

Dear Mrs. Haley,

My name is Justin Cole Thigpen of Blythewood South Carolina. I am writing you today in regards of needing your help. I am writing/asking you to grant me with a pardon of my criminal charges. The charges I am asking about to be pardoned are gang soliciting and assault an battery. They are bad charges yes I know but please hear me out. Mrs. Haley I got these charges when I first turned 17. I'm going on 24 now. My Grandpa had passed away the morning of my birthday. After that day I felt like my world was over. It was like I didn't care about my life anymore because I lost the only man that had raised me, that I looked up to in life. I started hanging around the wrong people and started trying to be something I'm not. I tried being the cool kid and it ended up hurting me and my future. Me and some guys from around the mill hill I lived on used to hang out at a rundown house that was down the road. A young boy from the neighborhood came down and wanted to be apart of the gang that we was supposedly trying to be. Well his 2 cousins that was there said they would jump him in but I said I wanted no part of it. I stayed outside the room while they jumped the boy but because I was in the house and I didn't stop it I was just as guilty as everyone else. He went home afterwards and told his parents about it and they pressed charges against us. Not a day goes by that I don't regret not stopping what happened because it's made my life so hard and such a struggle. We all was arrested and charged with gang soliciting and assault an battery. I was put on the YOA program and went threw 90 day shock which was like doing a military boot camp. After I was released I was on parole

for a couple years but never got in anymore trouble. I just struggled with finding a job. After my YOA ended my record was supposed to be erased. Well it was taken off my public record but it showed up on a FBI check the military had to do on me. I've been trying for so long to get my life together and joining the military was one thing I have wanted to do since I was a little boy. I love my state and I love my country and serving it is one thing I'm diehard to do. My recruiter said the only way I'd be able to join is to get a pardon from you. So here I am writing you, asking you, begging you to please grant me a pardon for this. I'm not a violent person, not a gang member, I have no gang tattoos, I'm not a troublemaker I've just always seemed to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. I just want to make something of myself and my future and serve my country. So please bless me with this. I'm doing everything I can to better myself in life and this is my dream. I pray and hope to hear back from you.

Sincerely,

Justin Cole Thigpen

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