IDA REID, Virginia
sister of James Reid, executed in
Virginia in 2004
cousin of Donald Terrell,
murdered in Virginia in 1991

Ida Reid’s brother, James Reid, was
executed in Virginia after having been
convicted of the murder of Annie Lester.
Reid’s lead attorney, who slept through
some of the legal proceedings, was later
disbarred for drug use and lying to the
court. Several years earlier, Ida Reid’s
cousin Donald Terrell was murdered by
an acquaintance who was subsequently
sentenced to life in prison.

Ida has spoken twice at the annual
Virginians for Alternatives to the Death
Penalty conference, and she works with
that group to reach out to families of
the executed in Virginia.

“I know how it feels to lose someone to
murder; I know that anger and grief.
But I never believed the guy who killed
my cousin should die; I never believed
in the death penalty and I never
imagined it would come so close to me.
The pain of losing someone to execu-
tion is so horrific, it’s not something you
would ever want anyone to go through.
James was brain-damaged and suffered
from alcoholism and he died not
remembering or knowing what had
happened on the night of the murder.
Just before he was executed, he asked
me to promise that I would never stop
fighting. When I write or speak about
the death penalty, it brings it all back,
but I will keep doing it regardless of
how it affects me, because it’s important
that people understand.”

Links to more information:
http://www.vadp.org/cases/reid.htm