

5-27-10

To The Honorable James S. Gallas - United States Magistrate Judge,

I am writing to you today on behalf of my father, Louis Allen Wolk. I am hopeful that my words are able to give you a glimpse into the impact his life has had on me and those he meets. This is not an easy task, as my father is an extremely compassionate yet complex soul. I am fully aware that his general appearance is not in coordination with what society's standards deem "normal", but neither are the levels to which he positively affects those who have come to know him. His smile is infectious and comforting, and his gift for touching the hearts of others is honestly the rarest I have ever had the privilege to witness.

Throughout my life, one thing I have done countless times with my father is take trips to the grocery store. A task that is more than likely tedious and uneventful for most families, was the polar opposite for us. We rarely, if ever were able to make a grocery run in under a few hours. This was not due to endless shopping lists or long lines, but to my father's uncanny ability to strike up long conversations with almost anybody, anywhere. Never in any of these instances can I remember anyone, previous acquaintance or not, leaving these conversations without a smile on their face. Consistently they would reach out to me and say, "Joshua, you're very lucky, you have a wonderful father." This is not only a memory, but something that occurs with regularity when I am with my father. As I have grown older, and our trips have become less frequent, the depth of his impact has never ceased to be felt. I am constantly approached by people who ask me, "Are you Louie's son?" Whenever this occurs, I know what is to follow, as I have come accustomed to hearing it. Never in my life have I viewed this as intrusive or annoying. As I have grown older, I have developed a deeper understanding of how rare his ability to evoke positive emotion from people is. I believe part of that skill is derived from the fact that his intentions are always pure and honest, never for personal benefit. My father is someone who truly holds the best interest and well being of other's in higher regard than his own.

I would also like to share with you what my father means to me personally. He plays so many rolls in my life, that it is almost impossible to sum it all up in words. He is without a doubt the one person I am comfortable saying anything to. I have never had to be afraid to ask my father any question, and have never been made to question how he feels about me. I was raised in an environment where "I love you" was not a phrase you heard occasionally, but repeatedly. He has never been shy about showing his affection for me, and we still to this day greet each other not with a handshake, but

with a hug and a kiss on the cheek. In a world where I hear and see so many stories to the contrary, I am thankful he cultivated this environment for us. Even as a grown man I cannot help but to feel more secure and protected in his presence. We have established a very deep and everlasting connection to say the least. I believe this connection has its roots in my knowledge that he has a burning desire to enrich the lives of my mother and I with every breath he takes. He is the most important figure in my life. He is imperative to my continual growth as a man. He is someone I admire. He is someone I believe in. He is someone I love. He is someone I am more than proud to call, "Dad."

When someone has the impact on your life my father has on mine and others, I believe it is hard to convey it in words. I hope I have been able to detail some of that impact in this letter. Your Honor, I humbly ask you to please allow my father to remain at home in some capacity. His life, work, and connections with people can only serve to strengthen our society as a whole. He is truthfully one of a kind. With his originality comes a type of love, compassion, and energy that cannot be replaced or duplicated. I love my father more than anything, and I pray that you allow him to continue to enrich my life and the lives of others.

I thank you very much for your time.

Truly,

Joshua J. Wolk

Damian Billak

From: Stephanie Wolk [buneface@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 12:45 PM
To: Damian Billak
Subject: Louie Letter

To The Honorable James S. Gallas
United States Magistrate Judge

Your Honor,

My name is Stephanie Wolk. I am the wife of Louis Wolk who will appear before you for sentencing on June 11. Your Honor, Louis and I have been married for 30 years though I have known him for over 40 years as we were in high school together. I know him as well as I know myself. My Louie has been the most devoted, committed, loving, compassionate and respectful husband and father (we have one adult son), any woman could hope for. Your honor, I feel compelled to explain how this tax issue developed. I was sexually abused as a child for many years by my biological father, though I had repressed the horrific memories for most of my adult life. When my memories of the abuse began to return I unraveled. I became completely mentally incapacitated. My husband totally devoted himself to my care, which was no small task. Had it not been for Louie's complete immersion in caring for me I definitely would have ended up in a psychiatric hospital. It took over 2 years for me to recover and become a healthy, functioning woman once again and it was during this time that our taxes were neglected. Please understand your Honor. I am not saying that this was an excuse, but it is the explanation for why this happened. Prior to this time we were both working full time. I as a family therapist (I have a Master's degree from Case Western Reserve University), and we had ALWAYS filed and paid our taxes. Had I not become ill this would NEVER have happened and, if it had not been for the full time care, love and support I received from Louie I do not believe I would have recovered and would likely be in need of continuous psychiatric care. Again Your Honor, I am not offering this as an excuse, but rather, an explanation.

Your Honor, my dear husband is the best human being I have ever known - not just the best husband. He gives of himself to every and any person he comes across who needs any kind of helping hand. I have often joked to him that if we had \$1.00 left to our name, he would give it to someone who needed it. He has taught me about true unconditional love and compassion. He has also raised our son to become a true man - strong, but with a kind, compassionate heart, and complete respect for others.

Your Honor, to my recollection, I have never begged for anything in my life, but I am begging now. I am begging you to not take my husband away from me. I don't know how I would survive without him. Let him continue to work so that we can make our financial amends. Please show him your consideration and mercy. No one is sorrier than he. I know. I live with him, love him with all my heart and soul, and know his true heart and mind.

Your Honor, I thank you for reading this.

Most Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Wolk

Louis Wolk Letter of Recommendation

May 3, 2010

Dear Mr Billak—

I have yet to have the good fortune of meeting Louis Wolk, aka Louie B Free, in person but have had the great pleasure of communicating with him on a fairly regular basis since August of 2009. The circumstances of our friendship spring from his interviewing me on his radio show for a book I had written.*

The PR firm handling the promotion of my book had gotten me on with at least two dozen radio talk shows across the country. I was lucky enough to be interviewed by Roger Hedgecock, Hugh Hewitt, and Michael Savage at the national level, and a score of regional and small local radio shows as well. Of the many, many folks I was fortunate enough to have discussion with about my book—and I enjoyed nearly every one of them—there was something that was unique and nearly unquantifiable about Louie. His genuine kindness and empathy were catalyst for me to continue calling him long after the promotion of my book was past.

Louie Wolk is a truly kind and decent man. From the professional interactions I had with him I can tell you that his interviewing skills are second to none. He actually took the time to read my book, which is just over 600 pages, before he interviewed me. He asked incredibly insightful, cogent questions and we had great discussion. My sense is that he delivers this same passion and fairness in all of his radio duties. He is, in my humble estimation, a great credit to the local community there, and provides his listeners with a critical forum to exchange ideas.

In the time since our first public discussion I have spoken with Louie fairly regularly just to chat about things in general and nothing in particular. I have thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and now consider him a friend. During those discussions I have learned of the health issues facing his wife Bunny, and more recently of the legal challenges he is facing. I have had him on my prayer list for some time and will continue in those prayers indefinitely. While I know that these challenges will ultimately deepen his faith and give him perspective to further develop his character, it is my fervent hope, and prayer, that he comes through these challenges with a minimum of serious penalty. Louis provides a service to his community that has real value and I would hope that those in authority would recognize that worth.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Botkin
7883 Michael Ct
Granite Bay, CA 95746
rlobster@surewest.net

*The book is: "Ride the Thunder—A Vietnam War Story of Honor and Triumph." It is the history of the Vietnam War told through the experiences of five men—three American Marine officers who served as advisors to the Vietnamese Marine Corps, and two South Vietnamese Marine officers. What is different about the book is its focus on the South Vietnamese perspective on things in general, and a more detailed look at the war's last years along with what took place after the communists conquered the south.

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Judge Gallas:

We are writing regarding Louis A. Wolk. We are proud to call Louis our friend. We met Louis over 10 years ago. He learned of a situation where two little boys needed help and he offered his help. These two boys were our sons. Although he didn't know us at all at the time, he realized he could help and he did. Through the years, he has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help not only our family, but other children as well. Louis has shown us that he is an honest, kind and compassionate person.

Louis is a family man, he is a good and loving husband and father and his close relationship with his family speaks volumes about his character.

For as long as we have known him, Louis has tried to make a positive difference wherever he can. While many people say this, he actually lives it. He patronizes various charity organizations; he advocates for children and animals, even in his work he tries to improve his community and other's quality of life.

To incarcerate Louis, would be a great loss for so many; his family, his friends, and his community would suffer due to his absence.

We implore you to consider Louis' outstanding character, his loving family relationships, and that his caring actions to help out people, as well as animals; when you consider his sentence, and please allow him to continue his good works.

Sincerely,
Richard & Cheryl Asente
15 Sioux Trail
Girard, OH 44420



SPRING REINS of HOPE

To whom it may concern:

In 2002 I met Louie B. Free as I was working as a radio booker for the PR firm of Krupp Communications, Inc. and Louie was hosting his show on the radio and would book guests on the air for interviews. What started out as a routine booking for a client I was working on turned into becoming the development of one of my most important relationships to date. Over the past 8 years I have worked with Louie as a radio host, a musician and in more recent years as a freelance radio booking specialist.

In all this time I have booked countless clients on the air with Louie B. Free and each time I do I can count on the fact that they will come back to me to complete an entire hour of interviews (usually 15-20 bookings) and rave about how the best interview they ever had was with "Louie". This can be high profile doctors, lawyers, NY Times best selling authors, Lauren Bacall. So I guess what I am saying is that it didn't take me long to realize that Louie is something special, not your average radio host, not your average guy and not your average mind. He is a true and honest thinker, he believes in people and in bringing out the best and also the truth in people. As time went on I began to spend more time talking to Louie aside from our business together and it was then that I began to understand and realize exactly what was so unusually brilliant about this man. He is an amazing listener, he really truly cares about so many things that need caring about, he is not afraid to speak the truth to himself or to the public via his microphone. Yet there is no judgment in his mind, he gives each person and living thing its space to breathe and be. Louie is one of the few radio professionals that I have ever worked with who really cares to prepare for every guest he talks to and to research every topic / project that he wants to shed light upon. Then in bringing this information to the public he can color it with his views but not so much that others (even if they disagree) are able to voice their opinions. One of Louie's tag lines is, "Brainfood from the Heartland" and that is such a capsulation of what he does. He brings ideas, topics, and conversations to light and offers side dishes to think about but so that people can formulate their own ideas and beliefs instead of having these things forced at you so that you don't really know what you think.

In 2009 I was able to finally launch my own business, and life's work which is an equine assisted therapy program called Spring Reins of Hope, Getting to the Horses of the Matter. I was completely moved when Louie offered to have me on his show. Even though my program is in NY/NJ and wouldn't be of use to the Cleveland area - Louie thought it was important for people anywhere to hear about how horses can improve people's lives both personally and professionally. We listed services of how to find a program near you - but I was blown away by how much Louie understood exactly what we were doing with the horses and in the things that he didn't know he asked the most brilliant questions - for others to understand.

It would be a travesty to lose Louie's voice and mind on the airwaves, I have been telling him for years he needs to be on a national level show so that he can reach that many more people. Please at least listen to his archives, by tuning into to just a little bit of Louie B Free you will understand what I and so many others know and would miss if Louie were not there everyday to greet the world and help to think for ourselves.

Sincerely yours,

Christianna Capra
Executive Director and Co-Founder
Spring Reins of Hope

www.springreinsofhope.com / 877-920-6453 and 347-560-3125 / info@springreinsofhope.com

Steven Capozzola, 427 East 9th Street, New York, NY 10009

202-550-4322, scap70@hotmail.com

January 29, 2010: Regarding Louie Free, Youngstown, OH

To Whom It May Concern:

I've known Louie Free professionally since 2005. I'm the media director for a national policy group focused on saving U.S. manufacturing. I work with hundreds of reporters throughout the country and, while I have become friendly with many of them, I've become friends with only a rare few. Louie is one of those very special and unique persons with whom I've developed a real bond.

Louie is simply one of the most caring people I've encountered in broadcast media. Since I first started working with him, he has taken a personal interest in my life and work. The first time I contacted him to pitch an interview, he had just finished his daily show. Despite being fresh off the day's broadcast, he spoke with me for 25 minutes, asking all about my work. I was new to media work, and yet he was generous and encouraging with his time.

Since then, and as I've built a career in Washington, DC, Louie has always been happy to consider any interview I've pitched. He also has always taken time to ask how my work and life were going, to be supportive, and to offer advice. He's just a good-hearted person who gives of himself without hesitation. I have not found his equal in talk radio in this country.

I've spent time with Louie in Youngstown during work trips. And, because Louie is such a uniquely enthusiastic person, he has spoken on the phone with both my wife and mother. He's just naturally inquisitive and curious, which is very much appreciated by his many friends.

Louie is an incredibly talented radio person—creative and socially aware, with the manic energy of the true “artistic temperament.” He's just a rare bird, someone who is truly dedicated to his craft, and to helping his community.

I can not conceive of Louie being unable to fight for the underdog—which seems his natural life's mission. We're all better off for his tireless work, and so I find it greatly disheartening to learn of his current legal issues. As a taxpayer, I strongly object to seeing my tax dollars wasted in the costly effort to prosecute one of the nicest people in this country.

Simply put, this letter is to express my friendship and support for Louie Free, and to state my hope that the federal government will not squander tax dollars in pursuing a true activist and humanitarian.

I would be happy to discuss this further at any time.

Sincerely,

Steven Capozzola

To whom it may concern,

My name is John Hull, retired Youngstown (Ohio) Police Officer #1071 and current Conservative political writer.

I am writing this letter on behalf of a good man. A man who helps more people than he'd admit to, and (pardon the cliché) would give the shirt off of his back.

This man stands before the court as Louis A. Wolk, better known as Louie B. Free.

His familial obligations and his commitment to his friends and revealing the truth behind the all too often shady political dealings of the Mahoning Valley take up the majority of his time and occupy the bulk his mind and thoughts.

Mr. Wolk has made a mistake and has expressed his regrets. Locking him away would cause more harm than good to the community he serves, the friends he helps, and his loving family. Probation, even house arrest, would allow him to rectify his indiscretion and continue to fulfill his most important commitments.

I humbly request the Court compassionately issue sentence. Please do not imprison the man called Free.

Thank you and GOD Bless,

John M Hull II
3872 S Main St
Hubbard, OH 44425

(330) 770-6639

Frank Bellamy, MAP
33 West Princeton Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44507
(330) 782-0984

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Letter of Support for Mr. Louie Free (Louis A. Wolk)

I have been aware of Louie Free's fine community work for several years now, but more importantly his dedication to the citizens of Youngstown is legendary. In a community where "Good News" is a rarity, Mr. Free has consistently been a beacon of hope and encouragement to many. Mr. Free has held the hand of this troubled community through his daily radio show broadcasts. He has also been a comfort to us in our times of fear from crime and family dysfunctions. He has laughed and cried with for this city as a public figure, when all of the others just turned their eyes away from our problems. I can proudly say that Mr. Free is Youngstown. He is the better side of our troubled city.

Sincerely,

Frank Bellamy, MAP
(28 years as a city resident)

Paula Pace

From: Damian Billak
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:33 PM
To: Paula Pace
Subject: FW: Letter to the Judge Tom Lamb

-----Original Message-----

From: louie free [mailto:louiefree@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 6:34 AM
To: Damian Billak
Subject: Letter to the Judge Tom Lamb

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Lamb <lambli@zoominternet.net>
Date: Tue, 25 May 2010 10:16:46
To: <louiefree@hotmail.com>
Subject: Letter to the Judge

Thomas P. Lamb
569 Oakridge Dr.
Youngstown, Ohio 44512
330-758-3010 home 330-565-5933 cell
lambli@zoominternet.net <mailto:lambli@zoominternet.net>

Your Honor,

I was looking in my "Webster's" for the meaning of justice. I found this;". 1. The quality of being righteous; rectitude 2. Impartiality; fairness 3. The quality of being right or correct 4. Sound reason; rightfulness ; validity .". I did not look it up for your sake but rather my own. We all know a crime has been committed. The question I have is whether justice can be done. Mr. Wolk has made a big mistake and he should be punished for that. I don't know if prison time will serve justice though. He has responsibilities to care for his wife, who has medical issues, that need to be addressed. At a time when governments at any level are hurting for funds it would seem to me that a fine and probation would be warranted here. Letting him work to repay his debt to society would seem to more of a way to serve "justice" then by sending him to prison.

I am not anything but a blue collar truck driver who works 7:30-4:00 5 days a week. I have had cancer in the past and now just recently found out that it has returned. Louie and his family have always supported my family during my numerous treatments. He did not ask me to write this, he asked what he could do now that my cancer has returned. It does no public good to send him to prison. Society will not be any safer or any less safer with him in prison. His wife will be though if he is sent to prison. That does not serve "justice" at all. I hope that my simple comments will allow you to have a greater sense of "justice" in dealing with this matter.

Respectfully,
Thomas P. Lamb

Research. Analysis. Meaning. Direction.



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May 25, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been a privilege and pleasure to know, and to work with, Louie Free, for some years. He is the only broadcast journalist, in fact, with whom I have no hesitation in going on-air, knowing that his sole interest is the pursuit of truth and balance.

His love of country, concern for the welfare of his fellow man, and his decency are always in evidence, along with his tolerance for all points of view. Clearly, he does not always agree with me, but he has never attempted to use his position as the host of his show to curtail the freedom of my speech.

We have not yet met, face-to-face, although the frequency of our communications over many years has let me understand that Louie Free is an incredible asset to, and advocate for, one of the great tenets which we ascribe to American society: true freedom of speech, and freedom of belief. This is a value which is increasingly difficult to find, and it is my hope that Louie will continue for many years to be a beacon and inspiration of this fundamental social necessity.

He is a decent man; a man of honesty and principle, and our view of the United States will be coloured by how he is judged by his fellow Americans.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory R. Copley'.

Gregory R. Copley, AM
Chairman, ISSA Indo-Pacific, and
President, ISSA Worldwide.

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ANTHONY SICILIANO *
ROBYN R. GALLITTO *

* ALSO LICENSED IN PENNSYLVANIA

May 28, 2010

Magistrate Judge James S. Gallas
United States District Court, Northern District, Eastern Division
Carl B. Stokes United States Court House
801 West Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1849

Re: *United States of America v. Louis Wolk*

To the Honorable Magistrate Judge Gallas:

I am an attorney licensed in both Ohio and Pennsylvania since 2001 and 1989 respectively. I am humbly asking that you consider some of these details prior to sentencing Louis Wolk, who I, and many others, know as Louie B. Free.

I am not only a fan of Louie's radio show but I am also his friend. While holding public office for 4 years beginning in 2006, I went through a very public divorce. Louie showed genuine concern for my safety and well-being. He frequently called to check on me and offer any help he could give, even if it was just to listen. He exemplifies the same compassion and interest to guests on his radio show.

Anyone who listens to his broadcast will notice the many national figures he has on. Guests are from all sectors of the arts, government, science and many are repeat guests. It is evident that many also know Louie personally. It is also clear that Louie is a voracious reader who does much preparation for his two hour show. (My only complaint with the show is that it is too short.) Louie shows the same passion, interest and compassion for local issues as well as national issues. He truly cares about his community and always tries to make a difference and take a constructive stance. Although his show broadcasts over a small-signal radio station and the internet and

Magistrate Judge James S. Gallas
May 28, 2010
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although he may have a small audience, I submit it is a loyal following. He offers an intelligent alternative to the larger talk-radio station in our area. To this niche audience, his insight is appreciated.

Louie is also a caring and attentive husband and father. His family always comes first. To me, his legal issues do not negatively affect how I view him as a person and a friend. In fact, when I offered to write this letter, he showed concern over the affect on *me* and the fear that *I* would somehow be tainted by supporting him. I was raised to support your friends and am doing the same for Louie. I trust these issues will be properly and fairly addressed in our legal system. With that said, I sincerely hope your Honor can show him mercy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn R. Gallitto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Robyn R. Gallitto, Esq.
Ohio Sup. Ct No. 0073560

Angels sometimes come in interesting forms and interesting packages. Louie has been one of my angels since fall 2008 when we first connected. Let me tell you a bit about myself so you can understand the nature of our relationship and why I am inspired to write on his behalf.

I am a psychiatrist and vice chair at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. I am surrounded by health care professionals and in fact both my parents are child psychiatrists. Many things were happening in my life back around the time I met Louie. My husband of twenty one years was having an affair. I kept confronting him and he kept denying it. I had a book called *The Beauty Prescription* that was released in August 2008. I had a full time job at the University and was raising two daughters age 17 and 12 at that time.

The stress was overwhelming. For the first time in my life I developed a panic disorder. When attacks would occur it was terrifying. My daughter had to talk me through most spells. I cried everyday. I continued to work but was miserable trying to counsel patients when I felt my world was collapsing. In October, 2008 my mother at age 80 had to come from California to take care of me. She started by asking my husband to leave the house. Days later I was spending the day doing a satellite radio tour for the book. I was too depressed to get out of bed. I would tape a show then go back to sleep and wake up with the alarm for the next show. This is how I met Louie.

He started his show with "tell me about yourself". An unusual start to a show indeed. Well we spent about 30 minutes together on air and the connection was immediate and powerful. He asked if we could speak after and that began what was to become the most important relationship in my life other than my daughters who were my constant support. Louie immediately grasped the situation I was in. He counseled me anytime of day or night. He was there to make me feel safe and secure in a world that had become terrifying and filled with insecurities. Some talks were long, some were short but he always knew the right thing to say. Gradually, I got better. He helped me to see that there was a future for me and my girls. He lifted my confidence in myself and become my biggest cheerleader. Sometime we would continue our conversations on his show since I know I am not alone in my struggles with infidelity, divorce, depression and panic attacks. We hit a high note when I broadcast live from the mall on inauguration day. As I got better our topics shifted. He has been counseling me recently through the early phases of dating. He has given me the strength to look back at my childhood and examine how that has impacted my choices and is guiding me as I try to make better choices for my future.

Louie has also counseled my daughter, Marissa. She is 19 now and has had tremendous challenges in her life as well. He has spent hours on the phone with her providing parental advice and helping her learn to trust men again.

I can not speak highly enough of my dear friend Louie. He did more for me at a time of crisis than life long friends or all the health care professionals. I will be forever grateful for his wisdom, support and guidance.

Dr. Eva Ritvo

Dear Judge Gallas:

I have been acquainted with Louis Wolk ("Louie Free") for approximately two years. I met Louie in 2008 when I was a guest on his show and part of a panel from the Rich Center for Autism. My youngest child, James, attended the Rich Center at the time. Louie did a series of shows on autism and how the disorder affected families. I filled in at the last minute as one of Louie's guests because the parent who was scheduled had an emergency. During the course of the interview, Louie discovered that I was the single parent of four young children. My husband died unexpectedly in June 2008. Louie inquired about our process of adjustment.

After the show aired, Louie called me regularly to see how we were all doing. During that process, we became friends. He took an interest in all of my children and James particularly. He has been a steadfast friend through our troubled times. He has offered support and kindness without expectation of anything in return. I am also acquainted with his lovely wife, Bunny. This past Christmas, Louie delivered a tofurky (tofu turkey) prepared by Bunny for my oldest daughter, Annie, who is a strict vegetarian.

He shared his legal troubles with me right before the news was made public. Throughout this trial in his life, Louie has expressed regret and shame at not facing his financial difficulties head on when they occurred. He has refused offers of loans from friends. His concern has been the wellbeing of his wife and son.

I have no idea of how much latitude you have in sentencing. However, please consider the character of the person before you. In my experience, you could not have a finer friend than Louie. I know that he will repay his debt if he is permitted to work. His incarceration will serve no good purpose.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Lisa Robinson-Roux

Your Honor,

I respectfully submit this letter of character on behalf of Louis Wolk. I have conducted and written Pre-sentence Investigations for both felony and misdemeanor courts for more than 10 years. Because of this I understand the importance of the following information.

I met Louie approximately 7 years ago when my oldest son had returned from Iraq with severe PTSD and seizures. Louie had such a compassion for our returning soldiers and all of the issues that they faced. I cannot begin to make you understand how horrible the years have been, dealing with all of the issues my son was going through and the frustration of fighting the VA to get help the help my son needed. Two years ago my middle son, Ryan returned from Iraq and a year ago he began to experience severe PTSD. Ryan had been the victim of an IED and a suicide bomber. **I buried my son 1 week ago because he could not deal with the ghosts of war.**

I say all of the above because 6 years ago Louie was the one person in all of Mahoning County who was compassionate and understanding enough, to provide a forum to get the message out that our veterans were and are in need of much more help then what is being provided. He understood that our sons and daughters had physically survived the war and were returning empty shells. On a personal level, Louie was always only a phone call away. No matter what Louie was doing, he was always available to help strengthen me to deal with the many issues I confronted with my son's.

You Honor, Louie provides a great service to the public. In my career as a Pre-sentence Investigator I have seen every type of person there is. There are those that commit crimes and make no contribution to society and there are those that make mistakes yet they make great contributions to society. In my experience with Louie, he makes great, heartfelt contribibutions to society. It is in great part because of Louie that I have been strong enough to fight for our veterans and begin the process of starting the first Veterans Treatment Court in the state Ohio, in Youngstown, OH.

I respectfull y ask that you consider the above information, in this case.

Cheryl DeBow