

Board of Parole Proceedings
ATTN: Pre-Processing CORRESPONDENCE
P.O. Box 4036 Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

Subject: Inmate Raul Higgins P29949

Prison: California State Prison – San Quentin
Parole Hearing Date: May 30th, 2019 8:30am

I am the husband of Melissa Bolger, the oldest of the five siblings whose lives were upended by the brutal and callous murder of Carolyn Bolger at the hands of Raul Higgins. I am also the father of Gerry Serpa – our son of two and a half years old. A son who will grow up without knowing his grandmother. Gerry is old enough to know who Grandma is, but he only knows the Serpa Grandma – he will never know the Bolger Grandma. It's hard for me to come to terms with that. Gerry doesn't know how many Grandmas he's supposed to have. He doesn't know that he's supposed to have two. It's easy to maneuver around this void with him at this age. But, as I have seen with Tim and Robin, it becomes harder and harder to navigate around the cold hard truth of their grandmother's murder. Now with a young child myself, I can better empathize with the struggle that they have to endure. At every family holiday, wedding, and get together the absence is felt. The void is always there.

When I heard that the murderer of Carolyn Bolger, was yet again up for parole, the weight of this tragedy once again hits the Bolger clan. While they all have persevered and done amazing things with their lives, without the guidance of parents – there's nothing like the burden that they all must carry daily and that burden is intensified and focused to a razor sharp cutting edge when forced to confront their feelings, their memories, their anger and their mother's murderer. There's not a day that goes by that our thoughts are not with Carolyn. Day to day – these tend to lead to the love and positivity that she gave to her five children and to those around her. But there's always the fear that Raul will be released and the confronting the possibility that this man whose rage he was unable to control, whose insecurity led him to the most monstrous deed a human can do to another human – the taking of another's life. While I do believe in paying one's debt to society and the rehabilitation of prisoners, I am always led back to the life sentence that Melissa, Tim, Joe, Stephen, and Megan have been straddled with, selfishly, by the hands of Raul Higgins. It is a life sentence with no chance of parole. They will always be weighted down with the deep loss of their mother. No guidance in life, as a mother often gives their children, no memories of her growing old and seeing the beauty of their children as they blossom into adults. My heart aches for Stephen and Megan who barely got to know their mother, did not feel her embrace on their graduation from grade school, high school, as they got their driver's license and so many milestone memories in a child's life. Kara and Leo will never know the loving energy of their grandmother. Our son will grow up not knowing his grandmother because of Raul Higgins.

Melissa, Tim and Joe have done their best to see that their two young siblings have some semblance of guidance to navigate this increasingly difficult world. But this pales in comparison to the loving touch and instruction that a mother can give. But that experience was ripped from them by murderous hands.

Each day, in Melissa, I see how this loss has tempered the existence of these five, now adults, as they struggle to cope with the world without that one entity that should always be there for you. It angers me that this was ripped away from them. But my anger pales in comparison to the concern I have for Carolyn's five children, for what is a life changing event. The sadness, anger, and loss could now be added to with the very real

emotion of fear. Fear that the murderer of their only mother on this earth, could possibly be freed into the world that they have so struggled to make sense of and carve out some semblance of normalcy amidst the horribleness that was dealt to them at the hands of Raul Higgins.

For the sake of all of our families, whose lives have been so affected by the dangerous hands of Raul Higgins, I hope that the parole board sees that the life sentence of anger, loss, sadness and grief handed down to the Bolger clan, shouldn't be saddled, now, with the more compelling emotion of fear. The new families that have risen out of the ashes of this tragedy and heinous crime should not be burdened by the release of Raul Higgins who so selfishly, heinously and grievously stole the life of their mother and grandmother, Carolyn Bolger.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely
Greg Serpa