

O HIOANS TO STOP EXECUTIONS

DEATH PENALTY IN OHIO

1803-1897

- 1803-1884** Death sentences are carried out by hanging in individual counties.
- 1885** Hanging executions begin at the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus.
- 1897** The state's electric chair is put into use.

1897-1963

- 1897 – 1963** 312 men and three women die in the electric chair. Donald L. Reinbolt of Columbus is the last person executed (March 15, 1963).

1963-1974

- June 29, 1972** U.S. Supreme Court overturns the death penalty due to application concerns. The 65 prisoners on Death Row in Ohio have their sentences reduced to life.
- 1974** Ohio re-establishes the Death Penalty mandating its' use for certain crimes.

1974-1981

- July 3, 1978** Ohio law ruled unconstitutional (Lockett). The sentences of 100 inmates are reduced to life.

1981-1991

- January 1, 1981** Ohio again reinstates the death penalty based upon "guided discretion." Leonard Jenkins becomes the first person sentenced (October 19, 1981).
- April 15, 1988** Ohioans to Stop Executions is established.
- January 11, 1991** Governor Richard Celeste commutes the death sentences of eight inmates: Debra Brown, Rosalie Grant, Elizabeth Green, Beatrice Lampkin, Leonard Jenkins, Willie Jester, Donald Maurer, and Lee Seiber.

1991-1999

- July 2, 1993** Lethal injection is added as an execution option.
- November 8, 1994** Voters amend the Ohio Constitution to shorten death penalty appeals.
- June 28, 1995** Ohio legislature adds "Life Without Parole" option for aggravated murder.
- November 7, 1995** Voters amend the Ohio Constitution, limiting the Governor's authority in providing clemency.

1999

February 19, 1999 Wilford Berry is executed by lethal injection for the death of Charles Mitroff, Cleveland, Ohio. (VOLUNTEER)

2001

June 14, 2001 Jay D Scott is executed by lethal injection for the death of Vinnie Prince, Cleveland, Ohio.

November 21, 2001 **Governor Taft signs bill eliminating the use of the electric chair.**

2002

February 19, 2002 John Byrd Jr. is executed for the death of Monte Tewksbury, Cincinnati, Ohio.

April 26, 2000 Alton Coleman is executed regarding the deaths of Tonnie Storey, Cincinnati, Ohio, Marlene Walters, Norwood, Ohio, Vernita Wheat, Chicago, Illinois, and Tamika Turks, Gary, Indiana.

June 20, 2002 **U.S. Supreme Court's *Adkins* ruling prohibits the execution of persons with mental retardation.**

Sept. 25, 2002 Robert Buell is executed for the death of Krista Lee Harrison, Marshallville, Ohio.

2003

February 12, 2003 Richard Fox is executed for the death of Leslie Keckler, Bowling Green, Ohio.

April 29, 2003 David Brewer is executed for the death of Sherry Byrne, Beavercreek, Ohio.

June 18, 2003 Ernest Martin is executed for the death of Robert Robinson, Cleveland, Ohio

June 26, 2003 **Governor Taft commutes Jerome Campbell to *Life Without Parole***

2004

January 14, 2004 Lewis Williams Jr. is executed for the death of Leoma Chmielewski, Cleveland, Ohio.

February 3, 2004 John Glenn Roe is executed for the death of Donette Crawford, Columbus, Ohio.

March 30, 2004 William Wickline is executed regarding the deaths of Christopher and Peggy Lerch Columbus, Ohio

June 8, 2004 William Zuern is executed for the death of Phillip Pence, Hamilton County

July 14, 2004 Stephen Vrabel is executed for the deaths of Susan and Lisa Clemente, Struthers, Ohio (VOLUNTEER)

July 20, 2004 Scott Mink is executed for the deaths of William and Sheila Mink, Union, Ohio. (VOLUNTEER)

October 13, 2004 Adremy Dennis is executed for the death of Kurt Kyle, Akron, Ohio.

2005

March 1, 2005 **U.S. Supreme Court in Roper v. Simmons abolishes the death penalty for Juvenile offenders under age 18.**

March 8, 2005 William Smith is executed for the death of Mary Bradford, Cincinnati, Ohio.

September 8, 2005 **John Spirko is granted a two-month reprieve by Governor Taft.**

September 27, 2005 Herman Ashworth is executed for the death of Daniel Baker, Newark, Ohio

October 25, 2005 Willie Williams is executed for the deaths of William Dent, Eric Howard, Alfonda Madison and Theodore Wynn, Youngstown Ohio

November 7, 2005 **John Spirko receives a Second Reprieve until January 19, 2006.**

November 29, 2005 John R. Hicks is executed for the death of Brandy Greene, Cincinnati, Ohio

2006

January 9, 2006 **John Spirko receives a Third Reprieve until July 19, 2006.**

February 7, 2006 Glenn L. Benner is executed for the deaths of Cynthia Sedgwich and Trina Bowser, Summit County

May 2, 2006 Joseph L. Clark is executed for the death of David Manning, Lucas County. The execution is botched, taking 80 minutes to conclude.

June 19, 2006 **John Spirko receives a Fourth Reprieve until November 29, 2006.**

July 12, 2006 Rocky Barton is executed for the death of Kimbirli Jo Barton, Warren County. (VOLUNTEER)

August 8, 2006 Darrell Ferguson is executed for the deaths of Thomas King, Arlie Fugate, and Mae Fugate, Montgomery County. (VOLUNTEER)

October 23, 2006 **John Spirko receives a Fifth Reprieve until April 17, 2007.**

October 24, 2006 Jeffrey Lundgren is executed for the deaths of Dennis, Cheryl, Trina and Karen Avery, Kirtland, Ohio

2007

January 19, 2007 **Governor Strickland grants short Reprieves to Kenneth Biros, James Filliggi and Christopher Newton.**

March 27, 2007 **John Spirko receives a Sixth Reprieve until September 18, 2007.**

April 24, 2007 James Filliggi is executed for the death of Lisa Huff Fillaggi, Lorain County. (VOLUNTEER)

- May 25, 2007** Christopher Newton is executed for the death of Jason Brewer, Richland County. It takes over 90 minutes to find a vein. It appears he suffocated to death. (VOLUNTEER)
- July 30, 2007** John Spirko receives his **Seventh Reprieve until January 24, 2008.**
- September 24, 2007** American Bar Association releases Ohio Death Penalty Recommendations calling upon Governor Strickland to halt executions pending a State Study.
- September 25, 2007** Supreme Court agrees to hear Kentucky case regarding Lethal Injection. De-facto moratorium occurs until Summer 2008.

2008

- January 7, 2008** Kenneth Ritchey released by pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter. He returns to Scotland
- January 9, 2008** Governor Strickland commutes John Spirko's sentence to life without Parole
- April 16, 2008** U. S. Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of Lethal Injection in *Baze* decision
- October 14, 2008** Richard Cooley is executed for the deaths of Wendy Offredo and Dawn McCreery, Summit County
- November 19, 2008** Gregory Bryant-Bey is executed for the death of Dale Pinkelman, Lucas County

2009

- February 12, 2009** Governor Strickland commutes Jeffrey Hill's death sentence for killing his mother, Emma Hill, to 25 years to life after pleas from family members not to execute.
- June 3, 2009** Daniel Wilson is executed for the death of Carol Lutz, Lorain County
- July 14, 2009** John Fautenberry is executed for the death of Joseph Daron, Hamilton County.
- July 21, 2009** Marvalous Keene is executed for the deaths of Joseph Wilkerson, Danita Gullette, Sarah Abraham, Wendy Cottrill, and Marvin Washington, Dayton.
- August 18, 2009** Jason Getsy is executed for the death of Ann Serafino, Hubbard. The Parole Board had recommended clemency due, in part, to disparity in his sentence. The Governor did not follow this recommendation.
- September 15, 2009** Romell Broom's execution was stopped after one hour and twenty minutes when problems inserting the needle into Mr. Broom's arms and legs persisted. At least 12-18 attempts were made to find a supportable vein. Mr. Broom was reported to be in great pain throughout the process.
- Oct/Nov 2009** Lawrence Reynolds Jr. and Darryl Durr receive Governor reprieves until March & April 2010
- December 8, 2009** Kenneth Biros is executed for the death of Tami Engstrom, Trumbull County. He was the first person in the U.S. to be executed by a one drug lethal injection.

2010

January 7, 2010

Vernon Lamont Smith, nka Abdullah Sharif Kaazim Mahdienneth, is executed for the death of Sohail Darwish from Toledo.

February 4, 2010

Mark Brown is executed for the deaths of Isam Salman and Hayder Al-Turk from Youngstown.

Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) is a statewide network of people and organizations united by a desire to abolish the death penalty and to promote effective, humane alternatives to its use.

OTSE is committed to dialogue and education about the death penalty. Members also witness their opposition to the death penalty through contact with public officials and the media, and by organizing actions such as peaceful marches and prayer vigils. OTSE publishes the newsletter STOPPIT.



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