

DEPUTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY



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The Strength Behind the Badge

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March 11, 2025 - Via Electronic Mail

RE: Opposition to Parole for Mark Phelps – CDCR #D83007 (March 18, 2025)

Dear Members of the Board of Parole Hearings,

On behalf of the San Diego County Deputy Sheriffs' Association, representing 2,400 deputies, the DSA strongly opposes the parole of Mark Phelps, CDCR #D83007.

On July 31, 1987, Deputy Jim Bennetts of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department attempted to stop Phelps, a known felony suspect with an active warrant. Instead of surrendering, Phelps led Deputy Bennetts on a pursuit before stopping and ambushing him with a fully automatic MAC-10 equipped with a silencer. Deputy Bennetts' patrol vehicle was riddled with bullets as he fought for his life. Despite being struck twice, one bullet severing a major vein—he managed to return fire and survive.

Two days later, Phelps again engaged law enforcement, initiating a second shootout with Deputy Al MacKrille. He recklessly fired multiple rounds before fleeing into a crowded commercial establishment, further endangering innocent civilians. The fact that Phelps was in possession of multiple high-capacity magazines further underscores the premeditated and violent nature of his actions.

Deputy Bennetts continues to suffer permanent physical limitations and chronic pain from his injuries. Phelps' actions were not impulsive; they were calculated, deliberate, and intended to kill. His repeated attempts to harm law enforcement officers demonstrate an ongoing threat to public safety.

Granting parole to Phelps would undermine justice and dishonor the sacrifices made by those he tried to kill. His incarceration remains necessary to protect our communities and uphold the rule of law.

The DSA urges the Board to deny parole for Mark Phelps, CDCR #D83007. His crimes were heinous, and his release would pose an unacceptable risk to public safety.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Deane
President

Cc Brian Marvel, President, PORAC
Jim and Tammy Bennetts, San Diego Deputy Sheriff's (retired)