

For Immediate Release-July 16, 2014
80 year old travels 3,500 miles to visit her “son”—former death row inmate Arthur Tyler

CLEVELAND--Wendy Alford, 80 from Cairnryan, Scotland calls Arthur Tyler her adopted son and advocated for him for over 15 years from over 3,500 miles away across the Atlantic Ocean. Alford has written Arthur Tyler consistently and visited him once before as a source of longtime support for a man who was on death row for 31 years. Mr. Tyler was just a month away from a scheduled execution in May before Governor Kasich commuted his sentence to life without possibility of parole.

Alford, a retired nurse, will visit Tyler for two days at the Trumbull Correctional Institute and will also meet with the group Justice for Arthur Tyler, a grassroots advocacy group based in Cleveland that works to raise awareness about Tyler's wrongful conviction and advocated for clemency. She will also meet with Vicki Werneke from the federal public defender's office, one of the lawyers for Tyler who presented the case for clemency to the Ohio Parole Board, and will stay with Francine Hawkins, the sister of Arthur Tyler. She will be in the U.S. from July 18th to July 23rd.

"I'm 80, almost blind and the trip is a long one but I'm glad to make it to see the man I would have been proud to call my son," said Alford.

Tyler spent 31 years on death row for a crime that another man has confessed to over 11 times and who is now free. No DNA and no eyewitnesses link Mr. Tyler to the crime.

The Justice for Arthur Tyler group applauded the Ohio Parole Board for recommending unanimously that Tyler be eligible for parole either immediately or in two years. The Ohio Parole Board in their recommendation said:

"Given the doubt that surrounds the evidence, commutation to life without the possibility of parole would not serve the interests of justice in this case."

Alford said, "Ever since I read Arthur's story and all the ways the system failed him, I have felt compelled to give him the support that he needs. I was disappointed when I heard that Arthur's sentence was commuted to life without the possibility of parole," said Mrs. Alford. "But I pray that justice and fairness will prevail for him. In the meantime, I'll do my part to show him compassion and kindness."