

Help Deny Leonard Peltier Clemency

Below is a sample letter regarding clemency for Leonard Peltier. All members are encouraged to use this as a sample of a letter to the Department of Justice Pardon Attorney. A downloadable copy is available on the Society website. Please feel free to customize the letter especially as to your personal background in the FBI.

Your Name
Your Address
Date

Honorable Robert A. Zauzmer
Acting Pardon Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20530 -0001

Re: Leonard Peltier – Clemency Petition

Dear Mr. Zauzmer:

This letter expresses my profound opposition to Leonard Peltier's plea for clemency.

It is my understanding that Leonard Peltier has renewed his application for clemency and that a support group continues to actively encourage his release. I served as a Special Agent with the FBI for more than XX years and strongly believe that his petition for Clemency should be denied for many valid reasons.

On June 26, 1975, Peltier was involved in an unprovoked attack on FBI Agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams while they were searching for a fugitive on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Both Agents were caught in an open field in a deadly crossfire by members of the American Indian Movement, critically wounded, and then summarily executed at point blank range by Leonard Peltier. Peltier was convicted of their murders receiving consecutive life sentences. During well over a dozen appeals Peltier's conviction and sentencing has never been altered. Over the years Peltier has made many outrageous and self-incriminating public statements that only serve to reinforce his unrepentant and remorseless guilt, even most recently; "And really, if necessary, I'd do it all over again because it was the right thing to do," (2010) and "I don't regret any of this for a minute." (2014)

Peltier has not been a model prisoner. In addition to numerous disciplinary actions, in 1978 he was involved in an armed escape from Lompoc Penitentiary during which shots were fired at prison guards. For this post-conviction criminal act, Peltier received an additional seven-year consecutive sentence.

The families, friends and professional associates of Jack and Ron continue to suffer from the loss of two fine young men, who were brutally murdered in the line of duty.

Clemency should be reserved for non-violent offenders who have proven they have been rehabilitated. Peltier has not fulfilled his consecutive life sentences, plus seven years. His crimes were extremely violent, he remains unrepentant and repeatedly boasts about his murderous acts on that horribly infamous day. Leonard Peltier is now seeking consideration and mercy, but he should be shown the same degree of mercy he gave to Jack Coler and Ron Williams, and that should be none.

I respectfully urge you to reject Peltier's petition and recommend to the President that his application be denied. Thank you for your attention in this very crucial matter.

Sincerely,
Your name

Leonard Peltier Clemency

In our June issue's history column on Leonard Peltier's escape from prison, there was a mention that actor Hal Linden had attended the trial in support of Peltier, and coincidentally Hal Linden appeared at a Heart of America (Kansas City) chapter meeting this past April. The Kansas City chapter did

not know of the relationship of Linden to Peltier and Linden did not speak at the luncheon. The chapter regrets any appearance of non-support for the Society's efforts to deny Peltier Clemency.