

DATE TYPED: May 29, 2018
DATE PUBLISHED: June 1, 2018

IN RE: ROBERT VAN HOOK, CCI #A186-347

**STATE OF OHIO
ADULT PAROLE AUTHORITY
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

Date of Meeting: May 24, 2018

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the
Adult Parole Authority held at 770 West Broad Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43222 on the above date.

IN RE: Robert Van Hook, CCI #A186-347

SUBJECT: Death Sentence Clemency

CRIME, CONVICTION: Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Robbery

DATE, PLACE OF CRIME: February 18, 1985 in Cincinnati, Ohio

COUNTY: Hamilton

CASE NUMBER: B851389

VICTIM: David Self (age 25) - Deceased

INDICTMENT: Count 1: Aggravated Murder w/specification
Count 2: Aggravated Robbery

TRIAL: Found guilty by a three-judge panel of Aggravated Murder (count 1) w/specification and Aggravated Robbery (count 2)

DATE OF SENTENCE: August 8, 1985

SENTENCE: Count 1: DEATH (victim David Self)
Count 2: 10-25 years (victim David Self)

ADMITTED TO INSTITUTION: August 16, 1985

JAIL TIME CREDIT: 134 days

TIME SERVED: 393 months (does not include jail time credit)

AGE AT ADMISSION: 25 years' old

CURRENT AGE: 58 years' old

DATE OF BIRTH: January 14, 1960

PRESIDING JUDGE: Honorable Robert S. Kraft

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS: Arthur M. Ney, Jr.

FOREWORD:

A clemency proceeding in the case of Robert Van Hook, A186-347, was initiated by the Ohio Parole Board pursuant to Sections 2967.03 and 2967.07 of the Ohio Revised Code and Parole Board Policy #105-PBD-01.

Robert Van Hook declined to be interviewed by the Parole Board. A clemency hearing was held on May 24, 2018 with nine (9) members of the Parole Board participating. Arguments in support of and in opposition to clemency were presented.

The Parole Board considered all of the written submissions, arguments, and information disseminated by presenters at the hearing, as well as the judicial decisions. The Parole Board deliberated upon the propriety of clemency in this case. With nine (9) members participating, the Board voted eight (8) to one (1) to provide an unfavorable recommendation for clemency to the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio.

DETAILS OF THE INSTANT OFFENSE:

The following account of the instant offense was obtained from the opinion of the Supreme Court of Ohio, decided on November 9, 1988:

It was established at trial that on the evening of February 18, 1985, Robert Van Hook, appellant herein, went to a downtown Cincinnati establishment called the Subway Bar. There, he approached David Self. The two engaged in conversation while consuming alcoholic beverages for approximately two to three hours. As they left together, Self stopped briefly to explain to the bartender that he and appellant were planning to go to Self's apartment.

At the apartment, appellant lured Self into a vulnerable position and, with no provocation, attacked him. Initially, appellant strangled Self into a state of unconsciousness. He then took a paring knife from the victim's kitchen and stabbed the victim behind the right ear, aiming the thrust upward toward the brain, accompanied by a blade-twisting movement. Appellant then stabbed the victim's neck in numerous places, each stab wound accompanied by cutting motions. Several of these wounds penetrated over halfway through the neck and apparently represented appellant's efforts to decapitate the victim. Appellant then made an incision on the victim's body from the abdomen up to and over the sternum. The victim's abdominal cavity was opened so that his liver was visible. Appellant then stabbed upward a number of times, penetrating the liver and eventually penetrating the abdominal wall into the heart in three places. He placed a small bottle which had contained amyl nitrate, its cap, a cigarette butt and the paring knife into the victim's abdominal cavity.

Appellant then searched much of the apartment including a chest of drawers and a jewelry box. There was evidence that particular items of jewelry were taken, including specific testimony that the victim's gold chain necklace, which he had worn into the bar earlier that evening, was missing. Thereafter, appellant looked into the victim's refrigerator for food, but not seeing anything that "[he] liked," he prepared his departure from the apartment. Such preparation included smearing his bloody fingerprints, and turning up the volume on the stereo system.

After leaving the apartment, appellant went to the home of Dr. Robert Hoy, a family friend.

There, under the guise of recovering from a fight with his stepfather, appellant borrowed money and ate a large meal. He then left and eventually arrived in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. There, he evaded detection until April 1, 1985, when, pursuant to information given by appellant's family, he was arrested by the Oakland Park police.

Subsequently, appellant was indicted for the offenses of aggravated murder in violation of *R.C. 2903.01* and aggravated robbery in violation of *R.C. 2911.01*. A specification was also contained in the indictment that appellant committed the aggravated murder during the course of an aggravated robbery and that he was the principal offender. *R.C. 2929.04(A)(7)*. Appellant pled not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity.

Appellant waived his right to a trial by jury, electing to be tried instead by a three-judge panel. Appellant was found guilty of both charges as well as the aggravating circumstances specified. Following the sentencing phase, the three-judge panel, for the reasons set forth in its opinion filed pursuant to *R.C. 2929.03(F)*, imposed the sentence of death upon appellant for the crime of aggravated murder and also imposed a concurrent indefinite term of ten to twenty-five years for the crime of aggravated robbery. The court of appeals, having performed its statutory independent analysis of the record and the proportionality of the sentence, affirmed the sentence in all particulars.

PRIOR RECORD:

The following information was obtained from the Post-Sentence Report completed on February 6, 1986:

Juvenile Offenses: Robert Van Hook has the following known juvenile record:

<u>Arrest Date</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
06/12/72	Unruly Drinking	Unknown	\$25.00 fine and court costs 30 days' house arrest
12/22/75	Disorderly Conduct	Unknown	\$15.00 fine and court costs
05/21/76	Disorderly Conduct w/Intoxication	Unknown	\$25.00 fine and court costs and probation

Adult Offenses: Robert Van Hook has the following known adult arrest record:

<u>Arrest Date</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
08/18/82	Theft	Unknown	\$50.00 fine
02/11/83	Theft	Unknown	1 month workhouse

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01/05/84	Resisting Arrest and Assault	Unknown	30 days' workhouse and 3 years' probation
02/11/84	Assault on a Law Officer	Cincinnati, OH	6 months' workhouse
06/15/84	Assault on a Law Officer Criminal Damaging or Endangering	Unknown	3 years' probation
11/05/84	Assault	Unknown	10 days' workhouse, \$500.00 fine and court costs
04/03/85 (Age 25)	Aggravated Murder Aggravated Robbery	Cincinnati, OH	INSTANT OFFENSE (B851389)

Institutional Adjustment:

Van Hook was admitted to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on August 16, 1985. He was housed at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility from 1985 to 1994. He was housed at the Mansfield Correctional Institution from 1995 to 1998, and again in 2004 and 2005. He was housed at the Ohio State Penitentiary from 1998 to 2004 and from 2005 to 2011. He was housed at Oakwood Correctional Facility for two months in 2005. Van Hook has been housed at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution since 2012.

His work assignments while incarcerated at the Mansfield Correctional Institution were porter, artist, and recreation worker. While at the Ohio State Penitentiary, Van Hook's work assignments included porter, student, and recreation worker. He did not have a work assignment while incarcerated at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility or Oakwood Correctional Facility. Presently, Van Hook does not have a work assignment at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution due to his current placement in extended restrictive housing (ERH Level 2). Prior to his ERH placement, Van Hook's work assignments included porter and recreation worker.

Van Hook obtained his GED in 2000. He has completed a number of programs while incarcerated to include Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter Stress Management (1990), Stress and Stressors (1999), Commitment to Change (1999), Life Without a Crutch (2000), Coping with Stress in Prison (2000), Stress Management (2000), OSP Living Skills (2001), History of the Catholic Church (2001), Rational Emotive Therapy (2001), Rage/Recidivism/Recovery (2002), Beyond Anger (2002), No Inmate is an Island (2000 and 2003), Warden's Drug Sanction Program (2014), and Anger Management (2000, 2008, and 2018). Van Hook completed ten psycho-educational outpatient group sessions and a mindfulness meditation class (2017).

Since his admission in 1985, Van Hook has accumulated the following disciplinary record resulting in his being placed in disciplinary control, local control, or restrictive housing, as indicated below:

- 11/10/17: Any violation of published institutional rules, regulations, or procedures. Van Hook was in possession of a whetstone (used for sharpening objects) during a shakedown. He received six days of restrictive housing for this rule infraction.
- 11/10/17: Causing, or attempting to cause, the death of another and causing or attempting to cause, physical harm to another with a weapon. Van Hook attacked another inmate on death row by stabbing him repeatedly with a weapon in the face, neck, and chest area. Van Hook did not comply with direct orders to stop and OC was administered to stop the attack. Van Hook was placed in extended restrictive housing (ERH Level 3) placement for these rule infractions.
- 04/19/14: Fighting, with or without weapons, including instigation of, or perpetuating fighting. Van Hook was in a physical altercation with another inmate. He received 15 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 01/21/14: Throwing, expelling, or otherwise causing a bodily substance to come into contact with another. Van Hook spit on an officer who was attempting to restrain him. Van Hook received 15 days' disciplinary control with a recommendation for local control placement for this rule infraction.
- 01/21/14: Throwing, expelling, or otherwise causing a bodily substance to come into contact with another. Van Hook spit on a second officer who was attempting to restrain him. Van Hook received 15 days' disciplinary control with a recommendation for local control placement for this rule infraction.
- 01/21/14: Unauthorized possession, manufacture, or consumption of drugs or any intoxicating substance. Van Hook was slurring his words while speaking to a correctional officer. The officer noticed that Van Hook smelled of alcohol. Medical Services verified that Van Hook was under the influence of alcohol. He received 15 days' disciplinary control with a recommendation for local control placement for this rule infraction.
- 11/12/12: Threatening bodily harm to another (with or without a weapon) and disrespect to an officer, staff member, visitor, or other inmate. Van Hook cursed at and threatened another inmate. He received 15 days' disciplinary control for these rule infractions.
- 09/24/07: Fighting, with or without weapons, including instigation of, or perpetuating fighting. Van Hook kicked open a shower door and began fighting with another inmate. He received 15 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 03/28/06: Causing, or attempting to cause, serious physical harm to another and fighting, with or without weapons, including instigation of, or perpetuating fighting. Van Hook self-admitted to fighting with another inmate. The other inmate was taken to an outside hospital for his injuries. Van Hook received 15 days' disciplinary control for these rule infractions.
- 09/15/97: Destruction, alteration, or misuse of property. Van Hook and another inmate were observed tearing a sink off the wall. Van Hook was also observed carrying kitchen cupboards upstairs. He received 15 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 09/15/97: Causing, or attempting to cause, physical harm to another with a weapon. Van Hook and another inmate entered a cell and assaulted a fellow inmate by hitting him in the head. Van Hook received 15 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 09/15/97: Causing, or attempting to cause, physical harm to another with a weapon. Van Hook and another inmate assaulted a fellow inmate by beating him with a chain that had a lock attached to it. Van Hook received 15 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.

- 09/15/97: Causing, or attempting to cause, physical harm to another. Van Hook and another inmate assaulted a fellow inmate. Van Hook received 15 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 9/15/97: Causing, or attempting to cause, physical harm to another. Van Hook and another inmate went into a cell and assaulted a fellow inmate. Van Hook received 15 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 03/18/97: Fighting, with or without weapons, including instigation of, or perpetuating fighting. Van Hook was observed punching another inmate in the waist and side of the head. Van Hook received 15 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 03/23/95: Fighting, with or without weapons, including instigation of, or perpetuating fighting. Van Hook self-admitted to fighting with another inmate. He received 5 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 07/30/93: Encouraging or creating a disturbance, and disrespect to an officer, staff member, visitor, or other inmate. Van Hook chanted "I'm going to kill as many gray shirts as I can, chop off the white shirts head, and feed the head to King Arthur the man". He received 5 days' disciplinary control, 30 days' recreation restriction, and a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions.
- 05/10/93: Causing, or attempting to cause, physical harm to another with a weapon and disobedience of a direct order. Van Hook obtained a match gun on two different occasions and set them off at another inmate's cell. Van Hook refused direct orders to lock down prior to setting it off. He received 12 days' disciplinary control with a recommendation for local control placement and a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions.
- 07/13/92: Causing or attempting to cause, physical harm to another with a weapon, encouraging or creating a disturbance, and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property. Van Hook blocked his cell door with a foot locker and threw human waste on another inmate. Van Hook also busted his sink and threw it at the other inmate. He refused direct orders and started busting out windows with his box tray. He received 15 days' disciplinary control with a recommendation for local control placement for these rule infractions.
- 05/06/92: Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device. Van Hook was found in the possession of homemade nunchucks. He received 3 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 01/16/92: Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property. Van Hook was found in possession of a mush-fake handbag. Van Hook received 2 days' disciplinary control for these rule infractions.
- 03/17/91: Destruction, alteration, or misuse of property and setting a fire; any unauthorized burning. Van Hook was observed throwing paper and tobacco out on the range, setting it on fire. He was also observed flooding the range. Van Hook received a total of 30 days' disciplinary control for these rule infractions.
- 03/08/91: Encouraging or creating a disturbance and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property. Van Hook was observed flooding the range in the cell-block. He received 6 days' disciplinary control for these rule infractions.
- 02/13/91: Causing, or attempting to cause, the death of another and rioting or encouraging others to riot. Van Hook broke his sink and used the porcelain from it to fight with another inmate. The other inmate received cuts to his arms and torso area

from the porcelain. Van Hook received 8 days' disciplinary control and was ordered to pay for the sink as a result of these rule infractions.

- 09/12/90: Encouraging or creating a disturbance. Van Hook was arguing with another inmate and refused a direct order to lock. Van Hook reached through the cell bars at the other inmate and then threw a bar of soap at him. Van Hook received 5 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 05/27/90: Encouraging or creating a disturbance. Van Hook was in a physical altercation with another inmate. Both inmates complied with direct orders to stop fighting. Van Hook received 3 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 03/28/88: Fighting with or without weapons, including instigation of, or perpetuating fighting. Van Hook was observed approaching another inmate and fighting with him. He received 3 days' disciplinary control and 60 days outside recreation restriction for this rule infraction.
- 10/24/87: Possession of manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property. Van Hook was found in possession of a broken television and a hidden shank. He received 15 days' disciplinary control and a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions.
- 10/23/87: Encouraging or creating a disturbance and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property. Van Hook busted his sink and toilet. He received 10 days' disciplinary control as well as walking, recreation, and commissary restrictions for these rule infractions. Van Hook was also fined due to the damage to the sink and toilet.
- 01/07/87: Any other act, knowingly done which constitutes a threat to the security of the institution, its staff, other inmates, or to the acting inmate. Van Hook gave another inmate a cup of body waste. The inmate, in turn, threw the waste on a fellow inmate. Van Hook received 15 days' disciplinary control for this rule infraction.
- 11/13/86: Encouraging or creating a disturbance and disrespect to an officer, staff member, visitor, or other inmate. Van Hook threw human waste on a staff member. He received 15 days' disciplinary control for these rule infractions.
- 03/20/86: Encouraging or creating a disturbance and disobedience of a direct order. Van Hook was intoxicated and threw all of his personal property and food tray on the range. He also threw his cabinet drawers against the bars, refusing several direct orders to be handcuffed. Van Hook received 6 days' disciplinary control for these rule infractions.

Van Hook has received the following conduct reports that did not result in placement in disciplinary control, local control, or restrictive housing:

- Possession of devices or material used for tattooing in November 2017. Van Hook was found to be in possession of a tattoo gun. He received a one-time commissary restriction for this rule infraction.
- Throwing any other liquid or material on or at another and attempting to commit; aiding another in the commission of; soliciting another to commit; or entering into an agreement with another to commit any of the above acts in September 2012. Van Hook poured a bucket of water under the cell door of another inmate. He received 2 weeks' phone restriction for these rule infractions.
- Giving false information or lying to departmental employees in July 2008. Van Hook lied to a correctional officer by stating he did not receive his lunch and that the tray on

the lower range belonged to him. The food tray was then given to him. Van Hook received a verbal warning for this rule infraction.

- Possession of contraband in March 2008. While conducting a shakedown, a correctional officer confiscated what appeared to be a “stinger” from Van Hook’s cell. He received a verbal reprimand and the contraband was disposed of as a result of this rule infraction.
- Disobedience of a direct order in September 2007. Van Hook was showing other inmates how to kick and punch. He was given a direct order to stop, but he refused to do so. Van Hook received a 1 day commissary restriction for this rule infraction.
- Destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in August 2002. Officers found a hole in the wall of Van Hook’s cell. Van Hook was ordered to pay restitution and received 30 days’ commissary restriction for this rule infraction.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in September 2000. Van Hook was found to be “fishing” to retrieve items from another cell with a string taken from a state blanket. Van Hook’s television was also found to be altered. He was ordered to pay restitution for the television and blanket for these rule infractions.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device in April 2000. Van Hook had 9 magazines in his possession (4 is the limit). He received a verbal warning for this rule infraction and the magazines were destroyed.
- Destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in June 1999. Van Hook self-admitted to scratching the word “Bulldog” across the door in a holding cell. He received 60 days’ commissary restriction for this rule infraction.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in June 1999. Van Hook was in possession of torn sheets and pillow cases tied together with cable wire. These items were used to “fish” within the housing unit. Van Hook received a 14-day television restriction and ordered to pay restitution for these rule infractions.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device in November 1993. Van Hook was found to be in possession of a radio and headphones. He was not permitted to have those items within that particular unit. Van Hook received a verbal reprimand for this rule infraction.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in July 1993. Van Hook had 3 state sheets that were ripped up and used as a clothesline. He received a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions and the clothesline was confiscated from him.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in May 1993. Van Hook was found to be in possession of match beads in which he used to make zip guns. He received a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions and the match beads were destroyed.
- Any violation of published institutional rules, regulations, or procedures in September 1992. During a cell inspection, Van Hook did not have his cell in order and was found to be asleep. He received a verbal reprimand for this rule infraction.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device in September 1992. Van Hook was found giving another inmate a tattoo through the port of his cell. He received a verbal reprimand for this rule infraction and the tattoo gun was confiscated from his cell.

- Unauthorized use of telephone or violation of mail and visiting rules in January 1992. Van Hook sent 2 kites representing himself as a different inmate and requested to order female panties and a dildo. He also sent a letter to this same inmate stating "he was to die soon". Van Hook received a verbal reprimand for this rule infraction.
- Encouraging or creating a disturbance and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in August 1991. Van Hook was observed throwing food trays and milk at an inmate porter assigned to the range. Van Hook received a verbal reprimand and ordered to pay for the food trays as a result of these rule infractions.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device in December 1990. An officer found a paper bag containing 5 cassette tapes and 1 pair of stereo headphones that had been altered. The headphones were titled to Van Hook. The headphones were destroyed and the 5 cassette tapes were returned to Van Hook.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in September 1988. Van Hook was found in possession of a radio and torn up pillow. He received a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in April 1988. Van Hook was in possession of a "fishing" line approximately 30 feet in length. As an officer exited the range, a bar of state soap flew past his head. Van Hook received a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions.
- Encouraging or creating a disturbance in December 1987. Van Hook stopped at another inmate's cell and began yelling and trying to hit the other inmate through the bars. He received a verbal reprimand for this rule infraction.
- Encouraging or creating a disturbance and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in November 1987. Van Hook broke his toilet and sink off the wall after starting a fire in them. He received a verbal reprimand and a fine for these rule infractions due to damage to the sink and toilet.
- Destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in November 1987. Van Hook was in possession of a pair of blue state pants that he altered. Van Hook was required to pay for the pants as a result of this rule infraction.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and unauthorized possession, manufacture, or consumption of drugs or any intoxicating substance in May 1987. Van Hook was found in possession of a heavy plastic bag containing 1 gallon of various fruit juices that were starting to ferment. Van Hook received a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions.
- Possession or manufacture of a weapon, ammunition, explosive, or incendiary device and destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in January 1987. Van Hook was in possession of a cassette adapter and an 8-track tape player that was broken. He received a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions.
- Destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in November 1986. Van Hook threw his food tray on a range. He received a verbal reprimand for this rule infraction.
- Destruction, alteration, or misuse of property in November 1986. A typewriter belonging to Van Hook was found in the possession of another inmate. There was a metal bar removed from the typewriter. Van Hook received a verbal reprimand for this rule infraction.

- Disobedience of a direct order and disrespect to an officer, staff member, visitor, or other inmate in March 1986. Van Hook refused a strip search as he was being processed and pulled out his penis, urinating on the floor. He then began to yell and scream. Van Hook received a verbal reprimand for these rule infractions.

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT:

Van Hook declined to be interviewed by the Parole Board. Attorney David Stebbins noted at the onset of his presentation that Van Hook had declined to be interviewed on the advice of counsel. They felt that given his high level of anxiety and explosiveness regarding some issues, Van Hook would not hold up well under questioning.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CLEMENCY:

At the hearing held on May 24, 2018, arguments in support of clemency supplementing the written application previously received were presented to the Board by the inmate's attorneys, David Stebbins, Carol Wright, Allen Bohnert, and Randall Porter.

Van Hook's attorneys presented several arguments in support of clemency. First, they argued that while Van Hook's traumatic upbringing was touched upon at trial, it was not fully explored, in part due to the short length of time between arrest and trial. Second, Van Hook's attorneys argued that his mental health issues were not fully recognized at the time of trial and thus, were not considered at mitigation. Third, they argued that Van Hook's military service was mentioned, but was not fully developed and considered as mitigation. Lastly, Van Hook's attorneys argued that he has supportive family and friends in the community who value his life.

Van Hook's traumatic upbringing was not fully explored at trial

Van Hook's attorneys discussed the legal history of the case, noting that the trial took place three and one-half months from his arrest. They assert that this is not sufficient time to prepare for a capital case, noting that most take place at least a year after arrest and arguing that more investigation and development of mitigation evidence was necessary for this case. They buttress this argument by stressing that the sentence was vacated twice, although that was reversed upon appeal and noting that even in the reversals, there were several dissents, including one in 2009 that stated that the trial court was deficient in exploring all mitigating factors.

Van Hook's attorneys proceeded to detail Van Hook's family history, stating that his mother Joyce was hospitalized after her father's death due to mental health issues, alcoholism, and the abuse of pharmaceuticals. Joyce had four abusive marriages; the second of which produced the inmate. Van Hook's paternal grandfather was an addict and emotionally abusive to his son, Robert Sr. Van Hook's father was a musician as well as an addict that had numerous marriages which tended to be abusive. Van Hook's attorneys noted the family consisted of other addicts and individuals with mental health issues. Verbal abuse was common and the family was run

like a boot camp with much denigration and shouting. Weekends were particularly volatile as the parents would drink heavily and devolve into arguments which would turn physical.

Van Hook's attorneys asserted that the children were witness to their parents' domestic abuse, substance abuse, and sexual conduct on a regular basis. Van Hook's half-sisters were able to escape to live with either their father or paternal grandmother. Van Hook remained in the home, sometimes going to live with his mother's sister's family, the Johnsons, where he experienced a more normal, loving family life. His parents eventually divorced and his mother remarried when he was around age 11. Van Hook's stepfather was a reputed Nazi sympathizer, who hated gay people and had a gay brother. Van Hook was bounced back and forth between his father, who encouraged him to drink, use drugs, and have sex with adult women; his mother, whose brother-in-law began grooming him for eventual sexual exploitation; and the Johnson family, who provided him with a stable loving environment. Around age 14, Van Hook ran away from his father, who now resided in Florida, to live on the streets and eventually prostitute himself for over a year. At age 17, with his father's permission, Van Hook volunteered for the army where he served three years until his substance abuse and mental health issues caught up with him and he was discharged. He returned to the Cincinnati area where he struggled to find employment.

Van Hook's attorneys presented a video featuring his sister Trina Berends, several members of his extended family, and one of his former school teachers, noting that the three-judge panel at his trial never heard from these individuals.

According to his uncle, Earl Johnson, Van Hook came in and out of their house. His family would keep him for days or weeks at a time, then his mother would appear and take him back. While staying with them, Van Hook would attend church and he appeared to enjoy it. Johnson noted that the more time Van Hook spent with his dad, the more he got into trouble.

In a video statement, Van Hook's sister Trina noted that there was a lot of violence and fighting in the house. Drunkenness on the part of the parents was common. The children would be spanked for no reason and were beaten in front of each other. Van Hook received the most abuse because he was a boy. His father disciplined him for "gay tendencies." The stronger the reaction from the child, the more their mother would beat them. One of the children's "jobs" was to bring their parents liquor upon demand and Trina and Van Hook would sip on it. At one point, their mother attempted to reunite the family, but it didn't work out and Trina went to live with her biological father where she had a stable home.

Trina talked about Van Hook's step-uncle Donald Luterall. She noted that when her mother first married Van Hook's father, Donald would babysit Van Hook for them and would groom him by buying him clothes and shoes. When Trina suspected the relationship had turned sexual, she contacted the local police to determine the age of consent, and says she was laughed at so she did not pursue it further. Trina talked about Van Hook running away and says he survived by panhandling. She says he always believed that if he could only get into the military he would be okay. She discussed her own trauma and resulting mental health issues, saying that it took her until age forty to address her issues and begin medication and treatment.

In a video statement, Keith Johnson, Van Hook's cousin, describes Van Hook's mother Joyce as a violent, mean drunk. He says Van Hook would take responsibility for Keith's actions and

would take spankings for him. When he lived with them, Van Hook read the Bible and tried to do right. Whenever he came back to them after a stay with his parents, Van Hook would talk about drinking and drug use. Once, he went with Van Hook for a visit to step-uncle Donald's house and overheard them having sex.

In a video statement, Randy Johnson, Van Hook's cousin, stated his parents often asked Van Hook's mother Joyce to allow Van Hook to come live with them. Joyce often called Van Hook a "faggot." When he lived with the Johnsons, Van Hook was taught respect. He said Van Hook appeared to be very mature for his age at times because of some of the things he was exposed to, and because he had to be "rough and tough."

In a video statement, John Baughman, Van Hook's basketball coach, stated Van Hook would have had a better upbringing and a better chance at a normal life had he been able to live with the Johnson family.

Van Hook's mental health issues were not fully recognized at the time of the trial

Duncan Clark, a certified psychiatrist and clinical psychologist, addressed Van Hook's chaotic and unstable upbringing and its impact on his substance abuse and mental health issues. He described Van Hook as meeting the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder, borderline personality disorder, and substance abuse disorder, but stresses that they are overlapping and do not necessarily represent three separate and discrete conditions. Clark stated that family history is relevant for two reasons. First, parents pass along a tendency to abuse substances, and second, parents provide role models for consumption. In Van Hook's case, both parents impacted his development. His mother was an alcoholic who abused opiates, and his father was a binge drinker, who also gave Van Hook shots of liquor starting around age ten. They abused alcohol, marijuana, and speed together allowing for a much higher level of intoxication. This combination of substances tends to lead to violence. In addition, Van Hook often observed violent behavior when family members drank. Clark noted Van Hook's chaotic living arrangements as a child, stating he grew up believing neither parent wanted him.

Clark discussed Van Hook's pathological sexual history, stating that he represents a textbook case of a certain type of post-traumatic stress disorder. Sexually traumatic experiences that occur during adolescence are the most impactful and may result in aggressive or violent behavior with little provocation. He stated that Van Hook described depersonalization and rage during the murder, which are classic symptoms of this type of post-traumatic stress disorder. Clark noted that Van Hook continues to experience symptoms of untreated post-traumatic stress disorder. Post-traumatic stress disorder related to childhood trauma was not typically recognized prior to the 1990s.

Clark proceeded to address Van Hook's borderline personality disorder as part of his constellation of mental health issues. Van Hook demonstrates a number of the factors leading to a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder, including a pervasive pattern of instability of relationships, quick to anger, often feeling mistreated, identity disturbance (i.e. reports he is heterosexual yet has a multitude of homosexual encounters), unclear value system, and practices self-harm. Borderline personality disorder can be one of the most serious disorders. It is most common in women and often goes unrecognized in men. In the opinion of Clark, a

combination of post-traumatic stress disorder and borderline personality disorder rises to the level of a major disorder, which he equated with disease.

Clark also discussed Van Hook's substance abuse disorder, noting that the level of parental facilitation of his substance abuse was substantial and unusual. He stated that Van Hook was an alcoholic by his early teens, indulging in periods of binge drinking. His use peaked at age 19. Clark noted that substance use may be a choice, but that in Van Hook's case it was less of a choice and that he had begun to suffer structural and functional brain damage. Clark has encountered few teens that achieve this level of substance abuse involvement and believes Van Hook had lost the ability to exercise self-control.

Clark concluded by addressing progress made in mental health and substance abuse research and treatment since Van Hook's trial. The impacts of sexual abuse and substance abuse on childhood development are better understood and treatment for borderline personality disorder has progressed in the last twenty years. He noted that Van Hook has received some periods of treatment that were efficacious against his disorders and that he has received appropriate medications at times. Van Hook has shown improvement when appropriate treatment is provided and he participates in said treatment. When untreated, he exercises poor self-control, sometimes resulting in extreme instances of impulsive violence, often to his own detriment. Clark acknowledges that Van Hook was diagnosed with at least two disorders at the time of the trial, but did not feel that their impact was clearly communicated to the trial court because it was not characterized as a severe condition, nor was it referenced as a cluster of issues.

Van Hook's attorneys presented an overview of a report by Dr. Matthew Mendel, licensed psychologist. The report was utilized to demonstrate a direct link between Van Hook's childhood trauma and crime. The attorney stressed this was not presented as an excuse for the crime, but rather an explanation. The components of the report include 1) the full extent of the abuse 2) the connection between the abuse and the crime and 3) new development in treatments for Van Hook's disorders.

Van Hook's attorneys argued that the full extent of the abuse he suffered as a child and youth has not been explored until Dr. Mendel's report. The extent of abuse Van Hook suffered as a child included:

- Exposure to his parents' violent sexual activity from a very young age.
- Often challenged by his father to perform sexually with his father's adult girlfriends.
- Repeated exposure to his mother's sexual activity.
- When playing at bars in his teens, he was drinking and his father encouraged him into sexual activity with adult women.
- Resorted to prostitution with adult men while he was a runaway.
- "Relationship" between Van Hook and his step-uncle began when he returned to his family after running away and continued off and on up until the murder.

All of the above was referenced in the trial but never fully unpacked as mitigation. The federal courts reviewing the case did not have the full scope of the sexual abuse and why it impacted Van Hook's behavior. Van Hook's attorneys argued that this is the first time that anybody has

reviewed the full constellation of different disorders, with childhood sexual abuse as the “North Star.”

Van Hook’s attorneys, presenting on behalf of Dr. Mendel, cited common characteristics of childhood abuse, to include parental neglect, physical abuse, domestic violence, parental alcohol and drug abuse, instability of home environment, and early introduction to alcohol and drug use. What commonly occurs when the trauma is untreated includes alcoholism and alcohol abuse, illicit drug use, early initiation of sexual activity, multiple sexual partners, risk for intimate partner violence, adult criminality, problems in relationships, and depression. Cries for help tend to be non-verbal and include accelerating substance abuse and in Van Hook’s case, four known suicide attempts. Van Hook grew up in a virulently homophobic home, and Van Hook claims that he was never sexually abused by the adult males that took advantage of him as a teen. Van Hook rationalizes that as survival behavior and points to his sexual activity with adult women as proof that he is heterosexual. Van Hook’s attorneys argued that “rolling” gay men was just a story and that there is no evidence in the form of police reports to support that Van Hook actually did so. They said he now insists that he did not rob gay men when he fled to Florida in spite stating such to the police. The attorneys posited that Van Hook would rather die than think of himself as gay.

Van Hook’s attorneys explained that three to four weeks prior to the offense, he was at a gay bar and met a light skinned black man with whom he willingly engaged in sexual activity. This shook him so much, that he stepped away and attempted to get sober. He was successful for a short time, but started drinking again the day of the murder. He met the victim while he was looking for a place to sleep. The light skinned black man came to the bar which triggered his self-hatred. At the victim’s apartment, when the sexual activity started he was so angry at himself that he symbolically killed himself by killing David.

Van Hook’s attorneys argued that this identity confusion and rage has extended to his behavior in prison where he believes he must either submit or fight, with no middle ground. They believe that contrary to what his conduct suggests, Van Hook has changed, that he is not irredeemable with appropriate treatment. They asserted that Van Hook needs trauma informed treatment, and argued that the understanding of trauma, and the lasting effects of childhood sexual abuse, are so much better understood that it supports clemency for Van Hook.

Van Hook’s military service was not presented for consideration at trial

Richard Vickers, an investigator, presented an overview of Van Hook’s military history, including a video, providing details that he asserts the courts were unaware of at trial. Van Hook entered the army at age 17 without a GED. He was stationed in Germany during the Cold War and received an honorable discharge. Van Hook was elevated to the rank of sergeant. Due to a pervasive culture of alcohol abuse, he began drinking, which significantly increased when he was transferred to Fort Hood, Texas, where he also made a suicide attempt. He was provided counseling and medication, but continued to struggle and was eventually discharged. When he was discharged, the country was in a recession and he could not find work. He married for a short time and quickly divorced. Van Hook attempted to re-enlist in the army, but was prevented by a conviction for writing a bad check. Upon discharge, Van Hook had two additional suicide attempts.

David Ferrier, a Vietnam veteran and military expert, discussed the atmosphere Van Hook entered when he joined the army. The Vietnam War had been over for two years and the military needed to reduce troop size since combat troops were no longer needed. Van Hook aspired to be a paratrooper, but was assigned to be a radio technician instead. He had voluntarily enlisted out of a sense of duty, patriotism, and family tradition. Van Hook was looking for salvation, and excelled at first despite coming from such a chaotic background. In the army, Van Hook received validation, structure, and guidance, but since few enlistees were sent to paratrooper school, he did not receive the training he really wanted. Out of disappointment, Van Hook began to drink and his emotional state declined, eventually resulting in him being discharged from the army. Van Hook was told that if he could stay out of trouble for two years, he could re-enlist in the army. Ferrier also discussed speaking with an outreach counselor for veterans in Cincinnati who remembered Van Hook and referred to him as a "lost one." He stated at the time, there were no meaningful outpatient programs and inpatient programs were overcrowded, so there was no option for placing Van Hook.

Ferrier concluded by noting that veterans are overrepresented in prison. He begged mercy to validate Van Hook's honorable military service.

Van Hook's family and others in the community value his life

Van Hook's attorneys concluded with a description of Van Hook today. They reported that Van Hook attempts to participate in programming whenever possible. He keeps close contact with family and spiritual advisors who are a positive influence in his life. Van Hook is in regular contact with a nun he met while incarcerated at the Ohio State Penitentiary and she believes he is remorseful and is sincere in his spirituality. He has participated in the Kairos program and tries to help other inmates with their religious studies. Van Hook also does crafts and plays music at religious services.

Tracey Weigand, Van Hook's cousin, stated she is ten years younger than the inmate, so she was not exposed to any of the violence the other family members witnessed. Weigand believes if Van Hook had been able to live with her family, his life would have been much different. Weigand and her family visit Van Hook on a regular basis and she noted the inmate does what he can to show that he cares for her family. She realizes Van Hook has not had the best record, but believes he is remorseful and wants a chance to do better.

Van Hook's attorneys concluded with a video of Van Hook's family and friends. His family and friends noted he has earned his GED and participated in a number of programs. They believe Van Hook has become very spiritual and demonstrated change. His sister Trina described him as a "very good human being" and stated he "didn't have a say in how he was raised. Didn't know how to get out of it."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO CLEMENCY:

Hamilton County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Philip Cummings and Assistant Ohio Attorney General Stephen Maher presented arguments in opposition to clemency.

Cummings pointed out that the United States Supreme Court has reviewed this case and noted that the mitigation issues were constitutionally explored by the lower court. All justices signed

off on the opinion which noted that given the circumstances of the offense, this was clearly not a case where a mitigation tweak would matter. Cummings described the case as one of the most brutal and bizarre to take place in Hamilton County, and Van Hook confessed that he did it, all by himself.

Cummings outlined three reasons why Van Hook is not deserving of clemency. First, there is no excuse for his conduct in the crime. Van Hook does not suffer from mental disease or defect as defined by law. The new diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder overlaps his previous diagnoses. He has shown an ability to function well in society at different points in his life, for example in his military service, where he could conform and even excel when he chose to. Van Hook functioned coherently during the crime. He was indulging a fantasy, rather than experiencing a delusion. He functioned coherently by searching for money and food, smearing his fingerprints and extricating himself from the apartment. Van Hook did not feel threatened or endangered, rather, he created a scenario and enacted it. He was in control of the situation. He knew right from wrong. Van Hook was and is the victim of his own choices rather than mental disease. He stated he had made a decision to not be the victim anymore, to be the aggressor and he carried through. He continues poor choices by going off his medication and not attending counseling.

Second, Cummings asserts that Van Hook showed no remorse for his actions. Instead, he comes off as gratified or satisfied in his confession. Van Hook's stated objective that night was to lure and rob as he had done before. When the victim was vulnerable, Van Hook callously searched him for money. He was aware of the "scrambler" technique from his military training and wanted to try it out. When seeking money from his friend to facilitate his escape, Van Hook appeared completely normal to his friend. When Van Hook fled to Florida, he returned to a familiar area and to the familiar practice of robbing gay people.

Lastly, there has been no discernable change in Van Hook's behavior in over thirty years. He has continued to exhibit violent, anti-social behavior in a number of situations. He was a player in the 1997 riots. Van Hook's infractions include numerous fights, and he attacked fellow inmate Broom with a previously prepared shank, which was clearly not an impulse.

Cummings concluded by stating that most of what was presented at the hearing was a "repackaging" of what the court heard at the time of the trial. Issues might be more developed, but essentially, there was nothing new.

Stephen Maher, Assistant Attorney General cited an observation from the initial three-judge panel:

It is true, that [Van Hook] was afflicted with deficiencies of personality which suggested that he was destined to get into trouble. However, those same personality characteristics which allowed him to live and work within a community and society in a peaceful fashion when he chose to, compels this Court to a conclusion that [Van Hook] functioned as a rational human being during the period of time surrounding the criminal activity of which he has been convicted.

This is not to say that [Van Hook] was a totally normal human being. Time and time again professionals diagnosed him as having problems; of being a problem; of showing little motivation. He manifested a passivity which at times could be deceiving. But

throughout his life, his true personality reflected a desire to do his thing whenever he wished, regardless of the consequences.

Maher addressed three issues. First was the distinction between Van Hook and Joseph Murphy, a former death row inmate that was pardoned by the governor in 2011. He stated the difference was the Johnson family. Van Hook's tragic circumstances were ameliorated by his contact with the Johnsons. He spent considerable time in an "idyllic" setting. Van Hook experienced how good life could be as well as how bad it could be. At age 14 or 15, he escaped from his father. Maher then posed the question "Why not return to the Johnsons instead of living on the streets?"

Second, Maher stated that the three-judge panel was well aware of Van Hook's military experience. In fact, Dr. Aquizola was a Veterans' Administration psychologist and had treated Van Hook before. Dr. Aquizola was brought in to do an evaluation because Van Hook trusted him. While drinking became an issue in the military, the problem was that Van Hook was not showing up for assignments. The military clearly wanted him to succeed, and provided him with programming, but Van Hook did not follow through. Maher pointed out that while Van Hook's DD214 is for an honorable discharge, there is also a notation regarding alcohol or other drug abuse. He also noted that while Van Hook had indeed been promoted to sergeant, he had been "busted down" a rank when discharged.

Third, Maher discussed the mental health diagnoses, pointing out that Van Hook has consistently been given a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder and has received a number of differing additional diagnoses over the years. He stated that none of the diagnoses addresses or explains the extreme level of violence reached in this case.

Maher concurred that the question of whether Van Hook rolled gays was entirely by self-report, but pointed out that in the early 1980s, most gay victims of that sort of crime did not report it to police. He noted that Van Hook stole a gold chain and a leather coat from the victim.

The state concluded its presentation by requesting that the Board recommend to the Governor that he deny Van Hook's request for clemency.

VICTIMS' REPRESENTATIVES:

John McHugh, the brother-in-law of victim David Self, stated that the trial judges were competent and capable and heard all of the facts. Van Hook's behavior continues to be horrible. The offense was premeditated and the victim had defensive wounds. Van Hook abused the body. His daughter never met her uncle, a wonderful, funny man. McHugh witnessed what his murder did to the family. They have wrestled with grief and depression. His mother-in-law Barbara Self, whom he loved dearly, was changed forever, losing her cheery demeanor. For many years, she fretted over the lack of justice for David. She passed away in November of 2017 and he promised her he would carry on her fight. His mother-in-law wanted to see the sentence carried out. This is a request, a demand for justice.

Sarah McHugh, the victim's niece, requested that the board honor the decision of the court and provide some closure to the family. She read statements from two of the victim's friends. The first describes David Self as kind, loving and missed every day. Thirty-three years is too long to wait for justice. The process has broken family and friends' hearts over and over. The second statement stated that the victim would have been a companion to his family and friends had he lived. She believes in mercy, but believes even more in justice.

Alexander Self, the victim's younger brother, thanked everyone who provided support to the family over the years. He said their mother Barbara would have expected them to be there. He was in his senior year of college when his brother was killed. He remembered being in close contact with the Cincinnati police force throughout the investigation. This has been the source of tabloid and media articles for thirty-three years. He was troubled that current associates have gone to the media portraying Van Hook as loving and spiritual. He did not believe that Van Hook has behaved like a person who found God, since he still has a propensity for violence. There was no excuse for the murder. Substance abuse and a troubled childhood are no excuse. Van Hook did not just commit murder, he mutilated the body. He believed it was important to list all the victims of this crime: David Self, David's mother and father, his late aunt, his brother, his sister, his nieces, and his nephews. A lot has happened in thirty-three years and David missed it all because Van Hook killed him. He summed up by saying Van Hook was a brutal criminal who viciously murdered his brother and deserves to be executed.

Janet Self, the victim's sister, stated that for thirty-three years, her brother has been reduced to a gay man in a bar. He was so much more. He had a great personality, was very smart, wickedly funny and a good conversationalist. He was not afraid to be different and was very insightful. David was family oriented and knew that his family would always be there for him and he was right. Being an artist was his life's goal. She was very glad to talk about David since he was pretty much ignored at trial. She was offended at the suggestion that Van Hook's childhood lessens his responsibility for the offense. The victim himself had a very difficult childhood. He knew from a young age that he was gay. Their father was abusive and particularly violent with the victim. The family was relieved by their parents' divorce. Her mother, thinking that her son needed male role model, set him up with Big Brothers, but he ended up being sexually abused by his Big Brother. Despite all this, David never hurt anyone. She admitted he was flawed and drifted a bit, but he was turning his life around. David entered a rehab program and gotten a therapist. He had applied to enroll in the University of Cincinnati. The night of the murder was his first relapse. Robert Van Hook was looking for a victim. He admitted to preying on gay people because they were less likely to call the police. She found it hard to imagine anything more heinous than killing someone in the midst of a sexual encounter. David's last experience on earth was knowing that someone was killing him. After mutilating David's body, Van Hook went looking for something to eat.

Janet stated her entire family suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder from the experience. Her mother Barbara once described it as being thrown in the ocean and having to swim for your life. Her mother had to relive her grief with every appeal and every hearing. Her grief never truly subsided and she became older than her chronological years. Her mother deserved to have her loving older son around to shower her with attention in her waning years.

PAROLE BOARD'S POSITION AND CONCLUSION:

The Ohio Parole Board conducted an exhaustive review of the documentary submissions and carefully considered the information presented at the clemency hearing. A majority of the Board comprised of eight (8) members has concluded that Executive clemency is not warranted for the following reasons:

- While Van Hook had a very difficult childhood, his case, as was suggested by his attorneys, is not analogous with that of Joseph Murphy, pardoned by the governor in 2011. In Murphy's case, the Parole Board noted a total lack of any positive influence in the applicant's life. By contrast, Van Hook had love and support from the Johnson family at various points throughout his childhood. In his presentation, David Ferrier stated that upon entering the army, Van Hook received validation, structure and guidance. Where Murphy's family entirely abandoned him after he was incarcerated, Van Hook's family, including his sisters and the Johnsons continue to provide him with love and support. The level of gratuitous violence demonstrated surpasses any mitigation presented regarding his troubled childhood.
- The additional diagnosis of PTSD resulting from childhood sexual trauma coupled with his own self-hatred that Van Hook's current attorneys allege created a situation where he was unable to refrain from violence, is belied by his ability to largely refrain from violent behavior in the years leading up to the crime, the deliberateness with which he lured the victim into a vulnerable position, and the consciousness of his actions demonstrated by his efforts to blur his fingerprints at the scene and later fleeing the state.
- Van Hook's military service may have provided some mitigation if it had been the source of his PTSD. As presented, Van Hook's military service was an opportunity for him to take his life in a positive direction, instead, when it did not live up to his expectations, he made a series of choices that led to his discharge.
- Van Hook's prison conduct, particularly his November 2017 attack on a fellow death row inmate, which resulted in that inmate being taken out to a hospital for treatment, suggests his risk for violence has not abated in thirty-three years and belies any assertion of change or suggestion he would not be a further threat if placed in general population.
- Van Hook's trial attorneys made the court aware of his difficult childhood, his addiction, his mental health diagnosis and his military service. A majority of the Board was unable to say, with any degree of certainty, that the outcome of his trial would have been different had the mitigation evidence been presented in the same manner as it was in this hearing.

One (1) member of the Ohio Parole Board has concluded that Executive clemency in the form of life without the possibility of parole is warranted in this case based on the following:

- The trial was conducted within four months of Van Hook's arrest. Since most capital trials take place at least a year after arrest, Van Hook's trial attorneys had insufficient time to prepare adequately, particularly with regard to the mitigation phase.
- Van Hook was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, a substance abuse disorder and, more recently, with PTSD. These conditions attributed to tremendous childhood trauma, instability, deviant sexual abuse, and confusion with his own sexual

identity. As a result, Van Hook developed abusive and violent behaviors as a means to survive. According to information presented, Van Hook was never loved, nurtured, or given the tools to live a normal life style, and lived in perpetual uncertainty. Despite the heinous nature of the crime, these factors serve to mitigate the offense.

- Acknowledgement of military service should be considered for those who serve in the military. In the instances of crime, an individual's service should be recognized in the mitigation phase. Van Hook received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army and his service deserves to be considered as mitigation.

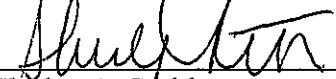
RECOMMENDATION:

The Ohio Parole Board with nine (9) members participating, by a vote of eight (8) to one (1) recommends to the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, that Executive clemency be denied in the case of Robert Van Hook.

Robert Van Hook, A186-347
Death Penalty Clemency Report

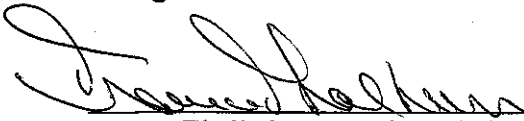
Adult Parole Authority

Ohio Parole Board Members
Voting **Favorable**
Commutation to Life Without Parole



Shirley A. Smith

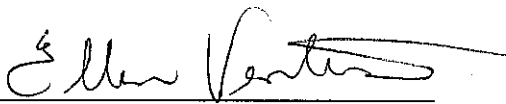
Ohio Parole Board Members
Voting **Unfavorable**



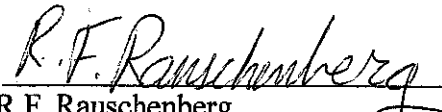
Trayce Thalheimer, Acting Chair



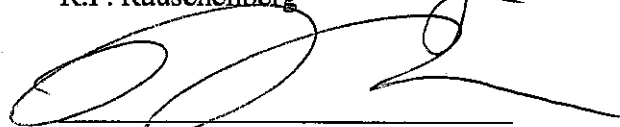
Kathleen Kovach




Ellen Venters



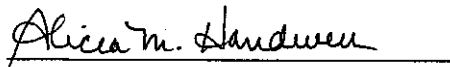
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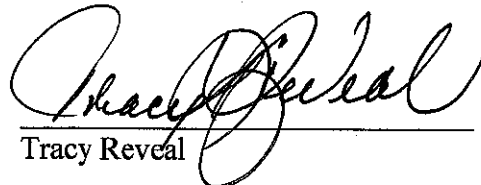
Marc Houk



Ronald E. Nelson Jr.



Alicia Handwerk



Tracy Reveal