



STATE OF IDAHO
COMMISSION OF PARDONS AND PAROLE

Brad Little
Governor
Ashley Dowell
Executive Director

IN THE MATTER OF THOMAS EUGENE CREECH
PETITION FOR COMMUTATION
Ada County Case No. CR-FE-0000-10252

This matter came before the Commission on January 19, 2024, to consider the request by Mr. Creech to commute his imposed sentence of death to life without possibility of parole. Mr. Creech was convicted of one (1) count of Murder I in 1982 for the murder of David Dale Jensen.

The Commission received an investigation packet completed by Commission staff prior to the hearing. The investigation packet included an interview with Mr. Creech, the presentence investigation report, psychological and risk assessments, information related to Mr. Creech’s behavior while in prison, victim statements, and information submitted by the attorneys for Mr. Creech and by the Ada County Prosecutor’s office. During the hearing, the Commission listened to in-person statements from four (4) supporters of Mr. Creech and five (5) representatives of the victim’s family. Mr. Creech’s attorneys and attorneys with the Ada County Prosecutor’s also presented in support of or against commutation.

DECISION TO DENY COMMUTATION

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commissioners deliberated in executive session. On January 19, 2024, the Commissioners voted three (3) for commutation and three (3) against commutation. The commutation petition of Thomas Eugene Creech is hereby denied.

VOTES TO RECOMMEND COMMUTATION

Three Commissioners voted to recommend Governor Little grant the commutation of Thomas Eugene Creech’s death sentence in Ada County Case No. CR-FE-0000-10252 to life in prison without the possibility of parole. This decision was not based on any doubt or question about Mr. Creech’s guilt or the horrific nature of his crime. The Commissioners do not believe Mr. Creech is worthy of mercy, but that the discretion of the Commission allows for grace to be given even when undeserved. While the Commissioners noted a possibility that Mr. Creech has changed in the years since his crime and considered his current age and health, this decision was not based on the actions and conduct of Mr. Creech. The Commissioner’s decision to recommend a commutation was based on the time that has elapsed since Mr. Creech committed this horrific crime. In addition, the Commissioners were influenced by commentary from Judge Newhouse, the sentencing judge, and former Ada County deputy prosecutor Mr. Jim Harris, who no longer believe that a sentence of death is appropriate for Mr. Creech’s conviction. Finally, the change in law requiring that a death sentence be decided by a jury rather than a judge also influenced the recommendation to commute Mr. Creech’s sentence to life in prison without parole. The Commissioners expressed concern for the family of David Dale Jensen and their continued pain from this crime.

COMMISSIONER

January 29, 2024
DATE

COMMISSIONER



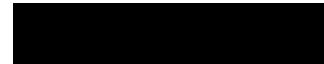
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VOTES TO DENY COMMUTATION

Three members of the Commission voted to deny the commutation of Thomas Eugene Creech’s death sentence in Ada County Case No. 10252 to life in prison without the possibility of parole. We do not believe Mr. Creech is worthy of grace or mercy. This decision was based on the coldblooded nature of David Dale Jensen’s murder and the sheer number of victims that Mr. Creech has created over his lifetime, which shows that he does not place value on human life, other than his own. Mr. Creech was not interested in telling the truth about his additional crimes and violent history and was reluctant and unwilling to completely disclose the number of people he has killed. Further, the Commission believes that Mr. Creech is not capable of true remorse and would take another life if it benefitted him. He has shown he can still manipulate others to get what he wants. The Commission believes that the Jensen family would not receive justice if Mr. Creech received clemency, and above all else that they deserve closure in this case. If the Commission cannot uphold the death penalty in this case, then the death penalty means nothing in the state of Idaho.

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