

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE COLLENE
(THOMPSON) CAMPBELL PRESENTED BY HER
HUSBAND OF 63 YEARS, GARY, BEFORE THE
“CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE”
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, U.S. HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SUPPORT OF H.J. Res. 45**

MAY 1, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Subcommittee Members:

I’m going to try to relate a bit of our family’s life as victims of crime; Our experience, education, and on-the-job-training. . . confirm the need for victims’ rights.

Our family has endured more than 33 years of murders, delays, exclusions from trials, death threats and lack of notice for hearings.

In 1982, our lives were drastically changed as our only son, Scott, was murdered. . . followed six years later by the unrelated assassination murders of Collene’s auto racing legend brother (and my Best Man in our wedding), Mickey Thompson and his wife Trudy.

Yes, sadly, we have a “real life education” into crime.



**Scott Campbell
A very proud Uncle
Holding his niece, just
a short time prior to being
murdered.**

Our first lesson came in 1982, the same year that President Reagan’s Task Force recommended that our Constitution be amended to establish rights for victims.

When our son Scott went missing, we searched for him for eleven months before

we learned the horrible truth. He'd been strangled and thrown from an airplane into the Pacific Ocean. . . to steal his sports car.

We're just two of thousands of Americans who have become victims of repeat predators who should have been in prison. Instead, they were released early and they committed murder.

One of the killers had previously been given three indeterminate life sentences but was released in only four years.

The other was out of prison on work furlough, a year after killing his passenger in a auto crash, while under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Our son is dead because of a weak and forgiving justice system that does not respect victims safety. Had his killers remained incarcerated, as they should have, Scott would be alive today.

In 1988, while we were still in trial for our son's murder, our brother Mickey and Trudy Thompson were also murdered.



**Mickey and Trudy Thompson
With their rescued dog, Punky
just prior to their murder a few yards
from where this photo was taken.**

Their deaths were arranged to avoid paying-back court ordered money he stole from Mickey.

So. . .We have endured the system, for 33 years. . .We know it all too well !

Please consider our family's experience and grasp this fact: What happened to our

family, unfortunately, continues to occur to good people all across our country, and will, until victims have rights in our Constitution.

As an example: In the trials of our son's murderers:

- We were excluded from the courtroom during all three trials.

We were not allowed to be heard.

We were not notified of the convicted killer's appeal hearing. (But the killer's family was)

The guilty verdict of one of the convicted killers was overturned. We were not notified because we had no rights.

This killer was released and again, we were not notified. NO, we did not have the right to be notified. . . or heard regarding the effect of his release. . . or, to protect ourselves.

We did not have a right to a speedy trial. The trials took nearly eight years, appearing before more than twenty judges, with dozens of hearings. At none of these did we have the right to be heard.

The trial of the killer of Mickey and Trudy (our brother and his wife) began 18 years after their murders and included sixty-five court appearances, with the defense delaying with every tactic possible. Again, we did not have a right to a speedy trial. . . .
. . .and this is only a small part of the list.

It is tremendously important that you recognize what can be lost when justice is denied. If our justice system worked properly, Mickey, Trudy, and Scott would all be alive.

If Mickey could be here today to help us, he'd be saying "Stand on the gas, get to the finish line, get this job done." Do the RIGHT thing. Make certain our nation has justice for ALL citizens, including crime victims." Please move this amendment forward. . NOW!

Thousands of lives depend on YOU. It's amazing! Are you aware. . .in the last 50 years, more people were killed by murder in our country, than have been killed in all the horrible wars?

Please, we need to bring balance to our justice system.

Thank you.