



CAREY DEAN MOORE

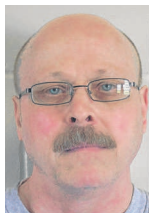
EXECUTED

Lethal injection ends life of longest-serving death row inmate

JOANNE YOUNG | Lincoln Journal Star

The earth shifted a bit in Nebraska on Tuesday morning when it became not just a state with a death penalty, but one that has resumed capital punishment after a 21-year de facto moratorium.

Condemned prisoner Carey Dean Moore, who had seven previous execution dates set and then set aside in his 38 years on death row, was pronounced dead at 10:47 a.m. by Lancaster County Coroner Pat Condon.



Moore

Moore, 60, was handed the death sentence in 1980 for the 1979 murders of Omaha cab drivers Maynard Helgeland and Reuel Van Ness Jr.

While several family members of the victims were at the Nebraska State Penitentiary Tuesday morning, none of them witnessed the execution, carried out by the administration of four lethal injection drugs — diazepam, fentanyl, cisatracurium and potassium chloride. The procedure was unique in that the drugs had never been used in that combination.

The penitentiary inmates were locked in their cells during at least the few hours of the execution for safety reasons, said spokeswoman Dawn-Renee Smith.

Outside, about 20 people gathered under gray, rainy skies in a portion of the parking lot of the prison cordoned off for those opposed to the execution, praying, holding signs and standing quietly. Only a few came to support what was happening inside the prison.

Inside prison walls, media witnesses to the death first saw Moore around 9:15 a.m. when he was read the death warrant by penitentiary Warden Michele Capps.

Moore, who was shackled at the waist, wrists and ankles, gave an oral statement, in addition to his written one, said witness Grant Schulte of the Associated Press.

Moore was “composed. He certainly looked maybe slightly shaken,” said Joe Duggan of the

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VICTIMS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Maynard Helgeland (left) and Reuel Van Ness Jr. were both 47, Korean War veterans and worked construction jobs in addition to driving cabs. Helgeland had three children and Van Ness had 10. They were both robbed and shot by Moore.



GWYNETH ROBERTS, JOURNAL STAR

Scott Frakes (left), director of Nebraska Department of Corrections, delivers a statement after the execution of Carey Dean Moore on Tuesday at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. In the background are three of four media witnesses: Chip Matthews (from left) of News Channel Nebraska, Joe Duggan of the Omaha World-Herald, and Brent Martin of the Nebraska Radio Network.

Victim's son: 'It's over'

MARGARET REIST
Lincoln Journal Star

The sons of Maynard Helgeland, who traveled to Lincoln in memory of their father on Tuesday when the state executed his killer, left shortly after to return to their homes in South Dakota.

“It’s over,” Steve Helgeland said. “Let’s let everyone rest in peace.”

Carey Dean Moore, 60, died at 10:47 a.m. Tuesday, the first death row inmate executed in Nebraska in 21 years.

He was convicted of the 1979 fatal shooting and robbery of Reuel Van Ness Jr. and Helgeland. Both were cab drivers who picked up Moore.

Steve Helgeland is the youngest of Maynard’s three children, and was 13 and living in Wisconsin with his mom when his father was killed.

The oldest son, Kenny Helgeland, was living with his dad in Omaha and drove cabs with him. Had he not gotten an invitation to the horse races in Lincoln on Aug. 22, 1979, he’d have been in the car with his dad.

Kenny Helgeland had planned to witness the execution but changed his mind because of the possibility of being in the same room as the Moore family members. The Helgelands were in the prison during the execution, however.

Helgeland’s daughter, Lori Helgeland-Renken, chose not to come to Lincoln from her home in South Dakota.

She said while she’s relieved that Moore — and her dad’s murder — won’t keep being revisited in the news because of legal

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EMILY BLOBAUM, JOURNAL STAR

Inside:

- Carey Dean Moore’s twin brother, niece talk about his last hours. **A7**
- Death penalty opponents protest and grieve Moore’s death. **A6**

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- Read Carey Dean Moore’s last statement.
- Watch the press conference with witnesses after the execution.
- Read about the state’s 11 remaining death row inmates and previous coverage of the death penalty.

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Small group protests execution at prison

Law enforcement, media outnumber death penalty foes at penitentiary

MARGARET REIST
Lincoln Journal Star

Heavy rains did not deter a small group of death penalty protesters who gathered outside the Nebraska State penitentiary Tuesday in opposition to the state's first execution in 21 years.

About 20 people gathered in a portion of the parking lot cordoned off for those opposed to the execution of Carey Dean Moore.

They prayed or held signs, stood quietly or answered reporters questions.

"As a citizen of the state I object and protest this and every other execution in our state," said the Rev. Royal Carleton, a chaplain with Omaha's Inclusive Life Center. "I just think we're doing an injustice today."

Moore, who had been on death row for 38 years for killing Maynard Helgeland and Reuel Van Ness Jr., two 47-year-old cab drivers, had stopped fighting his execution, though others continued legal efforts to stop it.

State officials set up two areas — one for death penalty opponents and one for supporters — separated by an area for law enforcement in an effort to avoid the circus-like atmosphere of previous executions.

But the area for death penalty supporters remained empty Tuesday, and for much of the morning the parking lot was filled primarily with reporters — including a crew filming a documentary — and Nebraska State Patrol troopers, Lancaster County Sheriff's deputies and Lincoln police officers. A helicopter circled overhead.

Though nearly all those who came Tuesday did so to protest the execution, Terry Pace stood on the grass outside the cordoned off area for a different reason.

He said he'd been there in 1994 when the state electrocuted Harold Lamont Otey, the first man executed in the state since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

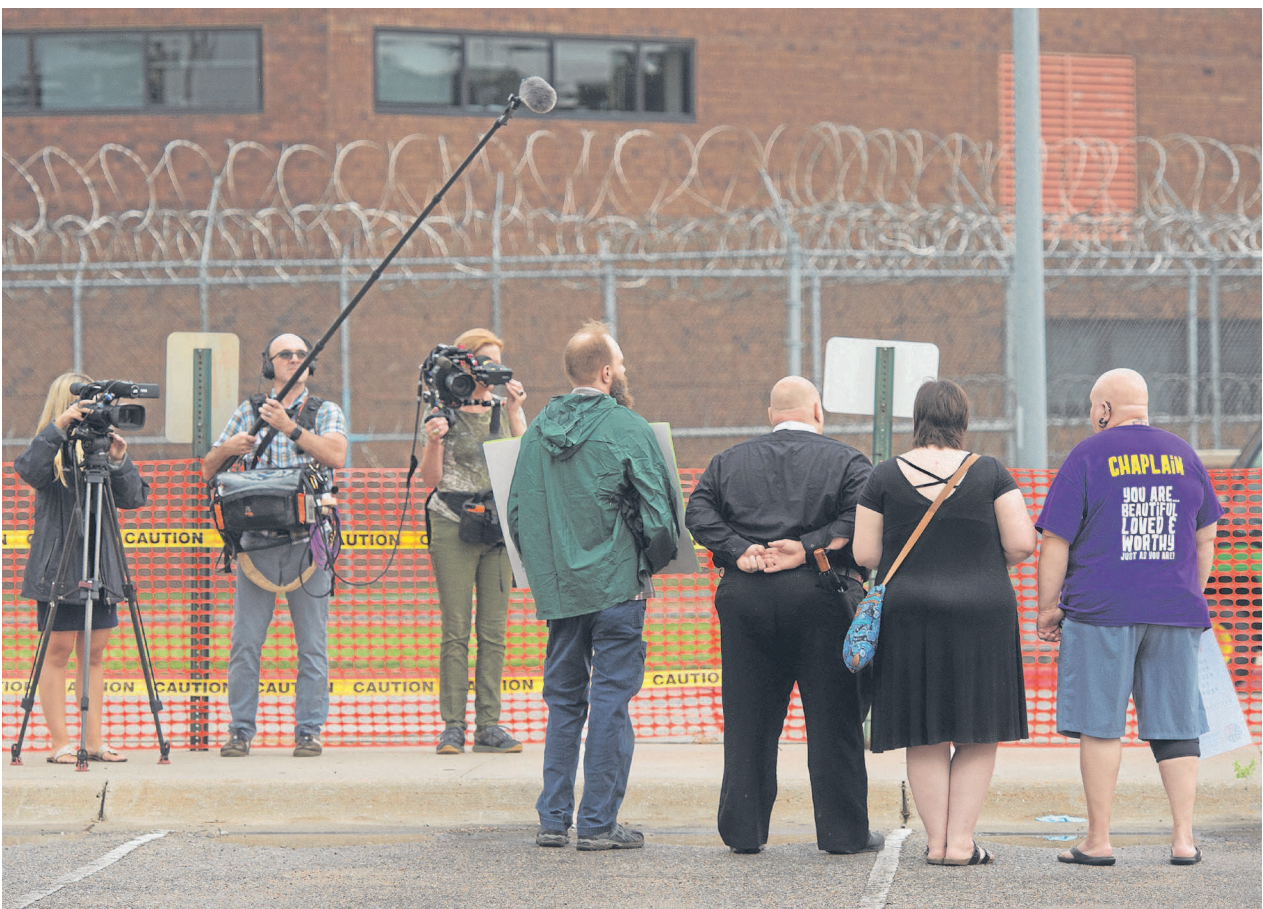
Pace came Tuesday, he said, "pretty much in protest that it takes 40 years to do this."

In 2016, the state's voters overwhelmingly supported reinstatement of the death penalty after the Legislature had voted to abolish capital punishment in the state.

Those who came Tuesday to the State Penitentiary felt differently.

Matthew Rehwaldt, who held a sign saying "Not in My Name," said he'd been at the last three executions and was here Tuesday to register his opposition to the state using his tax dollars to execute someone.

He was among those who said the atmosphere outside the prison was much



ERIC GREGORY, JOURNAL STAR

A handful of protesters are photographed Tuesday by the media outside the Nebraska State Penitentiary in the public area for death penalty opponents as the state executed Carey Dean Moore.

more subdued than other executions.

Terry Werner, who has visited men on Nebraska's death row for more than 20 years, said he knew that Moore did not want people to gather outside the prison, but he told him he would be there anyway.

"I think it's very important for me to be here to support him and to support the men still alive," he said.

Emily Daniels of Bellevue brought her two boys, who she home-schools, be-

cause they've been studying the history of the death penalty.

"I'm hoping the death penalty will be eliminated," she said, "and it's an important thing for them to see."

She said she and her boys have differing opinions. She supported it at one time, but came to believe it's imposed unfairly and is an overstepping of government to kill one of its citizens. Her 10-year-old son thinks it's OK in very limited circum-

stances, her 12-year-old son does not.

Lauren Garcia and Tom Venzor from the Nebraska Catholic Conference were there, they said, to pray for Moore and his victims and for the end of the death penalty in Nebraska.

The execution was scheduled for 10 a.m., and just about that time it began to rain. Some of the death penalty protesters moved closer to the prison and stood silently, some with their

heads bowed in prayer.

When reporters tweeting from inside the prison said it would take another 45 minutes, the protesters stayed, despite what had become a heavy rain.

When reporters confirmed Moore had died, the drenched protesters hugged and left quietly a short time later.

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EMILY BLOBAUM, JOURNAL STAR

Patrick McCabe, of Lincoln, holds a cross reading "No more executions" at a Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty rally on Tuesday at the Capitol.

Protesters grieve Moore's execution

EMILY CASE
Lincoln Journal Star

Dreary skies provided a fitting backdrop for death penalty protesters Tuesday evening, hours following the execution of Carey Dean Moore.

Dozens, holding signs and wearing stickers saying "execute justice, not people," gathered on the steps of the state Capitol to grieve and speak out against the execution, which protest organizer Matt Maly said was expensive and hard on victims' families.

"Nebraska took a big step backward today, and we gave up so much to get to that execution this morning," said Maly, who also protested at the State Penitentiary during the execution as a representative of Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

The early-evening protest featured 10 speakers, including Lincoln Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks and spiritual adviser Bob Bryan, who witnessed Moore's execution. They called for an end to the death penalty.

"He died peacefully and it was almost too sanitary to watch him die," Bryan said.

Bryan said he was a death penalty supporter until he met Moore in 2014.

"It wasn't until I met (him) that I understood the power of forgiveness and how God can change people's lives," he said. "And that killing someone does not bring back anyone's life."

Speakers also expressed frustration at the way the execution was carried out and prison officials' lack of transparency.

"We wasted millions of dollars of taxpayer money ... and we completely abandoned our commitment to

transparency and open government," Maly said.

Pansing Brooks said she and other lawmakers were "complicit" in the execution and she called for a society "centered in the sacredness of love."

"My heart is broken," she said. "I am complicit; all state officials are complicit. I ask forgiveness for not doing any more."

Maly said the event was a way to organize and continue the dialogue about the death penalty.

"We want our leaders to know this is not something that quietly went by," he said. "We're going to continue to have a dialogue in our legislation and in our communities."

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Brother, niece tell of Moore’s last hours

LORI PILGER
Lincoln Journal Star

Carey Dean Moore and his twin, David, shared slices of Pizza Hut pizza — bacon, beef, cheese and mushroom — and Pepsi as a last meal Monday night. They ate strawberry cheesecake for dessert.

David Moore said he was a little surprised when Nebraska State Penitentiary Warden Michele Capps brought it in. He didn’t expect she would do that for someone like his brother, who was condemned to die for the 1979 killings in Omaha of Reuel Van Ness Jr. and Maynard Helgeland.

In fact, David Moore said, he was impressed by all the prison staff.

Before they ate around 8:30 p.m., Carey Dean Moore,

who was executed in the state’s first lethal injection the next morning, said a prayer.

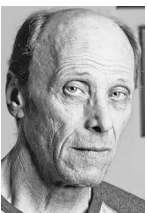
“He was very thankful that God was calling him home,” David Moore said after the execution on Tuesday. “He was at peace.”

He said his brother, his spiritual adviser, Bob, and his friend John all were talking about religious stories.

Carey Dean Moore became a religious man in his 38 years on death row.

“He wanted this very much to happen,” his brother said.

Moore, 60, had been given seven execution dates before this one. All were stayed over appeals



David Moore

or action in other death-row cases. So when a German drug company, Fresenius Kabi, filed a lawsuit a week before the latest sentence was to be carried out, it wasn’t a shock, David Moore said.

“I don’t hold anything against them,” he said.

They want their drugs to be known as life-saving, not associated with the death penalty, he said. But if their drug made it possible for his brother to be “done in,” he’s grateful to them.

Early Tuesday morning, around 4, David Moore and his daughter, Taylor Moore, pulled into the prison parking lot, long before the scores of media and the dozen or so protesters would arrive for the 10 a.m. execution.

David Moore said he had gotten a couple hours of sleep; his daughter said she didn’t get any.

Taylor Moore said her uncle named her when her parents couldn’t pick a name. Her middle name is Kari — after him — just spelled differently.

“I’m super close to my uncle and even though it is sad that he did die, I’m happy that he finally has peace and can rest,” she said.

Taylor Moore said she accepted a long time ago that he was going to die for what he did. She wants his victims’ families to know how sorry she is for them.

On Tuesday, she told her uncle she’ll miss him and love him forever.

The twins hugged.

“We don’t need to talk sometimes,” David Moore said.

Then, he and his daughter went into a little room, partitioned off from four media witnesses, and waited.

The next time they would see Carey Dean Moore, he was lying on a table, the IV lines in.

“He looked at us, he said ‘I love you,’ and then he closed his eyes,” David Moore said. “From what I’d seen, there was no pain whatsoever.”

Carey Dean Moore was pronounced dead at 10:47 a.m.

The family plans a wake on Saturday. His body will be cremated. David Moore also wants to be cremated and their ashes will be combined and scattered together.

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Execution

From A1

Omaha World-Herald, another media witness. “The gravity of what was happening to him was clear on his face and his expression. ... His voice was clear when he spoke.”

Asked if he had a final statement, he said, “Just the statement that I hand-delivered to you already about my brother Donny and the innocent men on Nebraska’s death row. That’s all that I have to say.”

In his written statement he said there are four men on death row who claim to be innocent. “I am guilty, they are not,” he said.

He apologized to his brother, Donald, who he took with him in 1979 to rob and then kill his first victim, Van Ness.

“As his older brother whom he looked up to, I should have lead him in the right way to go, instead of bringing him down, way down, and because of that I am terribly sorry. (Please forgive me, Don, somehow).”

He signed the letter as “ex-death row inmate.”

Witnesses recount scene

Once on the execution table, covered with a white sheet and his left arm connected to the intravenous tubing, Moore turned his head to the left and mouthed a message to his witnesses, including the words, “I love you,” several times, Schulte said.

He closed his eyes then, and the first drugs began moving through the tube and into his body. About a minute later he started breathing heavily. After that, Deputy Warden Robert Madsen did checks to ensure Moore was unconscious.

He appeared to cough, his breathing accelerated, then his chest and his body stilled. “His face very gradually initially turned slightly red and then turned purple,” Schulte said.

The witnesses said they did not see a change in his facial expression.

His eyes opened slightly and the curtain to the witness room closed. The curtain was closed for 14 minutes, then reopened after he was pronounced dead.

Smith, the prisons spokeswoman, said when the curtain closed the execution team waited five minutes, then called the coroner in to pronounce death at 10:47 a.m. It is not known what was happening between pronouncement of death and the curtain opening again to the media witnesses.

Brent Martin of Nebraska Radio Network said the execution took “much longer” than the 13 he witnessed as a reporter in Missouri, where they used a three-drug protocol of sodium thiopental, pancuronium bromide and potassium chloride. He also never noticed the change in facial color of an inmate in the other executions he observed, he said.

Chip Matthews, media witness from News Channel Nebraska, said there didn’t appear to be any complications during the execution, although he couldn’t say what happened when the curtain was down. The execution chamber was soundproof.

“I would like to see that the curtains stay up the whole time. I understand that they ... don’t



GWYNETH ROBERTS, JOURNAL STAR

Media witnesses Joe Duggan of the Omaha World-Herald (from left), Chip Matthews of News Channel Nebraska, Grant Schulte of the Associated Press and Brent Martin of Nebraska Radio Network answer questions after the execution of Carey Dean Moore on Tuesday at the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

want people to know who’s part of the execution team, however, if it’s supposed to be transparent then I would like to see it be totally transparent,” Matthews said. “We don’t know what they did behind the curtain when it was down.”

The witnesses said they hadn’t fully processed the impact of viewing Moore’s death. They said they looked at the task as a solemn responsibility of their jobs as journalists. Independent, objective witnesses are important, Schulte said.

“My biggest takeaway from today is that I just hope that this never happens to an innocent person,” Matthews said.

‘Enactment of justice’

The execution follows a 2016 referendum — politically and financially backed by Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts — in which Nebraska voters reinstated the death penalty after state lawmakers had abolished it the previous year.

Nebraska Corrections Director Scott Frakes told reporters his position requires him to carry out the court’s order in administering capital punishment.

“This agency has done so with professionalism, respect for the process and with dignity for all involved,” he said, reading from a statement, after which he left and did not answer questions from the press.

Gov. Pete Ricketts issued a statement saying the Department of Corrections carried out the sentence the court ordered in accordance with the will of Nebraskans.

“The death penalty remains a critical tool to protect law enforcement, corrections officers and public safety,” he said.

Attorney General Doug Peterson said the somber event provided “a measure of closure for what has been a lengthy enactment of justice.”

Most recent ‘dark chapter’

The day stood as the most



ERIC GREGORY, JOURNAL STAR

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services officers and state patrolmen stand at the main entrance to the Nebraska State Penitentiary as the state executed Carey Dean Moore on Tuesday.

recent “dark chapter” in Nebraska’s troubled history with the death penalty, the ACLU of Nebraska said in a statement.

“Nebraskans of good will have different beliefs about the death penalty, but it is troubling and curious why Governor Ricketts made the death penalty his signature issue,” said Danielle Conrad, executive director.

Tuesday’s execution was an historic day that followed decades of debate over the death penalty in Nebraska and nationwide, and a months-long flurry of legal and political maneuvering by people on both sides.

Martin said when he came to Nebraska from Missouri, he perceived executions to be more academic than functional. This day came as a surprise.

“I just really thought we’d never get to this point,” he said. “I did not think this day would take place.”

Fran Kaye, a longtime opponent of capital punishment, did her anti-death penalty witnessing on campus Tuesday morning with several others. Moore had asked his supporters

not to come to the prison, she said.

On Tuesday evening she attended a vigil for him at the Capitol. She pointed to the words carved into the north face of the building: Wisdom, Justice, Power, Mercy.

“Wisdom’s gone. Justice only

Victim

From A1

appeals, that’s about the only difference the execution makes.

“It doesn’t really change anything,” she said. “Nothing’s changed for me and I just pray for his family, too. They must be heartbroken.”

When asked about Moore’s final statement, which was published by news outlets, she said she felt bad he did not apologize or show any remorse for the murders of her father and Van Ness.

Tom Rinabarger, one of Van Ness’s 10 children and step-children, worked construction Tuesday morning in Omaha.

“I just try to work and keep my mind off of things,” he said.

His sister called him when the execution was over and said

means vengeance. Power only means violence. And mercy is definitely chiseled completely off,” she said. “I think Nebraska has taken a huge step in places we don’t want to go.”

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“10:47 a.m.”
Rinabarger said Moore’s execution brings some relief but doesn’t really change anything.

“Is there closure? There will never be closure, not as far as I’m concerned.”

Every year, Aug. 22 reminds him of what happened, he said, and now so will Aug. 14.

“Another anniversary,” he said.



Helgeland-Renken



Helgeland

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