

KEVIN WENKE

July 26, 2022

Honorable John L. Sinatra, Jr.
United States District Judge
c/o Alexander J. Anzalone
Assistant Federal Public Defender
Federal Public Defender's Office
Western District of New York
300 Pearl Street, Suite 200
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Luke Marshall Wenke

Dear Sir,

My name is Kevin Wenke and I am the 51-year-old father of Luke Wenke as well as 3 other children (T■■■■■ L■■■■■ and Y■■■■■). Currently, the family and I are living in Olean NY where I am working as a financial planner while I also continue recovering from having Esophageal Cancer several years ago.

For most of Luke's life, I have lived in Florida but came back to Western New York when I was sick to receive treatment at Roswell in Buffalo. This had allowed me to spend more consistent time with Luke than any other time in his life, that is until the Covid restrictions became part of life which was a difficult time for everyone.

As Luke's father, it goes without saying I want him out of prison as soon as possible. I do however want to acknowledge that I believe this experience was necessary for him to change both his belief system and the people he surrounds himself with. The problem I want to avoid is him making "lifetime connections" with other inmates who could influence him to become a habitual inmate which I fear could be a possibility if he stays too long.

I do understand though, as a judge, it is your responsibility to both impose a proper sentence to the crime AND protect the people who could be harmed if the offender is let out.

I was at his arraignment March 17th and was APPAULED by what I heard...

- A hit list
- An AR 15
- An email stating he was going to "Smash a chair over your head..."

I have no idea of what was going through his head to justify these actions, I just know nothing irreversible did happen.

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The day Luke was arrested, and before I knew he was (I found out on Facebook the next day!) my friend from Florida called to tell me another friend of mine's 21-year-old son was found dead in his room after smoking fentanyl laced marijuana. To make it worse, my friend, who is 57 years old, has been battling pancreatic cancer for over a year too.

This was a tragedy in so many ways! There is NOTHING they can do to bring this kid I knew since he was 7 back!

The question is on everyone's mind, "What would have happened if the attorney in Minnesota stayed quiet?"

Luckily, we will never know. Nothing did happen because this attorney did speak up and Luke was given the opportunity to think things over the past 6 months. As hard as this experience has been on everyone, nothing happened that can't be fixed! In fact, I believe this experience has "scared straight" and will become catalysts for growth.

However, even the sweetest apples go rotten if they stay in a bad environment too long. I have not been there, but I am assuming prison is not the place where people can grow and create a productive life.

Luke wants to make an impact on the world and feel important. This is the "respect" that he demanded in the emails to the attorney which of course is the WRONG way to earn it.

He was his class speaker in high school delivering an emotional and highly entertaining speech summarizing the classes 13-year journey from kindergarten through their senior year. He has acting and voice talent he could pick up and I know he stated he has written 100's of pages for a book while he has "served time."

What kind of impact could Luke have from here? I want to watch him grow.

What I can also tell you for sure is when he gets out, our family will be watching who he hangs around with and what he is saying closely. We knew his thinking and mindset was misguided and COVID made it even worse. From this point on, we want to make sure he puts himself in an environment with people who are going to the right places in life.

To do this, I believe that when he gets out, Luke will want to clearly define a vision for what he wants his life to be like. He will need a plan to reach that vision so that he can feel his life has purpose which will prevent him from being seduced by individuals whose values aren't in alignment with who he is.

This was a difficult letter to write but I want to thank you for taking the time to read it.

Thank you,

Kevin Wenke

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