

Lois DeMott 3938 Hunter Ridge Drive, Lansing, MI 48911

My name is Lois DeMott. I am the Co-Founder and President of Citizens for Prison Reform. Our grassroots organization is made up of concerned citizens, advocates, and loved ones of prisoners. We work towards a system approach of restorative justice, rehabilitation, programming and humane treatment. This begins with working to keep people out of this system when at all possible.

Today I want to share a particular personal story with you of Charlie Lane, and the journey he and his parents have traveled. Some of you have met them as they joined us for meetings last year. I have provided you a photo page and brief synopsis of Charlie's journey, and of his felonies, his repeated "habitual serious offenses", and the history of his mental illness that led him down this road.

Charlie served our country as a Marine. He became mentally ill after serving in the Gulf War. Charlie was simply discharged from the military, without the proper treatment in place for his known mental illness he was exhibiting. From 1996 when Charlie was discharged by the military due to his illness until 2004, he racked up numerous assaultive felonies, along with arson. This began in Findlay Ohio, with an "assault on an officer". He was at times found incompetent, at other times found competent. He was not getting consistent care or treatment. These felonies mounted to around six by the end of this period.

Charlie was sentenced into Michigan Department of Corrections in 2004. There, he was not provided psychiatric care until he had another major break. In 2006 he was then taken off of his medications within this system. He bit off two of his fingers, picked out his eye, and wound up in a coma. His parents were called and told that he would not live. Once he was treated in an outside hospital and taken off a medication he was known allergic to, he began to get better.

The parole board recognized Charlie was not in the right place, and he was released and recovered in a psychiatric hospital in 2007. He now purchased a farm in Jackson and raises sheep. He has continued to struggle with great stigma placed on those with a felony, mental illness, and physical disabilities. He has been unable to obtain fulfilling outside work due to his felony record.

Charlie is just one example of thousands who would be warehoused in prison for at least 25 years, if not life by this bill. Lets compare the cost of his incarceration for one year, to what it is currently costing us as tax payers for his care. He now is receiving VA mental health services. The cost of his incarceration would be in the neighborhood of at least \$50,000 per year. You can do the math. Times 25 years, or life.

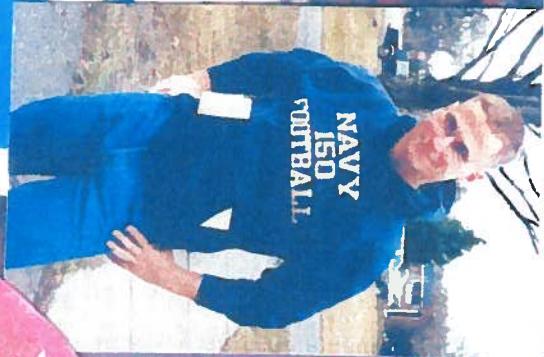
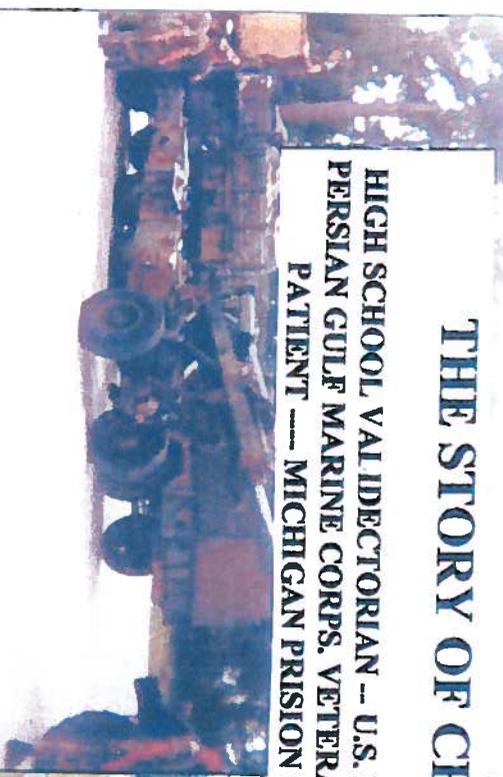
I am unsure what Michigan is trying to accomplish. Are we are trying to build an expansile prison system that will only increase our already astronomical Corrections budget? Are we trying to deplete money that could be used for education, mental health, and court programs that rehabilitate? And, if the goal is to work on the back end of these problems, rather than on the front end, then SB Bill 1109 makes perfect sense. However, if we take a look around at what other states are doing, and at what makes sense for Michigan to do, we will need to rethink harsh broad laws and sentences that do not provide individuals or communities with an approach that is humane or cost effective. While certainly there are particular violent offenders who should not be on our streets, and do need to be locked up, we and the judges need to treat these cases individually and make sure that we are putting only the people behind bars that should be. This bill clumps many together who would "qualify" for this harsh sentence, when in fact, several should be given treatment rather than sentenced. Particularly those like Charlie who sacrificed their lives serving our country.

Thank you,

Lois DeMott

# THE STORY OF CHARLIE LANE

HIGH SCHOOL VAL IDECTORIAN -- U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY GRADUATE --  
PERSIAN GULF MARINE CORPS. VETERAN -- BIPOLAR MENTAL ILLNESS  
PATIENT --- MICHIGAN PRISON SYSTEM INMATE # 314942.



## PERSIAN GULF

# 40 VET

## THE JOURNEY OF CHARLIE:

- July, 1987- Graduated US Naval Academy, entered US Marine Corps.
- 1991- Returned stateside -after serving in the Gulf War aboard USS Saginaw in the Marine Corps, Assault Flotilla.
- 1993-1995- Married and has two children.
- 1995- Charlie begins to show signs of mental illness. Suicidal, hallucinations, mania, confusion. Admitted to Psychiatric Naval Hospital. Diagnosis- Manic-Depressive. Continual episodes after hospitalization.
- 1996- Discharged from Marines.
- 1996-1999- Episodes of mania, assault on police officer in Ohio, on and off of medications, loss of jobs and more hospitalizations. More felonies.
- 2000- In jail- very psychotic. Self mutilation. Sent to Northville Michigan State Psychiatric Hospital. Put on Haldol injections. **ALLERGIC REACTION**. Medications changed, sentenced to Rose Hill, Holly Michigan. Completed program successfully.
- 2001- Released, working at JCK Engineering in Novi. Doing well.
- 2002-2004 Admitted to VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. Off of medications. In and out of hospitals. Psychotic. Took a layoff of job. New felony charge. Back in jail. Sent to Forensic Center for testing. Discovered he had not been taking medications. Found competent, sent back to jail. **Sentenced to 2-20 years Michigan Department of Corrections**. Off of medications. Moved from Puglsey to Coldwater to Ionia and then to **Huron Valley Men's Prison**- due to instability. Moved back to Ionia.
- 2006- Transferred to Adrian in a pre-parole class. Self-mutilated. **Chewed off ends of his middle fingers and tried to pick out/remove his eye**. Moved to St. Joe Hospital for pulmonary embolus. Transferred to **Huron Valley Men's Prison- Acute Care Psychiatric Unit**. **Audio and visual hallucinations**.
- 2006- November- **eye removed**. Put on Haldol and Seroquel. Parents told to contact Senator Carl Levin for assistance in finding a Marine Corps advocate and placement.
- Oct 2006- to January 2007- Kept in soft restraints. Short term memory very poor. Totally blind in right eye. Parole is scheduled for April. Parents worked to get prison history.
- May 2006- Charlie reinstated at Ann Arbor VA Hospital, with disability at 100%, but they needed to see him. Prison would not allow them in. They could not have armed guards. Decompensated.
- June 2006- taken to St. Joe Hospital, temperature 104 +. Prison notified parents he was in critical condition.
- July 4- Ventilator removed. Confused, psychotic, little short-term memory. Diagnosis: Pneumonia with possible heart complications. Now parents had to get guardianship to visit hospital. Transferred to MDOC Duane Waters Hospital in Jackson. **Allergy to Haldol stated likely cause of illness. Slowly improving**.
- **Sept 13, 2007- Released on parole from prison. Transferred to Crittenton Psychiatric Hospital** for evaluation and follow-up care. Medication changes made. Much improvement.
- **Sept. 27, 2007** Moved to group home- Mecca House, Waterford MI.
- **2008**-Care through VA Medical Center. Dental work, psychiatric care and an eye prosthesis. Granted 100% disability. Moved to an assisted apartment living- social workers visit daily. Attended Oakland Community College, studied Russian, 98% in class. Began speaking to police departments and deputy training classes on mental illness and treatment of the incarcerated.
- **2010**- Purchased his own farm and lives in Southeast Michigan. Continues to speak to police departments, and mental health workers regarding mental illness and treatment of the incarcerated.

# Charlie Lane's "mind broke."

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<http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20110803/NEWS01/108030315/County-court-program-aids-those-mental-illness?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage>

Then, he committed arson and assaulted his parents. That landed him in prison, where he bit off two fingertips and poked out his right eye. Behind bars, he told his mother: "I am Jesus Christ. Are you the Virgin Mary?" He was mentally ill. "We knew (mental illness) had a grip on him," his father, William Lane, told visitors and participants in the Livingston County Intensive Treatment Court during a recent meeting. "He used to drink his urine, to the amusement of the guards," William Lane, of Hamburg Township, said. "Charlie toughed it out for you. He was near death, and the prison system gave up on him. ... When you've got a disordered mind, it can be fixed. You're very, very lucky to have I.T. court." Charlie Lane wasn't able to participate in I.T., as it didn't yet exist when he was in trouble. He's been out of prison for four years now; his mother, Barbara Lane, currently works with the court as a helper. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, an estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older — about one in four adults — suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. The two-year I.T. court, spearheaded by District Judge Carol Sue Reader, was created to deal with the people with mental illness who are going through the judicial system because they committed a crime. The court has been deemed a success by the team that oversees its operation and the participants. Reader said success is judged by several criteria, including whether the participants are continuously compliant with taking their medications; whether they keep their therapy appointments; whether they are improving their life situation, such as having a place to live; and whether they are drug- and/or alcohol-free. "Each participant has a different treatment plan through their doctor and therapist," Reader explained. "We help them stay on that plan and out of jail." This type of court, Reader said, "puts enforcement into the Mental Health Code." If an I.T. participant gets off track, Reader can impose sanctions. Sanctions typically include community service, writing an essay, additional testing, attending a treatment center, reporting to probation more often or, if the violation is serious enough, jail. Participants also can be expelled from the I.T. court.

"Jail is used for therapeutic purposes, to get their attention and to encourage them to be back on their treatment plan," Reader said.

Participation in the court is voluntary and requires commitment since it takes up to two years to complete. If a defendant does not want to participate, he or she will be given a normal sentence.

Today, the court has 11 participants, although there is space for 25. Thus far, five people among the more than 20 who have been involved with the court have graduated.

Charlie Lane said he believes that, had he been properly diagnosed and treated in the beginning, he may not have committed his crimes.

**He encouraged the court's participants to thoroughly and openly discuss with the medical team their symptoms and fears and to advocate for themselves as their doctor finds the right treatment plan and/or medications.**

**Incarceration is not the answer, Charlie Lane said.**

**The Michigan prison system "is not capable of taking care of people with mental illness," he said. "They don't know how to treat a mentally ill person inside. ... Compassion and understanding are not part of the deal with Michigan Department of Corrections."**

**A high school athlete and a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Charlie Lane was charged in October 1999 with assaulting a corrections officer. In 2003, he was again in trouble when he set fire to a Novi restaurant in the middle of the night.**

**He was convicted in Oakland County of burning property, breaking and entering and malicious destruction of property and was subsequently sentenced to spend two years to 20 years in prison. He attributes all of his crimes to his mental illness.**

**While in prison, Charlie Lane said, he was taken off his medications, which led him to hallucinate and to harm himself. Prison officials' answer was to strap him to his bed, he said.**

**Reader said it is "about time" society begins treating people mental illness "the same as anyone else (who) has an illness." She said mental illness is no different than heart disease, diabetes or any other condition.**

**"Just because it affects the brain, it is not a reason to not give them proper diagnosis and treatment to help them to return to becoming all that they can be," she said.**

**Today, Charlie Lane has left behind his military and engineering career and found new life at his 34-acre farm in Jackson County's Napoleon Township.**

**"I've lost a decade of my life because of the mental illness," Charlie Lane said. "Today, I have a clear head."**

**Contact Daily Press & Argus reporter Lisa Roose-Church at (517) 552-2846 or at [lrchurch@gannett.com](mailto:lrchurch@gannett.com)**