

**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 execution 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>



*Ida Reid*



*James Reid*

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