



# SEEKING JUSTICE

# IN TEXAS

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

WORKING TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN TEXAS/SPRING 2006

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### Impending Executions

Please note that dates are tentative.

#### March

- 14 Tony Ford-stay granted
- 15 Tommie Hughes
- 22 Robert Salazar, Jr.
- 28 Raymond Martinez
- 29 Kevin Kincy

#### April

- 25 Pedro Sosa
- 26 Marvin Wilson

#### May

- 4 Jackie Wilson
- 10 Angel Resendiz
- 24 Jesus Aguilar

## A Note from the Chair

Jimmie L. Coombes, President



At the January 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the TCADP in San Antonio, the new Board of Directors entrusted me with the presidency of the Coalition for the next year. I know many of you, and many of you know me. For those who don't, I thought it appropriate to give you a little biographical information on the fellow who is going to do his best to advance the cause of abolition in Texas for the next year.

In September 1991, I retired as a Colonel from the United States Air Force. As a career military officer who grew up in Texas, I would have said I supported the Death Penalty if anyone had asked (they hadn't). I mean, that's the way it was – the Death Penalty was part of the law everywhere I had ever been, and it wasn't talked about much. Then, in 1998, I joined the First Unitarian-Universalist Church in Austin. One of the features of the church is a weekly feature called "the Forum", where experts make presentations on subjects of general interest. One day, a presenter spoke about the error rate in the imposition of the Death Penalty, specifically in Texas. I was thunderstruck. I was, after all, an engineer and had been a jet pilot. Error rates of the magnitude the presenter mentioned were absolutely unacceptable in my world. I guess that I always just assumed that there could be no error in the death penalty. In my naïve way I assumed the citizenry would not tolerate it. Clearly I had been wrong. I began to give the issue some careful and critical thought.

I concluded that among the legal powers of the People in a free society, the imposition of the Death Penalty was the one that had to be most carefully exercised. If the State chose to execute its citizens for the most heinous and egregious crimes, the State could never make a mistake. Carrying the argument a bit further, human enterprise without some error is an impossibility...it has never been done. Therefore, the People must not go down this road.

I have added many more reasons for my opposition to the Death Penalty in the intervening years. Now, I believe the most important reason for Abolition is our children. It is simply bad social policy to have a society where any murder is sanctioned – even the murder of murderers. The only real deterrent to murder is the successful education of all of our children that all killing is bad... all killing.