

**RON CALLEN, Michigan**  
**Son of Leona Callen, murdered in**  
**Ohio in 1991**

Ron Callen's 86-year-old mother, Leona, was beaten and murdered in her home by a man who had apparently been surprised in the middle of a burglary. Though the prosecutor initially planned to seek the death penalty, he changed his mind after the Callen family made clear that they would not support that sentence. The murderer was sentenced to a long prison term – essentially a life sentence.

Ron has testified against reinstatement of the death penalty in his home state of Michigan, and he and his wife Carolyn have been frequent speakers to school, university, and church groups.

“It is often a surprise for people to hear that we do not find solace in the death of yet another person. But other than hatred, fear, and retribution, there is no reason for the death penalty. It is not a deterrent – my mother's murderer was intent on robbery. And in his drug-infested brain, there could be no rational consideration of the pros and cons of his act. The death penalty went from abstract to real for us in 1991, but we have learned that there is no need for a state to kill its citizens.”

Links to more information:

<http://lists.compar.com/cuadpupdate/2004-March/000004.html>

[http://www.journeyofhope.org/old\\_site2/people/callens.htm](http://www.journeyofhope.org/old_site2/people/callens.htm)



*Carolyn and Ron Callen*

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