



National Troopers Coalition

January 12, 2016

NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Attn: Director Janet Koupash, Office of Victim Assistance
1220 Washington Ave, Building 2
Albany, New York 12226

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Director Koupash,

On behalf of the National Troopers Coalition and the 42,000 State Troopers we represent across the country, we oppose the parole of Inmate Joseph Comfort. We urge the Parole Board not to release Inmate Comfort who participated in the brutal murder of New York State Police Investigator Robert Van Hall. By denying Inmate Comfort parole, you would send a strong message that the killing of a police officer is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

On Friday, December 5, 1980, Investigator Van Hall was conducting an undercover operation when he was brutally gunned down by Inmate Comfort and his brother.

The National Troopers Coalition opposes Inmate Comforts release because he intentionally and maliciously murdered Investigator Robert Van Hall. Inmate Comfort 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 Investigator Robert Van Hall, a husband and caring father would be lost and the agony of his death will be compounded for his family.

Inmate Comfort 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 Comfort for the irreparable harm he has caused not only to the Van Hall 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