

30 Knot Street, Patchogue, New York 11772

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

December 11, 2014

Dear Governor Haley,

My son was advised by Ms. Patel that you have been fully briefed about my husband, Larry Barnett's extradition case. As you must therefore know, when he was in his 20s, he was given probation, and then violated it when he forged a check from his stepfather, resulting in a lengthy prison sentence. As a young, naïve, stupid and impulsive man, he walked away from the hard labor chain gang camp after serving less than two years. He was working outdoors and was unsupervised at the time. It was wrong, and I can't make light of what he did. He regretted it all his life. In 1993, as you also must know, after reviewing all the facts, Governor Campbell declined to extradite him. The case was over. The arrest warrant was dismissed and we continued to live at the same address from 1988 to the present time.

In 2005, we came back to New York via JFK and a red flag popped up at the airport. Security contacted South Carolina late at night, and someone there said that there was an arrest warrant for my husband. That was not true. Nonetheless, at their verbal request, he was taken into custody. He spent close to a month at Rikers Island. When there was no paperwork from South Carolina by the 90th day, and 3rd court appearance in Queens, the case was dismissed. In 2006, my husband was again taken into custody on a Governor's Warrant from Governor Mark Sanford. My husband spent a few more weeks in jail awaiting a habeas corpus hearing, and was released. That case was eventually dismissed, appealed, dismissed, appealed, etc. Sometime in 2008, I believe, it was confirmed that there was no arrest warrant for my husband since 1993. Not in 2005, 2006, etc. Eventually another arrest warrant was issued. In 2012, he was again taken into custody at your request. We wanted to resolve this matter legally and have done everything we can to try to rectify the situation, to no avail. He surrendered himself in New York on November 20, 2014 and officials from South Carolina came to pick him up last week, on December 2, 2014.

I spoke with someone yesterday at Kirkland, who informed me that because of my husband's fugitive status, he will be kept in solitary confinement for perhaps 90 days or more. She also said he will not have access to telephone privileges, letter writing or to commissary account, and that perhaps after 30 days he may be given an indigent package, but that was not definite because he was an escapee. She said he may receive letters from home, but that is it. This man will die in prison under such conditions.

I would like to tell you a little bit about the man who is back in South Carolina now because he is not the young, crazy kid that left there. He is much older and mature. He is a loving father, and helped raise 5 amazing children. He is a grandfather to 8, and the most wonderful husband a woman could have.

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He is gentle, kind, polite and respectful. He has tried to address his recent fugitive status through the courts, with the advice of attorneys both in New York (George Dazzo) and South Carolina (Jack Swerling). He did not shirk his responsibility. He went to every court appearance and turned himself in, as requested. Jail is not going to change him into a good man. He already has changed himself over the past 35+ years and is a great person.

Our daughter, Erin, has significant emotional issues and is rapidly declining with her father's extradition. She has been under the professional care of mental health practitioners since this all started. It has taken a tremendous toll on her with suicide attempts. She needs her Dad home, and at the very least, needs to be able to talk to him on the phone.

My husband, too, is not a well man. He can't see and urgently needs to have cataract surgery, which was scheduled to happen before he surrendered. He is almost blind in one eye due to it. This surgery needs to be done right away and will be an expense on your state if he must stay there. He has had a stroke in the past, which has caused him to have a hearing loss, issues with memory loss, as well as depression. He has poorly controlled hypertension and angina, and has been under the care of a cardiologist and our family physician for this. He was taken to the hospital due to chest pains and admitted to Telemetry last month from jail. He was also recently diagnosed to have a carotid bruit, which increases the likelihood of him having another stroke if it's not managed surgically. He also has diabetes and is on medication for that too. He has been under the care of a pulmonologist for his lungs and has been seen at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Hospital in New York City for evaluation of leukocytosis and leukemia. He has so many health issues and will likely die in prison. He truly deserves your mercy.

I am begging you to consider releasing my husband on a compassionate basis. I know that you, as the Governor, are the only person who has the authority to do so. Please consider this request thoughtfully and prayerfully. He is a good Christian. He has turned his life around. I know that you would assume that I would have to say this for my husband, so I am enclosing a letter from our Pastor and from his boss. They are of the utmost integrity, and join me in asking for his release. Pastor O'Hara can tell you about Erin, if you would like to consult with him. This is a very unusual case with many extenuating circumstances. Please consider all the factors and help us with this matter. Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much. I wish you God's blessing at this Christmastime and hope that you will find it in your heart to grant this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "LuAnne Blake". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

LuAnne Blake

December 5, 2014

The Honorable Kela Evans Thomas
Director
Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
State of South Carolina
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PO Box 50666
Columbia, SC 29250

exclusive distributor of:

kusch | co

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Dear Director Evans Thomas

I have been asked to write a letter of reference for my employee, Howard Blake (aka Larry Wayne Barnett) and it is with great pleasure that I do so. This is a very unique and unusual situation and I am energetic to endorse Mr. Blake's Application for a Pardon.

I am aware of Mr. Blake's prior difficulties since both of his violations have been fully described to me. In my view these transgressions, which occurred nearly 40 years ago, were committed by a youthful person who has matured into an honorable, trustworthy, sincere, God-fearing and dedicated family man.

I am confident that Mr. Blake acknowledges his mistakes and has made a remarkable turnaround. He is a responsible, honest and law-abiding employee whom I know to be a very good man. He is a valued worker who would be welcomed back to his part-time job if allowed to return in the near future.

Please note that I do not make this recommendation lightly. In an earlier part of my career, I served as a Probation Officer in Nassau County (NY). Subsequently, I was drafted into the US Army and spent six years as a Military Policeman (2 active and 4 reserve). I was promoted from private to sergeant in 13 months and received a direct commission to Second Lieutenant just 9 months later.

Further, I spent 25 years in the volunteer fire service; commanded a Hook & Ladder Company and served as Fire Commissioner for 10 years. In short, I am quite familiar with the responsibilities of public service and law enforcement. As such, I do not endorse the integrity of other people unless I am very confident that my trust will not be betrayed. Mr. Blake meets that standard.

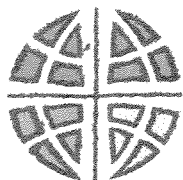
Mr. Blake is facing considerable health problems and needs continuing medical supervision. I am told that his health will deteriorate rapidly if his incarceration is continued.

I am very confident that Mr. Blake is remorseful of his past crimes and has made a superlative effort to change life. As such, I implore your compassionate consideration of his Pardon Application.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Justin J. Thompson
President



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

231 JAYNE AVENUE
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Rev. Kevin O'Hara, Pastor
Office Phone: (631) 475-5725
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Cc: Judge Arthur Pitts, Supreme Court, Riverhead, New York

November 1, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I am the called and ordained pastor of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Patchogue, New York. I was ordained in 2011 under the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the largest of the Lutheran bodies in the United States. I was called to this particular church on May 19, 2013 and have happily served this congregation since then. I would be happy to supply any documentation to prove this, should that be necessary.

I am writing to you in relation to Mr. Blake's potential extradition, although by right, I have little to add that my predecessors haven't already mentioned. Since the beginning of the recent correspondences and court proceedings back in 1993 against Larry Wayne Barnett (or as my congregation knows him, Jay Howard Blake), the previous two pastors of this congregation and I have been concerned about the pursuing legal ramifications against the Blake family. Back in 1993, Rev. Norman Imbrock wrote a letter to the state of South Carolina arguing that the Jay Howard Blake that he knew was an honest and upright man; my colleague vouched that Mr. Blake was a man of renown character and suggested a pardon be granted for his good behavior. In 2003 and then again in 2010, my other colleague, Rev. Ursula Scheike also wrote two letters requesting an end to the proceedings on the condition of Mr. Blake's reputation in the community, in the church, and with his family. Both colleagues had put their call to this church on the line in support of Mr. Blake's freedom.

I write from a different perspective. I have not known Mr. Blake as well as my colleagues had, but I have done extensive research in the limited amount of time presented. I have also met Mr. Blake and have contemplated his situation given our church's stance on the matter of criminal justice from the document "the Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries" (August 17, 2013). Based on all of the above, I would ask the following:

Like my predecessors, I asked Mr. Blake to confess his sin and to ask for forgiveness from God. Mr. Blake was ready to confess his unfortunate circumstances that has led to the recent court proceedings, especially the breaking of probation and the escaping of the work labor camp. He also confessed changing his name illegally, although he thought it to be legal at the time. Under the understanding of the church doctrine, I pronounced his absolution and in the name of God, pardoned his sins. This was not an easy act, but given that he has lived a contrite, repentant, and honest life for the past 30 years, has been active in our church since 1992, and has consulted three pastors, confessing his sin time and again, and on account of my interactions with him, his family, and the notes from the previous pastors, I


truly believe he has lived a repentant life and has been a responsible and productive citizen to the United States; in my own opinion, I have not heard of someone so contrite about wanting to live a changed life as Mr. Blake has been and I have no problem using him as a model of true Christian living.

However, there is also more to consider, and more I can personally speak on. I have had several interactions with the Blake family and know the struggles the family deals with. Their youngest daughter, Erin, suffers from a drug addiction brought upon by a convergence of emotional issues, anxiety, and depression; seeing addiction play out with other parishioners and community members, I know the delicate balance that stability in a family unit can promote in breaking addiction; unfortunately, I have also seen times when a broken family can destroy any chance of overcoming recovery, especially without outside help. I am also worried that she may be suffering from bipolar conditions, and until she stabilizes with medication, she will have peaks and valleys that will be heightened should the family be broken apart. They also are the full-time providers for LuAnne Blake's mother who is strapped to a wheelchair. In her degenerating body and mind, the Blakes provide most of the care from their own hard-earned money.

I'm not going to say Mr. Blake (as I know him) is innocent; he does not even say that. But I would ask for other avenues of justice than to send him to South Carolina or have him serve time incarcerated, especially given the number of people who vouch for Mr. Blake's reputation, not least of which my two predecessors of whose opinion I highly respect. I would ask that you hear the concerns of three pastors, and that, should some form of justice be necessary, it should be in other ways that wouldn't impact economic income that goes to provide for LuAnne Blake's mother and family sparing governmental funding, that wouldn't remove Mr. Blake from the care he provides for his daughter Erin while she takes the long road to reclaiming her life, and that would take into consideration over 30 years of Mr. Blake personally righting his life from a childish mistake made in his youth. Mr. Blake has talked to me about his upbringing from a broken family, and given his roots, I feel has done remarkably well in overcoming a lot of the societal pressures that have been placed on him to become a productive citizen of the United States. In my church tradition and what I believe my colleagues were trying to get at, while there is a law and under that, Mr. Blake is guilty, we also know there is grace and absolution for those who truly live into a repentant and changed way of living; Mr. Blake exemplifies this truly profound way of life. I firmly believe that Mr. Blake should be pardoned for his actions, knowing he has learned from them and has repented of them, living a changed and honest life.

Should I be able to provide any more help or assistance in anything relating to Mr. Blake, please don't hesitate to ask. I will continue to pray for the whole Blake family and for justice as I and the Blake family long for a conclusion to what has been an arduous process for all involved.

In peace,


Pastor Kevin O'Hara
The Lutheran Church of Our Savior
Patchogue, New York 11772

*State of New York
County of Suffolk
Sworn to before
me this 6th day
of November, 2014.
Carol A. Rios*

CAROL A. RIOS
NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF NEW YORK
No. 01R14854977
Qualified in Suffolk County

Chidambaranathan Chandrasekaran, M.D.

286 Patchogue Yaphank Road, East Patchogue, NY

631-289-7862

November 12, 2014

RE: Howard Blake

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Blake has been my patient for many years.

DX: He is being treated for angina, hypertension, right bundle branch block, benign prostatic hypertrophy, COPD, diabetes, herniated lumbar disc, arthritis, leukocytosis, status post cerebral infarct (stroke) with memory loss, hearing loss. There have been abnormal findings on CAT scans of the chest and brain, PET scan, lab work, which have been furnished to your office.

Most recently, he has been having nose bleeds, and increased hypertension, and as such his medication has been increased to try to control his blood pressure and stop the nose bleeds. His most recent lab work has shown hypercholesterolemia, and elevated hemoglobin A1C and he has been prescribed Metformin for diabetes, in addition to his other medications; Metoprolol b.i.d., Pravastatin, aspirin, sertraline, sublingual nitroglycerin, amitriptyline, Zyrtec.

Additionally, on physical examination in August and November 2014, he was found to have uncontrolled hypertension and a carotid bruit and is seeing Dr. Ravi Pulipati for vascular studies and surgery. Not having the necessary surgery could be life threatening. Extradition and incarceration is medically inadvisable and will exacerbate symptomatology. Because of the multiple serious health issues, he would be in serious danger of not surviving incarceration.

He is also under the care of Dr. Nawaz and Sloan Kettering for hematology/oncology; Dr. Afzal, pulmonologist; Dr. Daniel Han, urology; Dr. James Semertzides, cardiologist. Studies have been furnished.

He is also under the care of Dr. John Vickers and/or Dr. Grace Lessing and needs eye surgery when he is medically cleared to undergo surgery.



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