH	B	1975	2014	39	Charges Dismissed
151	Debra Milke	AZ	W	1990	2015	25	Charges Dismissed
152	Anthony Hinton	AL	B	1985	2015	30	Charges Dismissed
153	Willie Manning	MS	B	1996	2015	19	Charges Dismissed
154	Alfred Brown	TX	B	2005	2015	10	Charges Dismissed

Note: [James Bo Cochran](#) (AL) and [Timothy Hennis](#) (NC) were originally on this list but are excluded following further research and developments.

Average number of years between being sentenced to death and exoneration: 11.3 years

Number of cases in which DNA played a substantial factor in establishing innocence: 20

*The list is ordered by the year of the inmate's release. Occasionally new cases of earlier releases are discovered. Thus, the number assigned to a person above may differ from his or her number in various published DPIC reports.

**DPIC refers to the [Innocence Project's](#) (Cardozo Law School, NY) criteria for whether a post-conviction exoneration was the result of DNA testing.

The Innocence Project requires that both:

- a) DNA testing played a role in the defendant's reversal, **AND**
- b) the results of the testing were central to the inmate's defense and to the identity of the perpetrator.

Sources: DPIC uses a number of resources when adding cases to the above list, including court opinions, media coverage, and conversations with those directly involved in the cases. The earlier cases in the list are based heavily on the research of Hugo Adam Bedau and Michael L. Radelet. (See, e.g., Hugo Bedau and Michael Radelet, "Miscarriages of justice in potentially capital cases," 40 *Stanford Law Review* 21 (1987); M. Radelet, H. Bedau, and C. Putnam, *In Spite of Innocence*, Northeastern University Press (1992); see also M. Radelet et al., "Prisoners released from death rows since 1970 because of doubts about their guilt," 13 *Thomas M. Cooley Law Review* 907 (1996)).

Use of the term "exonerated": Columnist Dan Rodricks of the *Baltimore Sun* asked DPIC about its list of exonerated individuals. DPIC's Executive Director Richard Dieter responded, and that response was reprinted in Mr. Rodricks' column, July 5, 2009:

With respect to your question about our list of exonerated individuals, we use very strict and objective criteria for inclusion of cases on this list. Basically, the list is determined by the decisions of courts and prosecutor offices, not by our subjective judgment. As we state in a number of places on our Web site and in our reports, the criteria for inclusion on the list is:

Defendants must have been convicted, sentenced to death and subsequently either- a) their conviction was overturned AND

- i) they were acquitted at re-trial or
- ii) all charges were dropped
- b) they were given an absolute pardon by the governor based on new evidence of innocence.

The list includes cases where the release occurred in 1973 or later, which was the time that states resumed sentencing people to death after the U.S. Supreme Court had struck down the death penalty. The list originated from a request from Congress asking us to identify the risks that innocent people might be executed. The original list that we prepared was published as a Staff Report of the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. The list has been favorably referred to by Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal courts, as well as by many public officials around the country.

We believe the term "exonerated" is entirely appropriate to refer to the individuals on this list, which now numbers 150 individuals. Exonerate means to clear, as of an accusation, and seems to come from the Latin "ex" and "onus" meaning to unburden. That is precisely what has occurred in these cases. The defendants were convicted, given a burden of guilt, and then that burden was lifted when they were acquitted at a re-trial or the prosecution dropped all charges after the conviction was reversed. These are not individuals who received a lesser sentence or who remained guilty of a lesser charge related to the same set of circumstances. All guilt was lifted by the same system that had imposed it in the first place. Our justice system is the only objective source for making such a determination.

This notion of innocence, that an individual is innocent unless proven guilty, is a bedrock principle of our constitution and our societal protection against abusive state power. One does not lose the status of innocence merely because a prosecutor or other individuals retain a suspicion of guilt. Of course, it is true that this list makes no god-like determination of knowing exactly what happened in the original crime. Such perfect knowledge of past events is impossible, either to absolutely prove that a person did or did not do an act. We do not try to make a subjective judgment of what we think happened in the crime. We are merely reporting that in a great many cases the justice system convicted an individual and sentenced them to death, but when the process that arrived at that conclusion was reviewed, the conviction and sentence were thrown out. The individual, who often came close to execution, could not even be convicted of a traffic violation. Surely, that should be a cause of concern in applying the death penalty.

Return to Innocence

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