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September 4, 2001

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor
State Capitol Building
Des Moines IA 50319

RE: Sheryl Snodgrass

Dear Governor Vilsack:

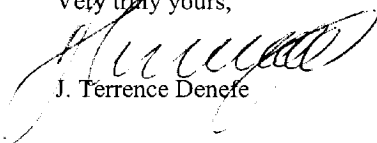
I have been advised that my former client, Sheryl Snodgrass, is filing an Application for Commutation. Attorney Scott Campbell of Oskaloosa and I represented Sheryl in connection with the First Degree Murder charges which were brought against her in Wapello County. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, Sheryl was convicted of Murder in the First Degree. I still am of the opinion that the major reason she was convicted of this offense was that she was jointly tried with Co-Defendant Michael Lee Hood. Attorney Campbell and I repeatedly tried to have Judge Collett sever her case from that of Mr. Hood. The defense which the attorneys for Mr. Hood presented was wholly inconsistent with our defense. After sitting through the trial, I still am absolutely convinced that Sheryl was not the trigger person who was involved in this incident. I honestly believe that had the case been severed, Sheryl stood an excellent chance of being acquitted. I realize that at this point in this letter that is a moot issue. Sheryl is the mother of two children who are now adults. In representing Sheryl, I found her to be a nice lady and I feel she has more than paid the price for the charges that have ben brought against her. I honestly see no way that Sheryl would be a risk to society and I strongly urge you to grant her Application for Commutation.

This case involved the death of Sheryl's husband. Mr. Hood was Sheryl's alleged boyfriend.

If you need any further information from me please call me.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


J. Terrence Deneff

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