

### "A Team Fighting for Their Life"

Being part of a team that spans the United States is quite unique. There are roughly 2,600 people serving Life Sentences in this country, for a crime committed as a juvenile (16 years or younger). This is my team.

We, the juvenile lifers around the nation, have become a small part of our team as the lawyers, advocates, activists, and countless supporters continue to grow. Their time, money, sacrifices, and efforts speak volumes about the dedication in the pursuit of our justice. Progress has been made with cases like Miller v. Alabama, and the fight will continue until we all receive fair sentences and/or freedom.

Many of our teammates who are now free have joined the likes of The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY), the Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network (ICAN), and Restore Justice Illinois. These brothers & sisters are not only the epitome of no man/woman left behind, but they have become the example of who we are today.

My commitment to our team has been to find every platform available to speak the truth of the juvenile lifer, while shedding a light on the many injustices in their plight. After 37 years, I have now spent my life in prison, and I'm not the juvenile who committed the crime. Every time a juvenile lifer received a reprieve, there is a feeling of success and a glimmer of hope.

Peter S.  
Illinois

# Thank You FOR READING!

Below are some questions to reflect on from this piece. Feel free to also use one as a conversation starter with a fellow reader, or even a loved one on the outside!

*Have you experienced, or witnessed, teamwork happening across prison walls?*

*What kinds of collaborations between those on the inside and those on the outside have inspired you?*

We'd love to hear what you thought of the piece, or if you've had any meaningful conversations as a result. Or perhaps you'd like to share an expression of your own (visual art or creative writing). You are always welcome to write to us at Shining Light at P.O. Box 267, Annville, PA 17003.

*\*Note: We will not be able to provide a response to your letter or receipt of your submission, but know that we value your feedback and contributions and will take them seriously.*

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