

**The Masat Family**  
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Jan. 12, 2009

Governor David A. Paterson  
Executive Clemency  
State Capitol  
Albany, N.Y. 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

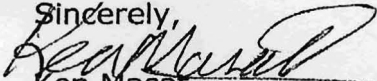
I am writing in behalf of Richard Taus, NYS DIN# 91A1040. I am a former Navy fighter pilot with service in Vietnam, and am presently a retired airline pilot. Our family traveled the United States for 15 years with our bluegrass gospel family band, focusing on ministering to American families. Since our family members have gradually married and grown out of the nest, we no longer travel as a band. Our current ministry includes regular communication with prisoners.

We have corresponded with Mr. Taus for quite a few years now, and would like to put in a good word for him. We believe he is well deserving of a commutation of sentence or an outright pardon for the following reasons:

- 1) He has served 18 years, which is longer than most hardened criminals get.
- 2) He has an excellent prison record, and his previous exemplary civil life indicates he could be very useful to his community again.
- 3) His health is not improving at this point in his life, and his aged mother needs his help.
- 4) Like most states, your state must plan for reduced state expenditures. Release of Mr. Taus for the above reasons would benefit your state financially.

It is our fervent prayer that you will seriously consider releasing Richard Taus. I am confident you will never regret this merciful gesture.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,  
  
Ken Masat

Proverbs 3:27 "Withhold not mercy when it is in the power of thine hand."