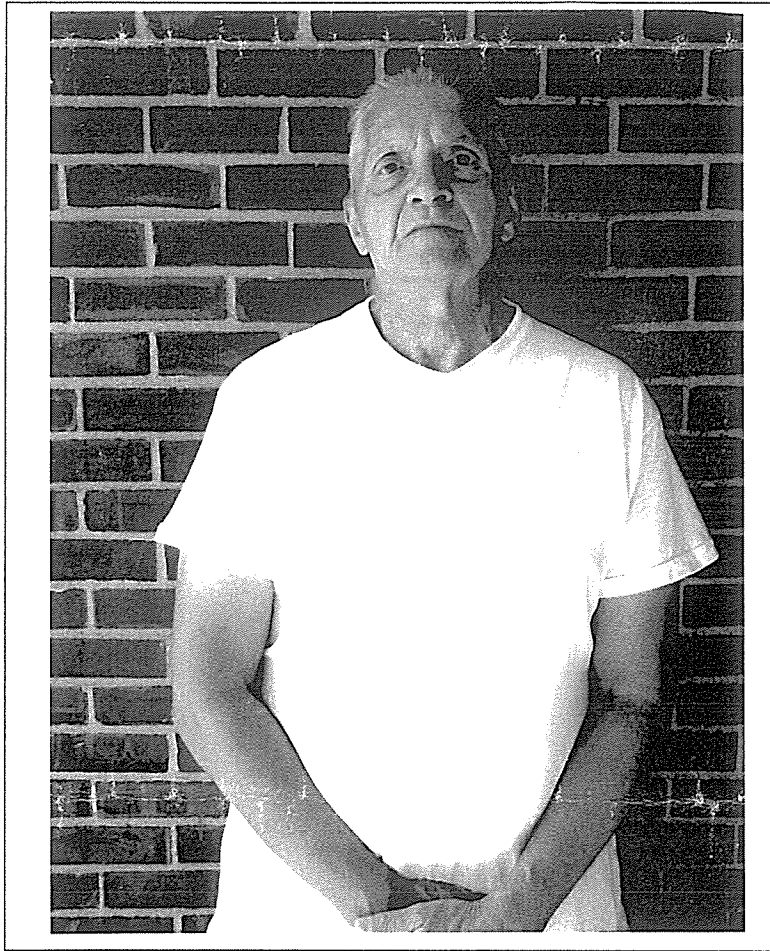


Justice - Today

“Creative Alternatives in Criminal Justice”

THE TRUSTEES



**Edward Fielding is 73 years-old
He has been in state prison for 51 years**

On November 18, 1968 Ed Fielding did what a lot of other patriotic 18 year-old Massachusetts teenagers have done. He joined the United States Navy. His tour of duty would include nine months of active combat service in Vietnam. Aboard one of the Navy's heavy cruisers, the U.S.S. Boston stationed off the coast of Vietnam, Ed served as a bomb loader. For his service to his country he received a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, a Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation of the Gallantry Cross with palm, and a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. The U.S. Secretary of Defense also gave Ed a Certificate of Recognition of his service during the Cold War for promoting peace and stability for our Nation.

On August 6, 1970 Ed was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy with a medical disability. Back in Boston it didn't take too long before he fell in with the wrong crowd and into the drug life. Ed quickly became addicted to heroin.

Ed made a very bad choice

On June 20, 1972 Ed Fielding and another individual made a very bad choice and robbed a Medford, Massachusetts Liquor store. During the course of that robbery store clerk Joseph Repucci was shot and killed. Both of the perpetrators were arrested and eventually tried and convicted of the crime. Both were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Mr. Fielding's co-defendant in the Medford robbery was released from prison many years ago.

Redemption and Rehabilitation

While in prison Ed Fielding quickly earned his GED, then enrolled with Bunker Hill Community College. Shortly after his arrival in 1975 at MCI-Walpole (now known as Cedar Junction) Ed participated in veterans counseling programs. In 1979 Ed was transferred to a lower security facility, the Southeastern Correctional Center in Bridgewater. There he received his associates Degree from Massasoit Community College, He also participated in a number of additional rehabilitative programs.

In 1981 Ed was again transferred, this time to even lower security status - minimum security at MCI-Shirley. At the Shirley facility Ed Fielding became involved in a litany of rehabilitative programs including; Tutoring Adult Basic Education, He established a veterans group and counseling program, he also worked on the off grounds workforce traveling across Massachusetts rehabilitating older buildings. While at the minimum security Shirley facility Ed was also approved for participation in the furlough program. He successfully completed over forty unescorted furloughs.

From 1984 up until December 1987 Ed was housed at the Park Drive Pre-Release Center, located in Boston. At Park Drive Ed was so trusted by officials that he was selected to Participate in both the Street Safe Program and the Elderly Home Assistance Program. As a member of the Elderly Home Assistance Program Ed was assigned to take care of elderly residents of Boston's Fenway community. Ed did their grocery shopping at a local Star market, and he also acted as a trusted companion for the elderly who otherwise would have been alone and without support. Ed also did considerable charitable work helping to raise funds with the Fenway Garden Society.

The rehabilitative efforts achieved by Ed Fielding while held at both minimum security facilities and at the Park Drive Pre-Release Center were considerable. Yet, after thirty-six years of high security, Ed Fielding remains behind the tall grey walls of the state's largest prison in Norfolk. Since his arrival at Norfolk, and despite his advanced age, Ed hasn't given up on life. He still believes in **"doing the right thing"**.

He has participated in a relatively new, but highly successful, Restorative Justice concept that educates prisoners about the harm they have caused to individuals, their loved ones and to the community. Restorative Justice compels participants to face the horror of the violence they once committed. Some prisoner participants have told us that sitting in a room and listening to the family members of homicide victims speak of their loss and sorrow was the hardest thing that they have ever done in their life.

We will never suggest that people should not be punished for committing crime.

Undoubtedly, Ed Fielding has taken remarkable strides to atone for the crime he committed fifty-plus years ago. Yes, it is true that once upon a time, many, many years ago. Ed Fielding committed a horrible crime. He has always accepted complete responsibility and he is extremely remorseful, Ed has now been in prison for over fifty-one years. We will never suggest that people should not be punished for committing crime. However, after carefully reviewing cases like this we do believe that if anyone deserves a second chance in life, it is Ed Fielding. **Yes, we will advocate for Ed's eventual release. Given his extensive positive track record over the past fifty years, we will feel pretty comfortable in doing so.**

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