

Changing Sentences, Changing Lives: Commutation Recipient Biographies

Donald Clark, a farmer, served 9 years of a 27-year sentence in federal prison for a marijuana cultivation offense. In 2001, President Clinton commuted his sentence, and Donald returned home to Florida. He is now enjoying his retirement with his four children, 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. He recently wrote and published a memoir.

De-Ann Coffman-Ames served 7 years of an 85-year sentence for her involvement in a drug conspiracy. President Clinton commuted De-Ann's sentence in 2001. She lives in Texas and owns and manages her own automobile part manufacturing business and horse farm.

Phillip Emmert received a 27-year sentence in 1992 for a methamphetamine offense. He served 14 years in prison before receiving a commutation from President George W. Bush in 2006. While in prison, Phillip became a certified HVAC specialist, a job he continues to this day at the Veterans Affairs hospital near his home in Iowa. His newest grandchild turns one this month.

Antoinette Frink received a 15-year sentence for her minor role in a drug offense. She served 12 years of that sentence before receiving a commutation from President Clinton in 2001. She is president of McRae's Tax II, and is recognized by the IRS as an enrolled agent. She lives with her family in Georgia.

Dorothy Gaines received a 20-year sentence for her minor involvement in a crack cocaine offense. She served six years in prison and received a commutation from President Clinton in 2000. She lives in Alabama with her family.

Stephanie George received a life without parole sentence in 1997, at age 26, for her minor role in a crack cocaine offense. During 17 years in prison, she completed drug treatment and vocational programs and earned an associate's degree. President Obama commuted her sentence in December 2013. Stephanie is a licensed beautician and lives in Florida with her children.

Peter Ninemire received a 24.5-year prison sentence for growing marijuana. He served 11 years before receiving a commutation from President Clinton in 2001. Since his release, he has earned bachelor's and master's degrees in social work and supervised a state drug court program. He is a dedicated father, a licensed addiction and mental health counselor, and runs his own practice in Kansas.

Serena Nunn received a 16-year sentence at age 19 for her involvement in a federal drug conspiracy. She served almost 11 years in prison before receiving a commutation from President Clinton in 2000. After her release, she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a law degree from the University of Michigan. She is an attorney working with the public defenders in Atlanta, Georgia.

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Amy Ralston Povah served 9 years of a 24.5-year sentence for her minor involvement in a drug offense involving ecstasy. President Clinton commuted her sentence in July 2000. She lives in California and founded a nonprofit organization to help prisoners seek clemency and a film production company that produced an award-winning documentary.

Kemba Smith received a 24.5-year sentence as a first-time offender for her involvement with a violent boyfriend's drug dealing activities. She served seven years and received a commutation from President Clinton in 2000. She lives in Virginia and is a wife, mother, author, teacher, and sought-after public speaker.

Billy Ray Wheelock received a life without parole sentence for a crack cocaine offense. His sentence was commuted by President Obama in December 2013, after 21 years in prison. While incarcerated, Billy Ray earned a restaurant management license and a custodial maintenance certification. Shortly after his release, he married his lovely wife. They live in Colorado.

Kim Willis was only 19 when he was arrested for playing a minor role in a drug offense. He received a 15.5-year prison sentence and served 10.5 years before receiving a commutation from President Clinton in 2001. Kim works with troubled youth and lives with his parents in Minnesota, so that he can help care for his elderly mother.

Reynolds Wintersmith received a life without parole sentence at age 20 for his involvement in a crack cocaine conspiracy – his first and only offense. He served 20 years in prison before receiving a commutation from President Obama in December 2013. In prison, Reynolds became a Department of Labor-certified teacher's aide, victim impact counselor, and a companion in the inmate suicide prevention program. He lives and works in Illinois.

Eugenia Jennings received a 22-year prison sentence for a drug offense that involved a mere 13 grams of crack cocaine. Eugenia was diagnosed with leukemia while in prison and received a commutation from President Obama after she had served 10 years of her sentence. She reunited with her children and passed away after a long fight with her illness on October 13, 2013. **She is represented here today by her brother, Cedric Parker**, who lives in Illinois.