



# Sheriff Steve Stovall

*Stephenson County Sheriff's Office*

For Immediate Release  
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## **SHERIFF STOVALL OPPOSES CLEMENCY PETITION FOR CONVICTED DOUBLE MURDERER**

Stephenson County Sheriff Steve Stovall has submitted a formal letter to the Illinois Department of Corrections Executive Clemency Unit opposing the petition for executive clemency filed by inmate Ronald Burt (IDOC #N60788, Docket #40229).

Burt was convicted for his role in the 1992 murders of Kevin Muto and Steven Roy in Kent, Illinois. Originally sentenced to death, Burt's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment without parole by former Governor George Ryan. Sheriff Stovall emphasized that this prior commutation already represented "extraordinary leniency" and that any further relief would be unjust.

"These brutal crimes devastated families and left a permanent scar on our community," Sheriff Stovall stated. "The life sentence imposed is both appropriate and necessary. Granting clemency would only compound the pain endured by the victims loved ones."

Sheriff Stovall highlighted the hardship faced by 84-year-old Helen Muto, mother of victim Kevin Muto, who has now been forced to relive her son's murder each time Burt petitions for clemency. This is the third such petition she has had to oppose in more than three decades since the crime.

"Clemency exists to correct extraordinary injustices or recognize true rehabilitation," Sheriff Stovall noted in his letter. "In this case, neither standard has been met. The severity of the offense, the lasting impact on the families, and the prior commutation all demonstrate that clemency is neither warranted nor just."

The Sheriff has formally urged the Illinois Prisoner Review Board and the Office of the Governor to deny Burt's petition and uphold his life sentence, preserving justice for the victims and their families.

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# Sheriff Steve Stovall

*Stephenson County Sheriff's Office*

10/1/2025

Illinois Department of Corrections  
Executive Clemency Unit  
\*\*Attention Kelly Knappmeyer\*\*  
1301 Concordia Court  
Springfield, IL 62702

Re: Opposition to Executive Clemency Petition of **Ronald Burt N60788** Docket# 40229

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Sheriff of Stephenson County, I am writing to strongly oppose the petition for executive clemency submitted by inmate **Ronald Burt**. Mr. Burt was convicted for his role in the **1992 murders of Kevin Muto and Steven Roy in Kent, Illinois**. These brutal crimes devastated the families of the victims and left a permanent scar on our community.

Mr. Burt was originally sentenced to death for his participation in these murders, a sentence later commuted to life imprisonment by former Governor George Ryan. The commutation from death to life imprisonment already represents the exercise of extraordinary leniency. To grant further relief would only compound the pain inflicted upon the families of the victims, who continue to live with the consequences of Mr. Burt's actions every day.

**Helen Muto, the mother of victim Kevin Muto**, who at 84 years old has had to relive this tragedy each time Mr. Burt petitions for clemency. This is now the third time she has been forced to revisit her son's murder and advocate against his release. It is profoundly unfair to ask victims' families to endure this ongoing cycle when the original sentence of life imprisonment appropriately reflects the seriousness of these crimes.

Clemency exists to correct extraordinary injustices or recognize true rehabilitation. In this case, neither standard has been met. The severity of the offense, the lasting impact on the families, and the prior commutation of Mr. Burt's death sentence to life without parole all demonstrate that clemency is neither warranted nor just.

For these reasons, I respectfully but firmly request that the Illinois Prisoner Review Board and the Office of the Governor **deny Ronald Burt's petition for executive clemency** and uphold the life sentence imposed for these heinous crimes.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Steven M. Stovall  
Stephenson County Sheriff's Office