

February 28, 2024

Senator Jesse Bjorkman,

I am Raymond W. Schuenemann a supporter of SB 176 to reform the Alaska Board of Parole.

As a state prisoner I am daily punished ever since August 26, 1987, that is 37 calendar years, so far, for over half of my life since I am 75-years-old. Over 30 years ago, June 1992, I graduated from the State's then-nationally recognized sex offender school following 37 months of intensive education and therapy. My conduct and character record is exemplary.

Long before that, I was a U.S. Marine Corps infantry Sergeant in Vietnam, a combat veteran, decorated, wounded, awarded the Purple Heart. Veterans Administration Doctors gave me 2 independent diagnoses of OCD, the major mental illness, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, plus PTSD, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Two more diagnoses confirming OCD and PTSD came later from Dr. Judith Becker, a past President of the American Psychological Association, and from Dr. John Woods, past-Director of Utah State Mental Hospitals.

My sentencing Judge never knew about those 4 Psychiatrist Reports diagnosing treatable major mental illness, nor that I successfully graduated from Alaska's sex offender school after 3 years of education and therapy by professionals for correctable and manageable mental health handicaps.

In 2013 I saw the Parole Board. They asked if I would retake the sex offender school? I said, "Yes." They gave me a 10-year sentence extension. Three months later the Board wrote saying that I don't need to take the school again. So why am I kept in prison for daily punishment?

May 8, 2023 I saw the Parole Board the second time. They gave me another 10-year sentence extension claiming that I now don't, "... understand the seriousness of the offense."

Alaska Parole Board members need to learn about ① sex offender diagnosis and treatment; ② human behavior; and ③ repentance - ex-offenders demonstrated law abiding character and behavior during decades of prison supervision.

You can hear for yourself why the Board of Parole needs reform by listening to the 20 minute recording of my May 8 parole hearing and hear how they act in the name of Alaska State government.

Sincerely

Raymond W. Schuenemann 153465
Wildwood Correctional Center
10 Chugach Ave.
Kenai, AK 99611