

The Honorable Judge Moody,

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to tell you about our friend John Buncich. My family and I have known John for more than 35 years and have the highest respect for him. John and I worked on the Lake County Sheriff's Department together; he was my Supervisor in several departments I was assigned to. He taught me what my responsibilities were as a Lake County Police Officer and how important it was to respect and serve in that position. I respected John not only because he was my immediate Supervisor, but because he truly loved being a Police Officer on the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

I remember when John started talking about seeking the elected position of Sheriff of Lake County, IN. He showed great respect and value for that position. I thought to myself that John would be the best candidate for Sheriff for many reasons, so I fully supported his campaign.

Throughout the years, I got to know his family members and he became a personal friend to me and my family as well. When my Son was in intensive care, when my Father passed away, and when other issues arose, John was always very supportive and proved to be a good friend.

John was a hands on Sheriff, it was very easy to see that he wanted to be the best Sheriff he could be, and he was. I worked side by side with him and know how important it was to John to serve his position well. John would review concerns and various programs to determine what would be best for the people of Lake County and he would proceed to develop the programs needed. There were programs that he implemented that addressed the needs of Senior citizens, children and even animals. These programs have been very helpful and still continue to serve the citizens of Lake County.



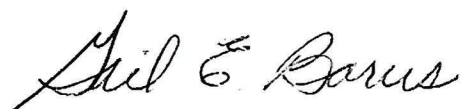
John has countless qualities that speak for the unlimited good deeds he performed while he was Sheriff. During the Holidays, he would hand out turkeys, food items, toys and other donations to people and organizations that were in need, including homeless shelters, battered women shelters and orphanages, throughout Lake County. John always put others before himself.

You could be in a room with John speaking about some of the problems that existed within Lake County. When you left, he has not only made you aware of how important it was to handle them, but he has somehow talked you into adopting a pet. I know this is a fact, because I am the proud owner of two rescue dogs, from the Lake County Animal Control Center.

We feel that with the 15 years John has served as Sheriff of Lake County, they were years where the people and their needs were always at the fore front of his actions. There are countless other good things to say about John Buncich, far too many to include in this letter.

My family and I are honored to know him and call him our friend.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail E. Barus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Gail E. Barus
498 Hidden Oak Drive
Hobart, IN 46342

From: Jose E. 'Joe' Gutierrez
Address: 4734 Tod Ave., East Chicago, In., 46312
Phone: Home: 1-219-397-1545 Mobile: 1-219-902-2140

To: The Honorable Judge Moody
Re: Letter of Support for John Buncich

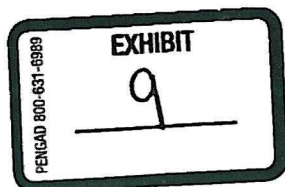
Dear Judge Moody:

My name is Jose, but most people know me as 'Lil' Joe. I'll be 77 on December 11. I spent nearly 4 years in the seminary studying to be a Carmelite priest. For over 25 years, I've been a member of the choir celebrating the Latin Mass at the Carmelite Monastery in Munster, In.

I left the seminary in 1959 and began my employment at Inland Steel (Arcelor Mittal) on June 16, 1959, a month before the long strike. As most steelworkers, I had no intention of 'staying' in the mill; however, I became involved in the United Steelworkers Union and retired 43 years later. I was drafted in 1963 and spent 2 years in the Army. With an honorable discharge, I returned to the mill. After retirement, I taught creative writing at JobLink for steelworkers and their spouses. I am an author 'been writing all my life' and published a book on Kindle, electronic reader, titled, 'Secrets of the Neighborhood-Where Tomorrow Begins. The late Studs Terkel was my friend and he included my story in his book titled, 'RACE' the American dilemma.

I worked as a 'full time' union officer at L.U.1010, USW (Base Rate Chairman and Grievance Procedure) from April 1988 until July 2002 when I retired. I became acquainted with John Buncich during my tenure at the union hall. I met John at political rallies and many Union doings. He mentioned that his brother worked at Inland and that he loved the Union. We became good friends.

Whenever we needed assistance on a picket line or a picnic, John was there. If we had misunderstandings with an employer and needed an arbiter, John was there no matter the time. He never turned us down. When he said he loved the Union, he meant it.

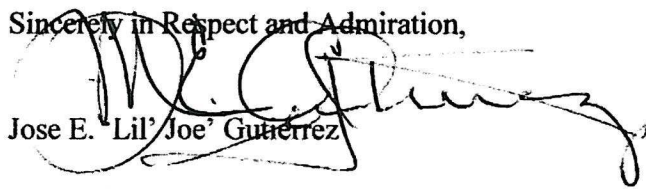


If we had a legal question or if a member needed assistance or information, John's door was always open. I speak for those union members whom I represented and John helped through the years even when he wasn't Sheriff. I, and they, have great respect and admiration for John Buncich. We know him to be a decent, honest person who loved his job as Sheriff. No matter the circumstances, John remained a gentleman and upheld his duties. I've gone to John's neighborhood crime-watch meetings whether they were held at the Hammond National Guard Armory by Purdue University or our Union Hall in East Chicago and experienced the love and admiration that everyone had for Sheriff Buncich. We were appreciative that John used his Saturday mornings to be with and give us his support. We were and continue to be proud to know John for the good person he is.

Bertha Pease, my wife, my friend, my partner for 23 years passed away on September 28, 2015. John took the time to come to our home. He held her hand and prayed with us while she lay dying. I shall be forever grateful for his act of mercy and love. This is the John Buncich that I and my family and everyone else who came in contact with him know and love.

Dear Judge Moody, I beg you to show that same mercy and love that John showed me, and my Bertha. John spent his life doing good for anyone and everyone who needed help. He is a decent, God fearing man. Please, help him as he has helped us.

Sincerely in Respect and Admiration,


Jose E. 'Lil' Joe' Gutierrez

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Judge
James T. Moody

Dear Judge Moody,

I write this in regard to the recent trial and conviction of the now former Sheriff of Lake County, Indiana, John Buncich.

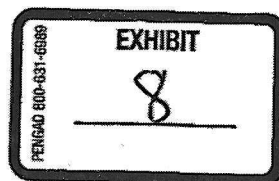
Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is John H. Blount. I am eighty-two (82) years old and I am a lifelong resident of Lake County, Indiana, presently residing in Griffith, Indiana. After being honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1954, I worked in the private sector for forty-one (41) years. I was employed in the public sector for only eight years (1995-2002), serving as the administrative assistant to then sheriff, John Buncich.

During my tenure with the Lake County Indiana Sheriff's Department, I was impressed with the dedication of John Buncich, not only to law enforcement, but equally important, to the general public. During the years of 1995-2002, Sheriff John Buncich completed many projects that benefited the citizens of Lake County. Negotiating an end to the so-called "Jensen Decree" saved the taxpayers millions of dollars. His role in establishing "The Partnership for a Drug Free Lake County" was a success and recognized state wide. Finally, on a personal and professional level, I saw firsthand as John Buncich financially assisted those less fortunate in our society, including those who could not afford funeral and burial expenses. His history of concern for others is real, but too lengthy to list in this letter. In the final analysis, he has been a very generous and altruistic person.

Since my retirement in 2002, I have had a friendly, but rather infrequent relationship with John Buncich. However, I have known him for thirty (30) years and have found him to be an honest, extremely hard-working public servant. Needless to say, I was shocked to learn of his arrest and subsequent conviction on August 24, 2017.

To ascertain the truth for myself, I did attend all thirteen (13) days of his recent trial and found the evidence, as presented against John Buncich, to be overwhelming and compelling. Based on the evidence, the verdict came as no surprise to me.

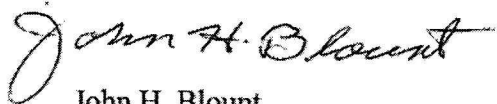
Now, all that remains is the length of his sentence, which will be imposed by you, Judge Moody. It is my fervent hope that, you sir, will consider the good that John Buncich has accomplished during his forty-two (42) years of public service. In addition to your sentence, the punishment of John Buncich began on the day of his arrest and will not end for all the remaining days of his life. The stigma of his arrest and conviction is real and his cross to bear forever.



Lastly, I have recently, personally, observed the remorse John Buncich feels for his unacceptable conduct. He is paying the price of public humiliation and condemnation. He is profoundly embarrassed and distraught by the pain he has caused his family and friends. Equally humiliating is the discredit he has inflicted upon the law enforcement community, a profession with which he has always been proud to be associated.

Our Christian principles lead us to understand that there is some good in all men. I can attest to the fact that there is much more good than bad in Mr. John Buncich. I pray that you, Judge Moody, will take all of this under consideration as you deliberate whatever sentence you may impose upon him. Again, I pray that you will be compassionate and show leniency in this case.

Respectfully yours,



John H. Blount
348 W. 43rd Court
Griffith, IN 46319
(219) 922-6510

Notary
State of Indiana
County of Lake
Brian F. Jerome



Commission Expires 11-12-22

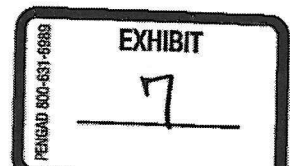
September 25, 2017

The Honorable James Moody,
Judge - Court Room 1
Federal Building Courthouse
5400 Federal Plaza
Hammond, Indiana 46320

Greetings:

I chose to handwrite this letter because it is personal to you from my heart and I thank you for taking your time to read it:

I have nineteen years work experience with the City of Gary, where I held various positions under the leadership of two mayors and I have 23½ years work experience as a Correctional Officer with the Lake County Sheriff's Department where I had the opportunity to work under the leadership of three sheriffs.



My career as a Lake County Correctional Officer, started in 1980, at the age of 39, I was Union President (Local # 11), elected each year for five consecutive years and I had the honor of working with Sheriff John Buncich, for his first two terms, during which time MAJOR changes were made to make our division second to none. I retired in 2010 at the age of 62 and I am now 70 years of age.

Under the leadership of Sheriff John Buncich, EVERY Lake County Correctional Officer, was treated with respect and sincere concern to make sure all officers were given the opportunity to perform work related duties with excellence.

There were times Sheriff Buncich, could have given orders from his desk to get matters of great importance done in the jail, instead, he got right beside us, sweated with us... to make sure we knew he was concerned about every officer in the jail.

There were times that problems occurred in the jail AFTER midnight and Sheriff Buncich, would get to the jail to assist us if necessary.

Sheriff Buncich, made sure that our division got all of the equipment and training we needed to keep inmates and staff safe.

There have been so many times that Sheriff John Buncich, showed up for funerals, graduations, church services, weddings, community walks against violence, helped homeless MEN, women and children with food & shelter. Three summers Sheriff Buncich, sponsored a summer camp, 3 days & 2 nights for girls and then

(4)

I attended six days of the August 2017 trial for Sheriff John Buncich, I was hurt to my heart because of the way in which he was spoken to, the negative tone of voice and the total disrespect in which he was treated, in my opinion was "over Kill."

Haters are going to hate BUT those whom love do it unconditionally. My heart is heavy because for every bad thing said about the Sheriff, I can personally name something good about him, to really know him professionally and or personally the outcome of his trial would have been better.

Again, THANK YOU for reading my letter.

Respectfully,
Cynthia E. Byrd
4733 E. 13th Place
Gary, Indiana
46403