



SPECIAL EDITION

## SPECIAL EDITION: JAMES E. VICK

NOVEMBER 2011

### TRIBUTE TO JAMES E. VICK

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Jim Vick, and wish him well in his retirement. Jim officially retired from his position as Chair of the Army Clemency and Review Board on August 30, 2011. In October, 80 of his friends, colleagues and co-workers gathered for a retirement luncheon to wish him well in his retirement and thank him for a job well done.

Jim dedicated his 39 year career in the parole system to fighting for the fair and equitable treatment of offenders, providing effective reentry programming, victims' rights and the protection of the public.

He began his professional career in the field of probation and parole in August of 1972 in Missouri. He was quickly promoted to District Supervisor.

He entered the federal system as a Case Analyst for the Army Clemency Board and was appointed Chair of the Army Clemency and Parole Board in 1981. He was charged with improving an agency that had a number of challenges, including a backlog of cases and violations hearings, slow

processing procedures and inconsistencies in operations. He initially established standard operating procedures to provide a framework for standardized and consistent processes, while still maintaining fair and equitable treatment of offenders and protection of the public. He later established an electronic parole board information system that has reduced costs and improved the flow and quality of information in his agency and beyond.

His work soon gained him recognition outside his agency. Under Mr. Vick's leadership the Army Board is one of only six Boards to be awarded accreditation by the American Correctional Association.

James Vick is a tireless advocate for discretionary parole, and has often spoken to groups and at conferences about the importance of parole boards in the criminal justice system and their positive impact on public safety. He is a frequent contributor to the training conferences of APAI and is an active member of this organization, having served as its President from 2002 - 2004.

In 2005, he was awarded the APAI Vincent O'Leary Award, which is given to recognize and reward an individual who has demonstrated significant contributions to the APAI and has demonstrated vision, leadership and commitment to the field of parole.

In 2011, Mr. Vick was awarded the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) Ben Baer Award. The award is given to recognize and reward individuals who have demonstrated significant service in the field of parole or community corrections.

He has often reached out to civilian partners to improve their understanding of the military corrections systems. He has cultivated critical partnerships with other branches of the military, as well as with federal, state and county organizations impacted by the decisions of the military parole system. His relationships with the U. S. Parole Commission, the Administrative Offices of the U. S. Court and its probation officers have had a positive impact the military parole system.

He is a staunch advocate for the rights of

and the fair and equitable treatment of victims and witnesses. He has adopted numerous processes to make sure that victims' voices are heard.

He was a proponent of re-entry for decades before the term was popular. He has advocated for effective reentry programming, particularly in times of budget constraints.

He is well known amongst his peers for having mentored the other Service Clemency and Parole Board leaders, and has been the driving force in improvements in the Department of Defense corrections community.

Thank you, Jim, for a job well done. We wish you well and sincerely hope you enjoy this segment of your life.

Charles Traugber

President, Association of  
Paroling Authorities  
International



Catherine Mitrano presenting James with a Special Service Award during Retirement Reception



Catherine Mitrano presenting James with an American Flag during Retirement Reception



Charles Traughber presenting James with the Ben Baer Award during 2011 APAI Annual Training Conference.