

Forgotten Service, Lasting Wounds

A Report by the Death Penalty Information Center

Appendices 1-4

Appendix 1: Death-Sentenced Individuals Affected by Parents' Military Service

Name	State	Year of Death Sentence	Citation or Source of Information	Description	DPI Death Penalty Census Status (as of 10/31/2025)
Eric Frein	PA	2017	Kyle Swenson, He grew up listening to his father's anti-police rants. A lawsuit claims it drove him to murder. , The Washington Post, Sep. 27, 2017	Eric's father Eugene, a career Army and National Guard officer who retired as a major, "regaled friends and family with constant war stories about serving as a tank commander in Vietnam," but the stories were false; victim's family filed lawsuit alleging that Eugene contributed to capital offense by shaping Eric's beliefs	Active Death Sentence
Wayne Doty	FL	2013, 2018	<i>Doty v. State</i> , 170 So.3d 731, 736 (Fla. 2015)	After Wayne's father Randall "returned from his military service in Vietnam, he became an alcoholic and was abusive"	Active Death Sentence
Michael Allan Lamb	CA	2008	<i>People v. Lamb</i> , 16 Cal.5th 400, 492 (2024)	Michael's father Steven served in Vietnam, "was dishonorably discharged for going AWOL and committing assault," and "was verbally, mentally, and physically abusive"	Grant of Relief (Retrial/Resentencing Pending)
Mario Dion Woodward	AL	2008	<i>Woodward v. State</i> , 276 So.3d 713, 774-75 (Ala. Ct. Crim. App. 2018)	Mario's father Mark was "discharged from the United States Air Force for selling drugs," abused substances, and "was paranoid and...verbally	Active Death Sentence

				and physically abusive”	
Julius Jarreau Moore	AZ	2007	<i>State v. Moore</i> , 222 Ariz. 1 (2009)	Julius’ father “suffered from depression and flashbacks related to his service in the Vietnam War,” “had stopped communicating with his family” before Julius’ offense, and testified at trial that “his children grew up watching him kill himself by drinking”	Active Death Sentence
Tierra Capri Gobble	AL	2005	<i>Gobble v. State</i> , 104 So.3d 920, 987-88 (Ala. Ct. Crim. App. 2010)	“Domestic violence occurring between Ms. Gobble’s mother and stepfather...was so severe that the Navy ordered Dallas Gobble, the stepfather, to attend marriage counseling as a condition of Dallas Gobble’s being able to remain in the Navy”	Active Death Sentence
Irving Alvin Davis	TX	2002, 2008	<i>Davis v. Lumpkin</i> , 2023 WL 5986474 *15 (W.D. Tex. 2023)	Irving’s father Oscar, a career military man, was “a drinker who physically and verbally abused [his wife]—and treated his children like they were in the military.” He exhibited “extra hostility when he returned home from a deployment.” His wife eventually got a restraining order and raised Irving and his siblings alone	Active Death Sentence
Brad Keith Sigmon	SC	2002	<i>Sigmon v. Stirling</i> , 956	While in the military, “Sigmon’s father	Executed

			F.3d 183, 205 (4th Cir. 2020) (King, J., dissenting)	abused alcohol and spent a lot of time away from the family,” his “mother had difficulty coping with being a young mother and adjusting to military life,” and the family had to “relocate frequently, including to the Philippines”	
Robert J. Hudson	TX	2000	<i>Hudson v. Quarterman</i> , 273 Fed.Appx. 331, 337 (5th Cir. 2008)	Robert’s father Emmitt Williams “was drafted into the Army and served in Vietnam, after which he developed drug and alcohol problems leading to his incarceration, and he became withdrawn from his son”	Executed
Roger Hoan Brady	CA	1999	<i>People v. Brady</i> , 50 Cal.4th 547 (2010)	Roger was born to a Vietnamese mother and American Marine father; grew up in CIA compounds in Vietnam where he saw soldiers killed and survived attacks; and was exposed to drugs and alcohol by his father Phillip, who suffered from PTSD symptoms	Active Death Sentence
Sonny Enraca	CA	1999	<i>People v. Enraca</i> , 53 Cal.4th 735, 747 (2012)	Sonny’s stepfather Robert Harris, a military man, was “physically and emotionally abusive,” and Sonny was “heartbroken” by having to leave his family and move to	Active Death Sentence

				Guam for Robert's assignment	
John Edward Weik	SC	1999	<i>Weik v. State</i> , 409 S.C. 214 (2014)	Vacating John's death sentence because trial counsel failed to present evidence of his father Russell's Navy service, schizophrenia, violent military delusions, and abusive behavior	Resentenced to Life or Less
Robert Mark Edwards	CA	1998	<i>People v. Edwards</i> , 57 Cal.4th 658, 686-89 (2013)	Robert's father William, a two-tour Army pilot in Vietnam who also previously served in the Marines, terrorized Robert, including whipping him, making him rub stool on himself if he had an accident, and stabbing his hands with forks at the dinner table	Active Death Sentence
Dennis M. Orbe	VA	1998	<i>Orbe v. True</i> , 82 Fed.Appx. 802, 814-15 (4th Cir. 2003)	Dennis' stepfather Clyde Sizemore, "an alcoholic who was in the military," and became "very abusive...after [he] returned from Vietnam"	Executed
LaSamuel Gamble	AL	1996	<i>State v. Gamble</i> , 63 So.3d 707, 715-16 (Ala. Ct. Crim. App. 2010)	Vacating LaSamuel's death sentence because trial counsel had knowledge of his father Leo's "military service in Vietnam, his subsequent violence, erratic behavior, and drug and alcohol dependencies," but did not further investigate	Resentenced to Life or Less

				or present this evidence at trial	
Brandon Arnae Taylor	CA	1996	<i>People v. Taylor</i> , 48 Cal.4th 574, 592, 618 (2010)	Brandon was conceived as a result of rape by his father, a veteran with schizophrenia	Active Death Sentence
Matthew Dwight Thompson	OR	1996	<i>Thompson v. Premo</i> , 2021 WL 1929821 (D. Oregon May 13, 2021)	Matthew's father Dwight was diagnosed with PTSD from his Vietnam service as well as schizophrenia	Sentence Commuted
Antoinette Frank	LA	1995	<i>State v. Frank</i> , 957 So.2d 724 (La. 2007); Sandra L. Babcock, Antoinette Frank: Facing Execution While the Crime's Mastermind Serves Life , Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, Oct. 5, 2023	Antoinette's father Adam suffered severe Vietnam flashbacks, booby-trapped and destroyed parts of the home, and physically and sexually abused his children, particularly Antoinette, whom he held captive and raped for years from the time she was 11	Active Death Sentence
Donald Franklin Smith	CA	1995	<i>People v. Bryant, Smith and Wheeler</i> , 60 Cal.4th 335, 362 (2014)	Donald's "father was in the military and seldom present," "frequently beat" Donald when home, molested his sister, and "showed the children no affection"	Active Death Sentence
Ambrose L. Sykes	DE	2006	<i>Sykes v. State</i> , 147	Chief Justice Strine would have vacated	Resentenced to Life or Less

			A.3d 201 (Del. 2015) (Strine, C.J., dissenting)	the death sentence, noting trial counsel failed to present evidence Ambrose's father Jesse was "discharged from the military for selling drugs," after which "there was not enough money 'really to eat,'" and Jesse used drugs in front of his family and beat Ambrose "with belt buckles, tennis rackets, and sticks"	
Anthony Wainwright	FL	1995	Petition for Certiorari, Wainwright v. Florida , 605 U.S. ___, No. 24-7365, 8-16, 23-33 (2025)	Anthony's father Ken was heavily exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam before conceiving Anthony six months after his return, which could have damaged Anthony's genes and explained various symptoms including low intellectual functioning, developmental impairments, poor impulse control, and tremors	Executed
Gregory O. Tate	CA	1993	<i>People v. Tate</i> , 49 Cal.4th 635, 651 (2010)	Gregory's father Gregory Sr. was sent to Vietnam and "came back addicted to heroin," physically abused his family, and "supported his drug habits with crime"	Resentenced to Life or Less
Robert Bacon Jr.	NC	1991	<i>Bacon v. Lee</i> , 225 F.3d 479 (4th	Counsel failed to present evidence that Robert Bacon's father	Sentence Commuted

			Cir. 2000) (King, J., dissenting)	was absent for most of his childhood due to overseas military service and was a physically abusive alcoholic, while Robert's mother enlisted him to spy on his father's serial adultery in a way that mirrored Robert's later capital crime; Judge King argued majority was "delving into the realm of legal fiction" in asserting that Robert received due process on his ineffective assistance claim	
Brent Ray Brewer	TX	1991, 2009	<i>Brewer v. Dretke</i> , 2004 WL 1732312 (N.D. Tex. Aug. 2, 2004)	Brent's father Albert was a Vietnam veteran who suffered from PTSD and depression, alternately abandoning and abusing his wife and son	Executed
Robert Young	CA	1990	<i>People v. Young</i> , 34 Cal.4th 1149, 1219 (2005)	Prosecutor tried to downplay "evidence that [Robert's] father had difficulty coping with his experience in Vietnam"	Resentenced to Life or Less
Heck Van Tran	TN	1989	<i>Van Tran v. Colson</i> , 764 F.3d 594 (6th Cir. 2014)	Remanding for <i>Atkins</i> hearing, describing how Heck was born to a Vietnamese mother and an American serviceman during the Vietnam war, displayed signs of intellectual and developmental disabilities from birth,	Active Death Sentence

				and was impoverished and homeless after his father died when he was 2	
Dwight Adolf Denson	OH	1985	<i>State v. Denson</i> , 1986 WL 11244 (Ohio Ct. App. 1986)	Dwight's adoptive father Adolph was a "military man who expected strict obedience," subjecting Dwight to punishments including "beatings, going without meals and standing in the corner for long periods of time for misbehavior"	Resentenced to Life or Less
Troy Kunkle	TX	1985	<i>Kunkle v. Dretke</i> , 352 F.3d 980 (5th Cir. 2003)	Troy's father Jerry became physically abusive after being discharged from the military following a psychotic break	Executed
Kelvin Shelby Malone	CA, MO	1983, 1983	<i>People v. Malone</i> , 47 Cal.3d 1, 15 (1988)	Kelvin's "father's military career led to an unstable family life, with his father, a harsh authoritarian, frequently absent for long periods of time"	Executed
Michael Allen Williams	CA	1983	<i>People v. Williams</i> , 45 Cal.3d 1268, 1287 (1988)	Michael's father Dennis was an abusive Navy service member	Resentenced to Life or Less

Note: This appendix is not comprehensive and includes just those cases identified by the Death Penalty Information Center while researching death-sentenced military veterans.

Appendix 2: Capital Cases Where Prosecutors Excluded Black Veterans from the Jury

Prisoner Name	State	Year of Death Sentence	Source Citation	Description	Death Penalty Census Status (as of 10/31/2025)
Franklin Davis	TX	2013	<i>Davis v. State</i> , 2016 WL 6520209 (Tex. Ct. Crim. App. 2016)	Upholding strike of Black veteran	Active Death Sentence
Don'te McDaniel	CA	2009	<i>People v. McDaniel</i> , 12 Cal.5th 97 (2021)	Upholding strike of Black veteran	Active Death Sentence
Thomas Robert Lane	AL	2006, 2016	<i>Lane v. State</i> , 327 So.3d 691 (Ala. Ct. Crim. App. 2020)	Upholding strike of Black veteran even though prosecutor did not strike white Navy veteran	Active Death Sentence
Angelo M. Melendez	CA	2003	<i>People v. Melendez</i> , 2 Cal.5th 1 (2016)	Upholding strike of two Black veterans; prosecutor said that one had been court-martialed and the other had "killed before" as a Marine in Vietnam, which could make him hesitate to impose death penalty	Active Death Sentence
Marcellus E. Williams	MO	2001	<i>State v. Williams</i> , 97 S.W.3d 462 (Mo. 2003)	Upholding strike of Black veteran because he was court-martialed for theft	Executed
Johnny D. Miles	CA	2000	<i>People v. Miles</i> , 9 Cal.5th 513 (2020)	Upholding strike of Black veteran who expressed concern about racial and class bias in criminal justice system	Active Death Sentence
Joseph Manuel Montes	CA	1997	<i>People v. Montes</i> , 58 Cal.4th 809 (2014)	Upholding strike of retired Black veteran because prosecutor argued there was "a complete void as to what he's been doing since" retirement, despite the fact	Active Death Sentence

				that the prosecutor had not asked	
Robert Wesley Cowan	CA	1996	<i>People v. Cowan</i> , 50 Cal.4th 401 (2010)	Upholding strike of Black Air Force veteran who had served as military police officer, because he expressed concern about risk of error in trial process	Active Death Sentence
Bob Russell Williams	CA	1996	<i>People v. Williams</i> , 40 Cal.4th 287 (2006)	Upholding strike of Black Air Force veteran who did not oppose death penalty and had been on prior jury that ended in conviction, based on prosecutor's argument that he had multiple relatives with criminal records	Active Death Sentence
Albert Jones	CA	1996	<i>People v. Jones</i> , 51 Cal.4th 346 (2011)	Upholding strike of two Black veterans, one whose son's criminal record the prosecutor misrepresented, the other a bus driver struck because "local lighting conditions" were an issue in the case, despite the fact that the prosecution kept two white bus drivers on jury; two justices dissented	Active Death Sentence
Paul Loyde Hensley	CA	1995	<i>People v. Hensley</i> , 59 Cal.4th 788 (2014)	Upholding strike of Black Army veteran who served 21 years as a systems analyst, belonged to a disabled veteran's association, and had served on two prior juries based on prosecutor's argument that the potential juror was "very mechanical, very stiff," but reversing on other grounds	Resentenced to Life or Less
Willie Gamble Jr.	GA	1986	<i>Gamble v. State</i> , 257 Ga. 325 (1987)	Vacating death sentence due to <i>Batson</i> violation, including strike of Black veteran; prosecutor speculated that the potential juror must have	Resentenced to Life or Less

				been kicked out of the Army because he served six years, and "Army [terms] are usually four" years; prosecutor also commented that the man "looks a little like the defendant," a Black man	
--	--	--	--	---	--

Note: This appendix is not comprehensive and includes just those cases identified by the Death Penalty Information Center while researching death-sentenced military veterans.

Appendix 3: Exonerated Veterans

Name	State	Year of Conviction	Year of Exoneration	Branch of Service	Reasons for Exoneration
Walter Ograd	PA	1996	2020	Army Reserves	False Confession, Perjury or False Accusation, False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Official Misconduct, Inadequate Legal Defense
Rickey Dale Newman	AR	2002	2017	Marine Corps	False Confession, Perjury or False Accusation, False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Official Misconduct, Inadequate Legal Defense
Ralph Daniel Wright Jr.	FL	2014	2017	Air Force	Official Misconduct, Insufficient Evidence
Joe D'Ambrosio	OH	1989	2012	Army	Perjury or False Accusation, False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Official Misconduct
Michael Lee McCormick	TN	1987	2007	Air Force	False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Inadequate Legal Defense
Ray Krone	AZ	1992	2002	Air Force	False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Official Misconduct
Charles Irvin Fain	ID	1983	2001	Army	Perjury or False Accusation, False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Official Misconduct
Jeremy Sheets	NE	1997	2001	Navy	Perjury or False Accusation
William Nieves	PA	1994	2000	Marine Corps	Mistaken Witness Identification, Perjury or False Accusation, Official Misconduct,

					Inadequate Legal Defense
Kirk Noble Bloodsworth	MD	1984	1993	Marine Corps	Mistaken Witness Identification, Official Misconduct
Jay Charles Smith	PA	1986	1992	Army, Army Reserves	Mistaken Witness Identification, Perjury or False Accusation, False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Official Misconduct
Randall Dale Adams	TX	1977	1989	Army	Mistaken Witness Identification, Perjury or False Accusation, Official Misconduct
Robert Craig Cox	FL	1988	1989	Army	False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Insufficient Evidence

Note: To learn more about these cases, see the Death Penalty Information Center's [Innocence Database](#) and [Description of Innocence Cases](#) page. For information about an exonerated individual's military service, contact Staff Attorney Leah Roemer at lroemer@deathpenaltyinfo.org.

Appendix 4: Veterans of Foreign Militaries Sentenced to Death in the United States

Name	State	Year of Death Sentence	Country of Military Service	Case Status (As of 10/31/2025)
Mohammad Sharifi	AL	2005	Iran	Active Death Sentence
John S. Ghobrial	CA	2002	Egypt	Active Death Sentence
Vaene Sivongxay	CA	1999	Thailand	Active Death Sentence
Hung Thanh Le	OK	1995	Vietnam*	Executed
Gerardo Manso	FL	1995	Cuba	Resentenced to Life or Less
Avram Vineto Nika	NV	1995	Serbia	Grant of Relief (Retrial/Resentencing Pending)
Rudi Apelt	AZ	1991	Germany	Resentenced to Life or Less
Peter Sakarias	CA	1991	Russia	Resentenced to Life or Less
Elias Hanna Syriani	NC	1991	Jordan	Executed
Tauno Waidla	CA	1991	Russia	Grant of Relief (Retrial/Resentencing Pending)
Michael Apelt	AZ	1990	Germany	Active Death Sentence
Quang Ngoc Bui	AL	1986	Vietnam	Resentenced to Life or Less
Walter Hill	AL	1978, 1980	Jamaica	Executed

Note: These individuals are not included in our total count or analysis of death-sentenced U.S. military veterans. However, their stories demonstrate similar traumas and effects of military service on later behavior. This appendix is not comprehensive and includes just those cases identified by the Death Penalty Information Center while researching death-sentenced U.S. military veterans.

* Hung Thanh Le was forced to serve as a child soldier.