

Barri Armitage

████████████████████ 0906

March 3, 2005
Board of Prison Terms
1550 K Street, Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95814

A. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
MAR 10 2005
BOARD OF PRISON TERMS
#1
10W

RE: GRANT PAROLE TO PF LAZOR, C-73842

I am a poetry teacher and song writer who began corresponding with PF Lazor after he requested a CD I had produced and advertized in a church newsletter.

His first letter to me was dated 2/18/01, at which time he wrote that he had been imprisoned 18 years, though never involved in a crime in his life. When I wrote and asked, he sent me documents about his case and copies of some of the hundreds of character references people had written for him before his trial in 1983. I was impressed by the consistency of the reports from a varied group of those who knew him, attesting to his honesty and non-violent nature.

In his first letter, Mr. Lazor also told me about the hundreds of songs he had written, and said that of those, hundreds had been lost. He wrote that for many years he had sought for someone to play and perform/record his music, both Christian and secular. At my request, one of his church friends sent me a large set with two demo cassettes of Mr. Lazor singing. I have passed these on to some other church musicians I know. Also, I have been able to type up some of his newer ones in my music software program. They are inspiring to me. As a poet, I am especially impressed with the quality of his work. I look for analogies, details, and fresh use of images. I find these in Mr. Lazor's songs, along with an innate sense of rhythm. His themes show his deep reverence for God and a broad understanding of the human condition.

Through our correspondence, I have come to respect him very much. His attitude comes across as one who is trying the best he can to obey God and to cooperate with the restrictions of prison life. I have seen nothing in his letters that would even hint at his being a danger to society. To the contrary, I feel his imprisonment has been a great loss, both to society and to the arts.

It is a shame that such talent and character have been so harnessed these many years of imprisonment. My request and prayer is that this deserving man be given his freedom and a chance to fulfill his great potential. He would be a benefit to society, as well as to those who know and appreciate his gifts on a personal level. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Barri Armitage