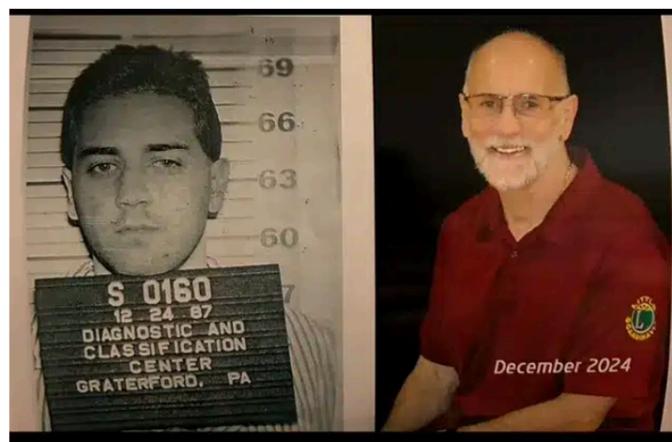




STORIES

# "The last time I wore a tie was in a courtroom. That was 40 years ago."

Between the ages of 20 and 22 years old, I made terrible— life altering— choices wherel eventually caused the death of another person and affected many lives, including my own. As a result, I lost my freedom and have spent almost my entire adult life incarcerated.



In recognizing those bad choices and correcting them, I have transformed my life. In pursuit of redemption, I have been able to contribute positively to the lives of others. I would love to continue to do that in a greater capacity.

To get my freedom back would be awesome! It would be unreal, almost unimaginable! At 62 years old, I would, for one, enjoy the simple things that so many people may take for granted. For example, just today, I tied my own tie in a ReEntry Employment Workshop. The last time I tied a tie, I was in my bedroom at home getting ready for court. That was in September 1987. Later that day, I took it off in a holding cell and haven't made a tie again until today. To put on that tie today made me feel hopeful. It allowed me to think about some of the other simple things I could do to feel normal.

It would also mean being responsible for doing everything I said I would do if that day did come. I often want to refrain from thinking about it — rather, waiting until that day happens. Still some days I just cannot help myself, and I indulge in imagining all the things I would do if I were home.

