



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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Killer of West Sacramento Postal Worker Denied Parole

(Woodland, CA) – **January 12, 2011** - Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that 54-year-old convicted murderer Clifford Myelle was denied parole yesterday by the Board of Parole Hearings.

On July 4, 1989, Myelle brutally murdered 40-year-old postal worker Richard Islas of West Sacramento. Islas had been allowing Myelle to live in his home. Police and coroner's reports state that on July 4th, Myelle surprised Islas and hit him in the head with a claw hammer. Myelle proceeded for the next three hours to beat a stunned and defenseless Islas. He stuck him 33 times with the claw hammer. Blood spatter throughout the house indicated that the beating occurred throughout the house as Islas attempted to escape his attacker. Myelle fled the scene in Islas' car and stole his wallet and other items belonging to Islas. When Islas did not report for work, his parents were contacted. His parents entered Islas' house through a window and discovered their deceased son on July 6. Myelle was arrested in Shasta County and denied involvement in the murder. To this day, Myelle proclaims his innocence.

The parole hearing took place at California State Prison, Solano in Vacaville, CA and lasted over three hours. Chief District Attorney Jonathan Raven presented the case on behalf of the Yolo County District Attorney. Richard Islas' sister, Cynthia Islas-Duarte, and his father, Manual Islas, spoke on behalf of Richard and the family. District Attorney Victim Advocate Linda McCumber was present to provide support to the family.

Islas-Duarte made an impassioned and eloquent statement asking the commissioners to deny parole. She spoke about her brother and said he was "loved and respected by everyone except H05254 [Myelle's Department of Corrections Identity Number]." She continued, "I have my brother's wallet and it has a fingerprint on it and guess whose it is. Not my brother, but H05254. He taught me to throw a ball like an all-star, and I was." She showed photographs of her now deceased mother before and after the murder showing the commissioners how one could see how happy her mother was in the photos taken prior to the murder but how her mother could not muster a smile in photos taken after Myelle murdered her son. She showed a before-photo of her smiling mother stating, "that is really my mother." In showing a photo to commissioner's taken of her grief stricken mother after the murder she said, "that is Clifford Myelle's handiwork." Islas-Duarte concluded, "I'm here today because I will forever be the voice of my brother and my family and I respectfully request that you deny parole for the longest period possible."

After statements from all parties, Commissioner Mike Prizmich and Deputy Commissioner Susan Cherry began deliberations. They returned after 20 minutes with a decision and Commissioner Prizmich stated that the inmate was “not suitable for parole because he would present an unreasonable risk if released from prison.” He continued, “it challenges one’s psyche to come up with a reason why you [Myelle] had no emotional reaction here today. Even if you hadn’t done this crime, it would leave an effect on someone who was there. You showed no insight, no level of compassion, no sorrow for someone who lived with the victim.” The Commissioners denied parole for a period of seven years.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Raven was pleased with the decision. “This crime so deeply effected many generations of the Islas family including Richard’s parents, sister, children, and grandchildren he never met. I’m pleased this office was able to assist in this just result.” Raven continued, “Although the family thinks of Richard every day, I know they are pleased that they will not have to come back to this prison for another 7 years.”

Myelle will be eligible for parole in January, 2018.

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