

# Voices of Delaware

MURDER VICTIMS' FAMILIES SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

## Anne Coleman, Frances' Mom

### *Dover*

My daughter, Frances, was shot to death in her car while driving through South Central Los Angeles; it was September 1985. As a victim of violent crime, I believe in accountability. I believe you have to be responsible for your actions. I also oppose the death penalty.

After my daughter was taken by a murderer who was never caught I lost my son, Daniel, to severe depression and obsessive thoughts of revenge that eventually killed him. Although the death certificate says, "cause undetermined," in my heart I know that he took an overdose of antidepressants deliberately. Two of my children were taken by the same bullet.

Had there been adequate resources for law enforcement perhaps my daughter's murderer would have been arrested and required to take responsibility for his violent crime. More importantly, had there been adequate services and resources for my son after Frances' murder perhaps Daniel would be alive today. If Daniel had received support in dealing with his pain he would have had a chance to heal some of that pain and move forward instead of being caught in a downward spiral. The money freed up by repealing the death penalty could provide a tremendous amount of needed support for families like mine.

Finally, I know the pain a mother feels burying a child – I have done it twice – and I never want to be responsible for causing another mother, or any member of her family, that kind of pain. That is why the execution of Frances' killer would not be healing or supportive; it would not help me or my family as victims. It would only create more victims and the last thing we need as a community is the state creating more victims.



Anne Coleman

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*Anne was born during England's finest hour, 1941. At the age of 9, after growing up in post WWII England, Anne was sent to live in Germany. Discovering that Germans did not fit the image Anne was raised with had a profound impact on her thinking; she learned that prejudice had no place in her life.*

*Returning to Britain on July 15 1953, the day John Christie was executed, made her an abolitionist at the age of 12. Anne has long challenged wrong doing even by high authority.*

*Anne and her husband Claude Coleman have a son, Timothy and daughter Summer, who they adopted after the death of Frances. They have 5 grandsons and expect their first grand daughter in April.*

For more information or to become a member or donor of Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation: contact Horace Knight Jr. at [hknight@mvfr.org](mailto:hknight@mvfr.org) or 609-792-2147 or find us online

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