

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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January 14, 2014

New York State Board of Parole
1220 Washington Ave, Building 2
Albany, New York 12226-2050

Din: 82C0273
Inmate Last Name: Comfort
Inmate First Name: Joseph
Subject: Letter of Opposition

Dear Members of the Parole Board:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to express our strongest possible opposition to the parole of Joseph Comfort, who was convicted of killing New York State Police Investigator Robert VanHall, Jr.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, including the New York State Troopers Police Benevolent Association; 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers; and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

Investigator VanHall, who dedicated his life to serving and protecting the public and worked undercover in the war against drugs, was on duty on December 5, 1980, when without warning he was shotgunned in the back by Comfort.

In addition to being a dedicated law enforcement officer, Investigator VanHall had also served two tours in Vietnam as a Green Beret, where he distinguished himself by being awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart. After all of his service and sacrifice, Investigator VanHall was senselessly gunned down while serving the people of New York State.

Joseph Comfort is scheduled for a parole hearing during the week of January 27, 2014. We urge your support and action to ensure that this killer remains in prison. If NAPO can provide any additional information as you make your decision, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director