

TRULINCS 55487056 - MASON, FREDERICK - Unit: TCP-B-B

DM: 55487056

TO: USP/SPC Unicor/Programa Unicor  
SUBJECT: \*\*\*Request to Staff\*\*\* MASON, FREDERICK, Reg# 55487056, TCP-B-B  
DATE: 08/09/2021 07:40:36 AM

To: UNICOR  
Inmate Work Assignment: nil

Casting The Dead Into Pits  
(How USP Tucson Treats The Dead)

We have seen in history the atrocities done to man, one example being how, during World War II, the Nazis treated the Jews in the concentration camps. We have seen, to our horror, how they treated these people, torturing them, killing them, and tossing their lifeless bodies in a pit full of dead bodies.

We think, as Americans, that we would never do anything like this, although history shows we already have... take a good look at how slaves were treated, and you will see a horrifying similarity. But of course, that was years ago, we would never do anything like that...

would we?

Yeah, we would, and we do.

Take a look at how American prisons treat their inmates, with less than minimum care, and with no compassion. For my point, I want to share with you the memories of an inmate here, "Bernie".

When I first got here to USP Tucson, I needed a radio, since the televisions were "Silent TV" meaning that you had to get a radio to tune in on the frequency to get that channel. At the time, I didn't have a radio, and it would be awhile before I would be able to buy one. Bernie didn't know me, but knew I needed a little help, so he loaned me a radio to use- with batteries, so I could watch and listen to television.

Bernie was one of the first people to show compassion to me as a new inmate. He didn't look at color; he was white, I am black, but that didn't matter. He was always kind to me, and if you needed anything, Bernie always looked out. He had a wife in Japan, and loved talking about Japan and Disneyland. It seemed he knew every inch of the place, and I loved listening to him about it.

A few years ago, the prison had a bowling league, and I was on Bernie's team. He wasn't in the best of health; he had been reduced previously to using a stroller to get around, since he was up there in age. I was on his team, as he was the coach, and he always told me that he didn't care so much if we won the tournament or not, just as long as we had fun. I agreed fully with him, and I made it a point to not just have fun, but to make it pleasant for not just us, but for our opponents as well. After all, it should be about fun. That year, we won the compound championship, and Bernie was very happy for us.

As the years went along, Bernie did a number of good things, and did a lot of "programming" like entering and completing the Challenge Program. He was well respected amongst every inmate on the compound, and a very kind man.

But when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Bernie had to go to the hospital. We wondered about him, and prayers were sent for him. After several months, Bernie finally returned to the prison, confined to a wheelchair. We were all very happy to see him, and you could tell in the beam in his eye that he missed all of us.

In telling me about his stay in the prison, he divulged to me how heartless USP Tucson staff was... from the top on down. Although they visited him at the hospital, he asked them, plead with them, to call his wife, so that she would know his whereabouts and health. Every officer from the Associate Wardens down promised to do so...

lied.

Bernie said his wife never got a single phonecall. So for months, his wife had no idea about where Bernie was. Typical of USP Tucson.

We were glad to get Bernie back, and all seemed normal. But only a few days later, Bernie took ill, and had to be taken back to the hospital. We had hoped for the best, and after a few weeks began to wonder. After about a month, we were concerned.

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We learned much later... Bernie had passed.

It is devastating to hear this, but we didn't see any announcements or anything "official". USP Tucson seemed to keep quiet that a man had died... or simply didn't care. I would vote for the latter, it is their common practice.

So, fast forward to Sunday, August 8th. The prison calls a Chapel move, and a recreation move. I go to the library to type, and at 1:40pm, they make the call for recall. As I am coming out, I see a guy I knew from another dorm. We're walking and talking, and he tells me that they had the Memorial Service for Bernie...

"What? There was no announcement for that!" I said, in shock.

The guy I was talking to just happened to be at Chapel, when they had the Memorial Service. He showed me the program of the service, with a picture of Bernie in the center of the program sheet, dressed in a suit and tie, with a proud smile on his face.

I was stunned... nobody told us about the Memorial Service. USP Tucson just "slipped" it in, and whoever was fortunate enough to show up was there for the service.

It's like dumping a dead body in the pit, USP Tucson clearly didn't care about this man, and had no problem kicking his body into the pit.

The problems I have here are numerous. First, Bernie deserved better than that. He had been here at USP Tucson for over 10 years, he never, ever caused any problems. He was your model inmate, and took as much programming as he could to show that he was trying to better himself. USP Tucson owed that man at least the respect of a Memorial Service that we could attend.

pathetic planning, or lack of, caused the dorm he lived most of his time in, B2, to not even know that there was a Memorial Service for Bernie. Had we known, many of us would have gone to pay our last respects. USP Tucson foolishly robbed us of that chance.

Bernie was also a graduate of the Challenge Program, and was well respected. Those guys over there deserved one last chance to pay their respects to Bernie.

But there was no announcement of any kind. There was no notice on the "TRU Links", the electronic message board that USP Tucson used to talk about the wrongs another inmate did at another prison, but never talks about anything to edify the inmate population or keep the morale respectable. They simply didn't care.

During World War II, the "inmates" were tortured, slaughtered and dumped in a pit along with all the other dead bodies, never to be remembered anymore. The Nazis had no care for the lives they destroyed; to them, these people were worth nothing...

Isn't USP Tucson doing the same thing? A man died, and the prison slid his body under the rug, then dumped it outside in a deep hole, where the other dead from COVID-19 also lay. Then, to cover their unsympathetic hides, they pretended to care by performing a heartless Memorial Service, inviting only those who just happened to go to the Chapel that day.

Bernie deserved more than that... he was a human being, and a good man. Nobody deserves to be dumped like that.

But this is how USP Tucson treats the dead. To them, the lives of these people are worthless, and will not lift a finger to help the inmate population pay their respects to anyone who has passed. USP Tucson held no memorial service for the previous 10 inmates who died of COVID-19, nor do they care to. There was no notice posted for the inmate population of who died, we had to find out by having loved ones on the outside research it. It seems that the rest of the world can know how many, and who died here at USP Tucson, but the staff is too heartless, too incompetent, too malicious, to even afford us this right of knowing who is no longer among us, and giving us the humane right to pay our respects or to grieve.

it makes sense... the Nazis didn't care who they slaughtered. Here in America, slave owners didn't care who they whipped flesh peeled off their backs. Our country didn't care when blacks were burned or hung on trees... those lives didn't matter. same mentality abides here in prisons like USP Tucson, who refused to let us remember the life of a man who did all he could to help others.

Bernie is gone, and to a better place... anything is better than being around heartless staff like USP Tucson. Shame on the entire staff for treating human beings like this... but, it won't change them. It likely never will...