



National Troopers Coalition

October 8, 2015

NYS Board of Parole
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 2
Albany, New York 12226-2050

To New York State Board of Parole,

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On behalf of the National Troopers Coalition and the 42,000 State Troopers we represent across the country, we oppose the parole of Inmate John Ruzas. We urge the Parole Board not to release Inmate Ruzas, who was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years to life for the brutal slaying of New York State Trooper Emerson J. Dillon. By denying Inmate Ruzas parole, you would send a strong message that the killing of a police officer is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

In October of 1974, Trooper Dillon left his wife and six children at home in order to fulfill his calling and oath of office as a State Trooper. Trooper Dillon had been a State Trooper for 16 years. He loved being a New York State Trooper and he acted bravely and heroically until Inmate Ruzas ended his life. Trooper Dillon initiated a traffic stop for a suspicious vehicle on the New York State Thruway near Canastota., unaware the occupants of the vehicle were fleeing a jewelry store robbery. One of the passengers, Ruzas, shot Trooper Dillon in the left side of his heart, killing him. When Ruzas murdered Trooper Dillon, he was already on parole from Attica for his role in two robberies in New York City.

The National Troopers Coalition opposes Inmate Ruzas release because he intentionally and maliciously murdered Trooper Dillon. Inmate Ruzas has no respect for the criminal justice system and no regard for the law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day and are willing to sacrifice their own lives in order to protect the public. If released, the tragic death of Trooper Dillon, a husband and caring father would be lost and the agony of his death will be compounded for his family.

Inmate Ruzas must be held accountable for his deliberate choice to murder the very police officer that was willing to die to protect our freedom and enforce the law. His blatant disregard for human life and for those who are the front line defense of our society is inconceivable to any reasonable person. No second chances should be afforded to a convicted murderer of a police officer and it is right and just to deny parole.

In closing, we urge you to deny parole for Inmate Ruzas for the irreparable harm he has caused not only to the Dillon family, but also to law enforcement communities. Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Andrew N. Matthews, Esq.
Chairman, National Troopers Coalition
President, Connecticut State Police Union