



# Virginia State Police Association

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April 20, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

1111 East Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Northam,

We write to strongly oppose the pending parole of Vincent Lamont Martin who was convicted of murdering Richmond Police Officer Michael Connors in 1979. We respectfully request you do all you can to revisit the decision to grant his parole and ultimately to rescind it.

During the 2019, Session of the Virginia General Assembly the Virginia State Police Association joined with several widows of Police Officers killed in the line of duty, including five widows of Virginia State Police Officers, to advocate for the passage of SB1501. This Bill was prompted by the lenient sentence, 36 years, handed down to the man that was convicted of murdering Virginia State Police Officer Mike Walter. Introduced by then Senator Bill Carrico, this Bill established that any person convicted of capital murder of a police officer would receive either the death sentence or life WITHOUT parole. SB1501 overwhelmingly passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law in the spring of 2019. You may recall that you invited the VSPA, and the aforementioned widows, to a special signing ceremony in your office to witness you sign SB1501 into law.

Now a year later the very thing this new law sought to prohibit, the parole of a convicted “cop killer”, is about to happen. The legislature and you, Governor, made it clear that the parole of a person with this type of conviction is totally unacceptable.

Officer Connors family is now forced to relive the horror of his murder knowing the person that took him from them is about to be walking the streets of Richmond as a free man. This parole is not only an affront to the Connors family but also the entire law enforcement community. It is for these reasons that we respectfully request you do all you can to stop the parole of Vincent Martin.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Kyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Kyle

President, Virginia State Police Association