

ALL PRISONERS SCHEDULED FOR EXECUTION IN 2025 & 2026: U.S. DEATH ROW EXECUTION LIST

HOOK:

A list of names. A series of crimes. And a countdown to the final moment. These are the stories of the men scheduled for execution in the United States in 2026. Some call them monsters; others argue their fate is unjust. But one thing is certain—each of them has a past written in blood. Let's dive into their chilling cases and the moments that led them to death row.

[CASE 1: DAVID LEONARD WOOD] (Execution Date: March 13, 2025 - Texas)

In the unforgiving deserts of Texas, a predator lurked in the shadows. His name—[David Leonard Wood](#). A man whose crimes were so horrific, they left an entire city paralyzed with fear. Wood wasn't just any killer—he was a serial predator, preying on young women and leaving behind a trail of bodies buried beneath the scorching sun.

It was the nineteen eighties in El Paso, Texas. Women began disappearing—one after another. Their last known whereabouts? Bus stops, lonely roads, places where they were vulnerable. For years, families searched for answers, but the truth was more horrifying than anyone could have imagined.

One by one, their remains were found, scattered across the desert—six confirmed victims, though authorities believe the true number may be much higher. These weren't random killings. Wood, a convicted sex offender, had a method—he lured his victims, assaulted them, and then left them to die alone in the vast emptiness of the Texas wilderness.

It took years before the pieces fell into place. But when they did, Wood was arrested and charged with capital murder. The evidence? Overwhelming. Witnesses, forensic proof, and his own disturbing history sealed his fate. In nineteen ninety two, he was sentenced to death. But even behind bars, he maintained his innocence, claiming he was framed.

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Now, after more than thirty years on death row, the state of Texas is set to carry out his execution. Some believe justice is long overdue. Others question whether he was truly the monster authorities painted him to be. But one thing is certain—time is running out for David Leonard Wood.

[CASE 2: JESSIE DEAN HOFFMAN JR.] (Execution Date: March 18, 2025 - Louisiana)

A quiet night in Newport, Oregon, turned into a scene of unimaginable horror. The year was nineteen ninety four. [Jessie Dean Hoffman Jr.](#), just nineteen years old at the time, committed a crime so brutal, it shook the coastal town to its core.

His victim was sixteen-year-old Nikki Thrasher. She had her whole life ahead of her—but that night, she crossed paths with a predator. Hoffman, armed with a knife, kidnapped Nikki as she was heading home. What followed was pure terror.

Hoffman dragged Nikki to a secluded spot. There, he assaulted her, stabbed her multiple times, and left her to die alone in the dark. The brutality of the attack was staggering. When her body was found, it was clear—she had fought desperately for her life.

But Hoffman didn't disappear into the shadows. Hours after the murder, he was caught driving a stolen car—Nikki's car. Inside, police found her blood and personal belongings. The evidence was undeniable. Under pressure, he confessed, admitting to the abduction, the assault, and the killing.

In court, there was no sympathy for Jessie Dean Hoffman Jr. The jury saw him for what he was—a cold-blooded killer. He was sentenced to death. For decades, appeals kept him alive, but now, after more than thirty years, the state of Oregon has decided his time is up.

Some say the punishment fits the crime. Others believe three decades on death row is punishment enough. But on execution day, one fact will remain: Nikki Thrasher never got a second chance. And now, neither will Jessie Dean Hoffman Jr.

[CASE 3: AARON BRIAN GUNCHEs] (Execution Date: March 19, 2025 - Arizona)

A man on the run. A murder in the Arizona desert. And a crime that would lead to one of the most notorious death row cases in the state's history. This is the story of [Aaron Brian Gunches](#)—a fugitive who left behind a trail of destruction.

It was two thousand and two when Gunches, a convicted felon, found himself in trouble with the law once again. But this time, it wasn't just another arrest—it was cold-blooded murder. The victim? Ted Price, his girlfriend's ex-husband.

Gunches kidnapped Price and drove him deep into the Arizona desert. Isolated, defenseless, and with nowhere to run, Price was shot multiple times and left for dead. His body was later discovered near the Beeline Highway—a brutal execution in the middle of nowhere.

But Gunches wasn't done. Weeks later, he led police on a high-speed chase through California after shooting an officer during a traffic stop. When he was finally captured, authorities uncovered the full extent of his crimes.

In two thousand and eight, Gunches pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to death. But what happened next was unexpected—even for a death row inmate. In two thousand and twenty two, Gunches *himself* requested to be executed, filing a motion to speed up his own death sentence. Then, in a bizarre turn of events, he changed his mind—delaying his fate once again.

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Now, after years of legal battles, Arizona is set to carry out his execution. Some say it's justice. Others question why a man who once wanted to die fought to stay alive. But soon, the debate will be over. Time is running out for Aaron Brian Gunches.

[CASE 4: WENDELL ARDEN GRISSOM] (Execution Date: March 20, 2025 - Oklahoma)

A serene afternoon in rural Blaine County, Oklahoma, shattered by a violent home invasion. The year was two thousand and five, and [Wendell Arden Grissom](#), along with an accomplice, Jessie Johns, embarked on a crime spree that would leave an indelible mark on the community.

Their target was the home of Dreu Kopf, who was inside with her two young daughters and her best friend, twenty-three-year-old Amber Matthews. The intruders, armed and dangerous, had one thing in mind—robbery. But what transpired was far more sinister.

In a desperate attempt to protect the child, Amber fled into a bedroom. Grissom pursued her, and without hesitation, shot her twice in the head, killing her instantly. The brutality didn't end there. He then turned his weapon on Dreu Kopf, shooting her multiple times. Miraculously, she survived, but the physical and emotional scars remain.

The aftermath was a community in shock. A young mother dead, another gravely injured, and two children traumatized. The randomness and savagery of the attack left residents in fear and disbelief.

Grissom was swiftly apprehended and brought to trial. The evidence was overwhelming, and the jury found him guilty of first-degree murder, shooting with intent to kill, grand larceny, and possession of a firearm after a felony conviction. He was sentenced to death, a verdict that reflected the heinous nature of his crimes.

After years of appeals, the state of Oklahoma is now set to carry out Grissom's execution on March twentieth, two thousand and twenty five. The Pardon and Parole Board denied his clemency request, with Attorney General Gentner Drummond stating, 'The crimes committed by Grissom, random, brutal attacks on innocent strangers in the sanctity of their own home, are the very kind that keep people awake at night.'

As the execution date approaches, the memory of Amber Matthews serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of life and the devastating impact of senseless violence.

[CASE 5: EDWARD THOMAS JAMES] (Execution Date: March 20, 2025 - Florida)

A tranquil Florida neighborhood became the backdrop for a night of unimaginable horror. The year was nineteen ninety three, and within the walls of a modest Casselberry home, [Edward Thomas James](#) committed acts so heinous they would forever scar the community.

James, a thirty two-year-old drifter with a troubled past, had been renting a room from fifty-eight-year-old Betty Dick. On the night of September nineteenth, nineteen ninety three, Betty's four grandchildren were staying over, including eight-year-old Toni Neuner. What should have been a safe haven turned into a house of horrors.

Under the cloak of darkness, James entered the living room where the children slept. He targeted young Toni, strangling her into unconsciousness before carrying her to his bedroom. Believing she was dead, he brutally raped her and discarded her body beside the bed.

But his rampage didn't end there. James then approached Betty Dick's bedroom with sinister intent. Armed with a candlestick and a knife, he bludgeoned and stabbed her repeatedly. Her screams pierced the night, awakening nine-year-old Wendi, Toni's sister.

Wendi stumbled upon the gruesome scene. In a twisted act of mercy, James tied her up and confined her to the bathroom, assuring her he wouldn't harm her further. He then callously showered, looted the home for valuables, and fled in Betty's car.

The following day, the community was rocked by the discovery. A grandmother and her granddaughter, brutally murdered in their own home. The manhunt for James intensified, with authorities desperate to prevent him from striking again.

The case gained national attention when it was featured on 'America's Most Wanted.' Tips poured in, leading investigators across state lines. On October sixth, nineteen ninety three, James was apprehended in California, thanks to vigilant viewers and swift law enforcement action.

Facing overwhelming evidence, James pleaded guilty to the murders and other heinous charges. He was sentenced to death and has spent decades on Florida's death row. Now, over thirty years later, the state is poised to carry out his execution, closing a painful chapter for the victims' families.

As the execution date approaches, the memory of Betty Dick and young Toni Neuner serves as a somber reminder of the fragility of life and the darkness that can lurk behind familiar faces.

[CASE 6: JAMES OSGOOD] (Execution Date: April, 2025 - Alabama)

In a crime that sent shockwaves through Chilton County, Alabama, [James Osgood](#) committed an atrocity that remains etched in the community's memory. The year was two thousand and ten, and forty-six-year-old Tracy Brown fell victim to a night of unimaginable horror.

On October thirteenth, two thousand and ten, Tracy Brown was discovered lifeless in her residence. Concerned coworkers alerted her landlord after she failed to appear at work, leading to the grim discovery. The scene that awaited authorities was nothing short of gruesome.

Investigations revealed that Osgood, along with his girlfriend, Tonya van Dyke, had subjected Tracy to a series of brutal assaults. They beat her mercilessly, sexually assaulted her, and ultimately ended her life by slitting her throat.

The brutality of the crime led to Osgood's conviction on two counts of capital murder in twenty fourteen. The jury unanimously recommended the death penalty, a sentiment

echoed by the presiding judge. However, due to technicalities in jury instructions, an appeals court later mandated a new sentencing phase.

In an unprecedented move, during the resentencing in two thousand and eighteen, Osgood requested the death penalty, stating he believed in 'an eye for an eye.' He expressed that he deserved death for his actions and wished to forego a jury trial to expedite the process.

The judge honored his request, reaffirming the death sentence. As of today, James Osgood remains on Alabama's death row, awaiting execution for the heinous acts he committed against Tracy Brown.

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This case serves as a stark reminder of the depths of human cruelty and the enduring impact such crimes have on victims' families and communities.

[CASE 7: MICHAEL ANTHONY TANZI] (Execution Date: April 8, 2025 - Florida)

In a crime that shocked Miami and the Florida Keys, [Michael Anthony Tanzi](#) committed an act of unimaginable brutality in April two thousand. His victim: forty-nine-year-old Janet Acosta, a dedicated supervisor at the Miami Herald.

On April twenty fifth, two thousand, Janet Acosta was seated inside her parked van in Miami, likely preparing for her day. Unbeknownst to her, Tanzi approached with malicious intent. Armed with a razor blade, he attacked Janet, binding and gagging her before commandeering the vehicle.

Tanzi then embarked on a harrowing journey southward toward the Florida Keys. During this ordeal, he sexually assaulted Janet and used her bank card to withdraw money from ATMs. His actions were calculated, aiming to exploit and demean his victim at every turn.

Upon reaching a remote area of Cudjoe Key, Tanzi's depravity escalated. He brutally strangled Janet Acosta, ending her life in a secluded spot where he believed her body would remain undiscovered.

After committing this heinous act, Tanzi drove to Key West. There, he shopped, dined, smoked marijuana, and visited friends, all while using Janet's ATM card. He even contemplated altering the van's appearance to further his escape.

However, Janet's friends had reported her missing, prompting authorities to be on high alert. On April twenty seventh, two thousand, police in Key West spotted her van and placed it under surveillance. When Tanzi returned to the vehicle, they swiftly arrested him, bringing his crime spree to an end.

In two thousand and three, Tanzi pleaded guilty to first-degree murder, kidnapping, armed robbery, and sexual battery. The jury unanimously recommended the death penalty, a sentence that was subsequently affirmed by the Florida Supreme Court. Despite numerous appeals over the years, his conviction and sentence have been upheld.

Now, twenty five years after the senseless murder of Janet Acosta, the state of Florida is preparing to carry out Michael Tanzi's execution, bringing a measure of closure to a community deeply scarred by his actions.

This case serves as a somber reminder of the fragility of life and the enduring impact of violent crime on victims, their families, and entire communities.

[CASE 8: MOISES SANDOVAL MENDOZA] (Execution Date: April 23, 2025 - Texas)

In a crime that sent shockwaves through Farmersville, Texas, [Moises Sandoval Mendoza](#) committed an act of unimaginable brutality in March two thousand and four. His victim: twenty-year-old Rachelle O'Neil Tolleson, a young mother whose life was tragically cut short.

On March eighteenth, two thousand and four, Rachelle Tolleson was reported missing from her residence in Farmersville. The community rallied, searching tirelessly for the beloved mother. Unbeknownst to them, Mendoza had already enacted his sinister plan.

Mendoza kidnapped Rachelle from her home, subjecting her to unspeakable horrors. He raped and strangled her, ending her life in a heinous act of violence.

In an attempt to conceal his crime, Mendoza initially hid Rachelle's body in a field behind his residence, keeping it there for several days. As suspicion grew and authorities closed in, he transported her remains to a remote area in Collin County. There, he set her body on fire and buried it under a brush pile, hoping to destroy any evidence linking him to the crime.

The investigation led authorities to Mendoza, who was subsequently arrested and charged with capital murder. After a trial that gripped the community, a jury found him

guilty, and he was sentenced to death in two thousand and five. His appeals have been exhausted, and the state is now preparing to carry out his execution.

Now, over two decades after the senseless murder of Rachelle Tolleson, the state of Texas is set to carry out Mendoza's execution, bringing a measure of closure to a community deeply scarred by his actions.

This case serves as a somber reminder of the fragility of life and the enduring impact of violent crime on victims, their families, and entire communities.

[CASE 9: MATTHEW LEE JOHNSON] (Execution Date: May 20, 2025 - Tennessee)

In a crime that stunned the community of Brownwood, Texas, [Matthew Lee Johnson](#) committed an act of brutal violence that would seal his fate. It was September two thousand and twelve when Johnson entered the home of senety-nine-year-old Pauline Hutchison. What happened next was pure evil.

Johnson, a man with a history of drug addiction and criminal behavior, had only one goal—robbery. But when he encountered Hutchison inside, the crime took a horrifying turn.

He attacked without mercy, beating and setting her on fire before fleeing the scene. Firefighters arrived to find flames consuming the house and Hutchison barely clinging to life. She suffered severe burns over most of her body.

Hutchison fought for her life but succumbed to her injuries the next day. The crime was so vicious that prosecutors wasted no time seeking the death penalty. Johnson was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death.

Now, more than a decade later, Texas prepares to carry out his execution. For the family of Pauline Hutchison, justice is finally near, but the scars of that night remain.

[CASE 10: OSCAR FRANKLIN SMITH] (Execution Date: May 22, 2025 - Tennessee)

In a crime that rocked Nashville, Tennessee, [Oscar Franklin Smith](#) carried out a triple murder that left an entire family dead. It was October nineteen eighty nine when Smith, in a fit of calculated rage, entered a home on Lillian Street. What happened next was pure horror.

Inside the house were Smith's estranged wife, Judith Smith, and her two teenage sons, Jason and Chad Burnett. Smith had a history of domestic violence, and this night would be the deadliest chapter in that history.

Smith attacked with brutal efficiency. He shot, stabbed, and bludgeoned all three victims in a frenzied assault. Blood splattered the walls as he ensured that no one would leave that house alive.

It was a crime so shocking that the prosecution described it as 'cold and deliberate.' Smith was convicted and sentenced to death. More than three decades later, Tennessee prepared to carry out his execution, making him one of the longest-serving inmates on death row.

[CASE 11: BYRON LEWIS BLACK] (Execution Date: August 5, 2025 - Tennessee)

In one of the most brutal crimes on this list, [Byron Lewis Black](#) committed an act of violence that shattered an entire family. It was April nineteen eighty eight in Nashville, Tennessee, when Black stormed into the home of his ex-girlfriend, Angela Clay. What happened next was pure evil.

Angela Clay had ended her relationship with Black, but he refused to let go. That night, fueled by rage, he entered her home armed with a point-twenty-two-caliber rifle. Inside were Angela, her two young daughters, and her new boyfriend, Mark Evans.

Black showed no mercy. He shot and killed Mark Evans first, then turned the gun on Angela. But his rampage didn't stop there. Angela's two daughters, nine-year-old Latoya and six-year-old Lakesha, were also gunned down in cold blood.

The crime scene was horrifying. Investigators later testified that Black had executed all four victims with calculated cruelty. The jury wasted no time—Black was convicted of multiple counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to death.

Now, more than three decades later, Tennessee prepares to carry out his execution. For the families of Angela, Latoya, Lakesha, and Mark, justice has been a long time coming—but the pain of that night will never fade.

[CASE 12: DONALD RAY MIDDLEBROOKS] (Execution Date: September 24, 2025 - Tennessee)

In one of the most disturbing crimes on this list, [Donald Ray Middlebrooks](#) committed an act of unimaginable brutality that still haunts the city of Nashville. It was May nineteen eighty seven, and Middlebrooks, a career criminal with a violent history, set his sights on fourteen-year-old Kerrick Majors. What happened next was pure evil.

Kerrick Majors was a bright, well-liked boy with a promising future. But on that fateful day, his path crossed with Middlebrooks, and his life would come to a tragic and senseless end. Middlebrooks, along with a group of accomplices, abducted Kerrick, dragging him to an abandoned house in the Edgehill neighborhood of Nashville. What followed was a night of sheer terror and unspeakable violence.

Middlebrooks and his accomplices subjected Kerrick to hours of torture. He was beaten mercilessly, burned with cigarettes, and brutalized in ways too horrific to fully describe. Every cry for help went unanswered. And then, in his final moments, the true depths of their cruelty were revealed. Middlebrooks took a knife and began stabbing Kerrick repeatedly, leaving him to die in agony. When it was over, his killers discarded his body in a field, treating his life as if it meant nothing.

When authorities discovered Kerrick's body, they were horrified by the sheer brutality of the crime. The medical examiner reported that Kerrick had suffered at least fourteen stab wounds, and his body showed clear signs of prolonged torture. Detectives immediately launched an investigation, and it didn't take long for Middlebrooks to become their prime suspect. His criminal past was riddled with violence, and this time, he had gone too far.

In nineteen eighty eight, Middlebrooks was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death. The jury agreed—this was a crime of pure sadism, and Middlebrooks did not deserve to walk free. Prosecutors described him as a predator with no remorse, a man who took pleasure in the suffering of others. But for Kerrick's grieving family, no punishment would ever be enough to erase their pain.

He was just a child. He had his whole life ahead of him. And they took that away from him... for nothing.

For more than three decades, Middlebrooks has sat on death row, filing appeal after appeal in an attempt to escape his fate. But now, the state of Tennessee is preparing to carry out his sentence. For Kerrick's loved ones, it's a long-awaited moment—a step toward justice. But no execution can bring back their son, their brother, their friend.

Justice may soon be served, but the scars of this tragedy will never fade. A young boy's life was stolen in the most brutal way imaginable. And all these years later, the community still remembers the horror of that night—and the innocent life lost too soon.

[CASE 13: TIMOTHY L. COLEMAN] (Execution Date: October 30, 2025 - Ohio)

In one of the most senseless and brutal crimes on this list, [Timothy L. Coleman](#) carried out an act of cold-blooded violence that left a family shattered. It was August two thousand and five in Preble County, Ohio. Coleman, a man with a history of criminal activity, had one goal that night—money. But what he did to get it was pure evil.

Melinda Stevens, a mother of three, had been trying to rebuild her life. She was a hardworking woman, doing her best to provide for her children. But that night, Coleman had other plans. He entered her home, demanding money. When Melinda refused, what happened next was nothing short of a nightmare.

Coleman didn't just rob Melinda—he executed her. He shot her multiple times, ensuring there was no chance of survival. Her young daughter, just three years old, witnessed the horror before being left alone in the house with her mother's lifeless body.

When police arrived at the scene, they found Melinda dead, and her terrified child clinging to her. The brutality of the crime sent shockwaves through the community. Detectives quickly identified Coleman as the killer, and within days, he was in custody.

In two thousand and six, Coleman was convicted of aggravated murder and sentenced to death. Prosecutors called him 'a man without remorse,' a killer who took an innocent life for nothing more than greed. The jury agreed—justice demanded the ultimate punishment.

For nearly two decades, Coleman has sat on death row, filing appeal after appeal in a desperate attempt to avoid execution. But now, the state of Ohio is preparing to carry out his sentence. For Melinda's family, it's a moment they've waited for—a chance for closure, though no punishment can ever bring her back.

A mother taken too soon. A child left without a parent. And a killer who showed no mercy. Now, justice is finally catching up to Timothy L. Coleman.

[CASE 14: KAREEM M. JACKSON] (Execution Date: December 10, 2025 - Ohio)

In one of the most cold-blooded crimes on this list, [Kareem M. Jackson](#) carried out a massacre that left an entire city in shock. It was July Nineteen ninety seven in Columbus, Ohio. Jackson, along with an accomplice, had one mission that night—eliminate the witnesses. But what happened next was nothing short of pure evil.

Jackson and his partner, David Brewer, were involved in drug trafficking, and they believed that four men had stolen from them. Rather than walking away or settling the matter another way, Jackson chose violence. What he did inside that apartment would be remembered as one of the most ruthless executions in Columbus history.

The victims, Terrance Haddon, Mitchell Nalley, Willie E. Harris, and Roderick G. Snipes, were trapped. Jackson ordered them to the ground. Then, without hesitation, he opened fire. Bullet after bullet tore through their bodies. One victim tried to crawl away—Jackson shot him again. When it was over, all four men were dead.

When authorities arrived, the scene was one of carnage. Investigators quickly identified Jackson as the shooter, and within days, he was arrested. The evidence against him was overwhelming. Multiple witnesses confirmed he had planned the murders, and forensic analysis tied him to the crime.

In nineteen ninety eight, Jackson was convicted on four counts of aggravated murder and sentenced to death. The judge called his actions 'beyond comprehension'—a calculated slaughter with no chance of redemption.

For more than two decades, Jackson has remained on death row, exhausting every legal option to delay his execution. But now, after years of appeals, the state of Ohio is preparing to carry out his sentence. For the families of the victims, it's a moment of long-awaited justice—though nothing will ever bring back their loved ones.

Four lives stolen in an act of sheer brutality. A killer with no remorse. And a justice system that has finally caught up to Kareem M. Jackson.

[CASE 15: HAROLD WAYNE NICHOLS] (Execution Date: December 11, 2025 - Tennessee)

In one of the most horrific crimes on this list, [Harold Wayne Nichols](#) committed an act of violence so brutal that it left an entire community shaken. It was September thirtieth,

nineteen eighty eight, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Nichols had already built a disturbing criminal record, but that night, his crimes would escalate to pure evil.

Thirty-one-year-old Karen Pulley was at home when Nichols forced his way in. What followed was a night of terror. Nichols brutally assaulted Pulley before savagely beating her. But he didn't stop there—he took her life in one of the most violent ways imaginable.

When investigators arrived, they found Pulley's body in a gruesome state. She had suffered unimaginable violence. It didn't take long for authorities to zero in on Nichols—he had a history of violent sexual assaults, and the evidence against him was overwhelming.

Faced with undeniable proof, Nichols confessed to the crime. But what made the case even more chilling was that this wasn't his first attack. He had assaulted multiple women before Karen Pulley, leaving behind a trail of victims who had barely survived their encounters with him.

In nineteen ninety, Nichols was convicted of murder, rape, and aggravated assault. The judge described him as 'a predator beyond rehabilitation.' He was sentenced to death for his crimes, a punishment that many believed was the only way to ensure he never harmed another person again.

For more than three decades, Nichols has remained on death row, filing appeal after appeal in an attempt to escape his fate. But now, the state of Tennessee is moving forward with his execution. For the family of Karen Pulley, it is a moment of long-awaited justice, though the pain of their loss will never fade.

A violent predator. A life stolen. And justice finally catching up with Harold Wayne Nichols.

[CASE 16: QUISI BRYAN] (Execution Date: January 27, 2026 - Ohio)

Some crimes shake a city to its core. Some leave wounds that never heal. This... is one of them.

It was June twenty fifth, two thousand. Cleveland Police Officer Wayne Leon, a devoted husband and father, was on duty—just another day, just another stop.

Officer Leon had no idea he was about to walk into a nightmare. He was simply doing his job, pulling over a car with expired plates. Inside? Quisi Bryan—a man with a long and violent criminal history.

Bryan had one goal that day—not to go back to prison. And he was willing to do whatever it took to stay free.

As Officer Leon reached for his notepad, Bryan made his move.

The shot was instant and merciless—a cold-blooded execution. Officer Leon never had a chance.

Bryan fled the scene, triggering a massive manhunt. For two days, Cleveland was on edge, knowing a cop killer was on the loose.

He was finally found hiding in a motel, trying to escape justice. But there was no way out.

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The jury wasted no time. Bryan was sentenced to death for the cold-blooded murder of Officer Wayne Leon.

But Bryan wasn't done fighting. He launched appeal after appeal, trying to escape his fate.

Yet, the Ohio Supreme Court stood firm. The sentence was upheld—Bryan would pay for his crime.

Now, after twenty six years on death row, the state of Ohio has set an execution date: January seventh, two thousand and twenty six.

[CASE 17: ANTONIO SANCHEZ FRANKLIN] (Execution Date: February 11, 2026 – Ohio)

Some crimes shake a city to its core. Some leave wounds that never heal. This... is one of them.

It was July third, nineteen ninety seven—a night that would leave Cleveland in shock. A night when two people would lose their lives at the hands of one man: Antonio Sanchez Franklin.

Franklin, a career criminal, was no stranger to violence. That night, he pulled out a gun and opened fire. His first victim? twenty-six-year-old Anthony Waters, shot execution-style.

But Franklin wasn't finished. Just minutes later, he gunned down another man—Curtis Maynard, a twenty-five-year-old who never saw it coming.

Two lives stolen in a matter of minutes. And Franklin? He disappeared into the night—leaving a city in fear.

With two murders in a single night, police were determined to track Franklin down. And it wouldn't take long before they got their break.

Security cameras captured his movements. Within days, the manhunt led officers to an abandoned house, where Franklin was hiding out.

He thought he could escape justice. But he was wrong.

Franklin showed no remorse as the charges were read. Two counts of aggravated murder. The prosecution didn't hold back—Franklin was a cold-blooded killer who had no regard for human life.

The jury wasted no time. The verdict? Guilty on all counts. And the sentence? Death.

But Franklin wasn't done fighting. Like many convicted murderers, he launched appeal after appeal, trying to escape his fate.

Yet, the Ohio Supreme Court stood firm. The sentence was upheld—Franklin would pay for his crime.

Now, after nearly three decades on death row, the state of Ohio has set an execution date which is February eleventh, two thousand and twenty six. Franklin's time is running out.

[CASE 18: JAMES EARL TRIMBLE] (Execution Date: March 12, 2026 – Ohio)

Some criminal activities are so horrific that their impact is felt for generations, leaving wounds that never close, no matter how much time passes. This is one of those cases.

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It was January twenty first, two thousand and five. A night of pure terror in the small town of Brimfield, Ohio. Three innocent lives were stolen in a senseless act of violence. And the man responsible? James Earl Trimble.

Trimble, a military veteran, had a history of domestic abuse. His relationship with Renee Bauer, his longtime girlfriend, had been falling apart. And on that cold January night, it reached a deadly breaking point.

Trimble had snapped. He stormed into Renee's home, gun in hand, and opened fire. She never stood a chance.

But the horror wasn't over. Trimble's killing spree was just beginning.

After murdering Renee, Trimble fled. He needed a place to hide. And that's when he forced his way into a neighbor's home.

Inside were twenty-eight-year-old Elsie Marcellus and her seven-year-old son, Dakota. Innocent. Defenseless.

Trimble showed no mercy. He executed Elsie—then turned his gun on Dakota.

A mother and son—gone in an instant. Their only crime? Being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Trimble was now on the run, and Ohio was on high alert. Armed, dangerous, and willing to kill again.

For hours, he eluded capture. But there was nowhere left to hide. As law enforcement closed in, Trimble made a desperate move—he took a woman hostage.

For hours, Trimble held the woman at gunpoint. Police knew they had to end this—before more lives were lost.

And finally—after a terrifying standoff—Trimble was taken into custody.

Trimble showed no remorse as the charges were read. Three counts of aggravated murder. Kidnapping. A jury had one choice.

Death. A sentence for a man who showed no mercy to his victims.

But like so many on death row, Trimble fought back. He filed appeal after appeal, hoping to escape his fate.

Yet, the Ohio Supreme Court stood firm. The sentence was upheld. Trimble would pay for his crimes.

Now, after decades on death row, Ohio has set an execution date which is now set for March twelve, two thousand and twenty six—over twenty one years after his crimes. The countdown to justice has begun.

[CASE 19: GERALD ROBERT HAND] (Execution Date: June 17, 2026 – Ohio)

Some killers act in the heat of the moment—rage overtaking reason, leaving chaos in their wake. But others, the cold and calculating ones, commit their crimes with chilling precision. They plan, they manipulate, and they kill with purpose. Gerald Robert Hand was one of them.

He didn't just kill once. He killed twice. And each time, it was for one thing—money.

Gerald Hand was a man who thought he could outsmart the system. His first wife's death was suspicious, yet he walked away a free man, with her life insurance money in his pocket. The authorities couldn't prove what they suspected—that Hand had orchestrated her death for financial gain.

Years passed. He remarried. Again and again. But in two thousand and two, history repeated itself in a terrifyingly familiar way.

Hand's fourth wife, Jill Hand, was murdered in what appeared to be a brutal home invasion. The crime scene was chaotic—signs of a struggle, a shattered sense of security, and a grieving husband who claimed to be just another victim.

But this time, detectives weren't so easily fooled.

As investigators dug deeper, the cracks in Hand's story became undeniable. The so-called "home invasion" was anything but random. Evidence painted a far more sinister picture—one where Hand was not a grieving husband, but a cold-blooded mastermind.

Detectives discovered that Hand had been hiring hitmen to eliminate his spouses. Each time, his goal was the same: collect the insurance payout and move on. His wives were nothing more than financial stepping stones—disposable pieces in his twisted game.

Hand had fooled the system once. But he wouldn't fool it again.

By two thousand and three, the case against him was airtight. His web of lies had unraveled, and the jury saw through his act. The sentence was swift and final—death.

For over two decades, Gerald Hand has sat on death row, waiting. He's watched the years slip by, filing appeal after appeal, hoping for another loophole, another escape. But justice, though slow, has not forgotten him.

Now, twenty four years after his conviction, the final chapter is about to be written.

The state of Ohio has set Hand's execution for June seventeenth, two thousand and twenty six. The delays are over. His final attempt to evade justice has failed.

[CASE 20: CLEVELAND RAMON JACKSON] (Execution Date: July 15, 2026 – Ohio)

Cleveland Ramon Jackson thought he could escape justice. He was wrong.

Some killers act in the heat of the moment. Others plan their crimes with chilling precision. And then there are those like Cleveland Ramon Jackson—ruthless, calculating, and utterly remorseless.

It was January two thousand and two in Lima, Ohio. A home that should have been a place of safety became a scene of horror. Jackson and an accomplice stormed into an apartment, guns drawn, demanding money, drugs, and valuables. Inside were eight people, including three children. What happened next was pure brutality.

Jackson showed no mercy. He opened fire, striking six of the eight occupants. Among the victims? seventeen-year-old Leneshia Williams and three-year-old Jayla Grant. Neither survived. A teenager with her whole life ahead of her. A toddler who barely had a chance to live. Both executed in cold blood.

Survivors played dead, praying for the nightmare to end. When Jackson finally fled, they were left in pools of their own blood, forever scarred by the violence they had just witnessed.

But Jackson's attempt to escape justice was short-lived. He was caught, tried, and convicted of aggravated murder. The jury had no sympathy. They saw him for what he was—a killer with no remorse. Their verdict? Death.

For more than two decades, Jackson has sat on death row, exhausting every possible appeal. But time has run out. The state of Ohio has set his execution date—July fifteenth, two thousand and twenty six.

The families of his victims have waited over twenty years for justice. And now, the end is near for Cleveland Ramon Jackson.

[CASE 21: JAMES DERRICK O'NEAL] (Execution Date: August 19, 2026 – Ohio)

Some killers strike in a moment of blind rage. Others plan their crimes with a chilling calculation. And then, there are those like James Derrick O'Neal—who kill without remorse, leaving behind a trail of devastation.

O'Neal was no stranger to violence. He wasn't just a criminal—he was a predator. And in nineteen ninety three, his brutality reached horrifying new heights.

It was a night that would change lives forever. In Columbus, Ohio, a city that had seen its fair share of crime, few were prepared for what was about to unfold. O'Neal, armed and merciless, set his sights on sixty-year-old —a woman who had done nothing to deserve the nightmare that awaited her.

She was in her home, a place that should have been safe. But when O'Neal entered, safety became an illusion. He wasn't there to rob, to threaten, or to intimidate. He was there to kill.

The attack was brutal. Howell was shot and left to die in her own home, the place she had built a life. And O'Neal? He vanished into the night, believing he could outrun justice.

But the law was closing in. Witnesses, forensic evidence, and tireless detectives pieced together what had happened. O'Neal had left behind more than just chaos—he left a trail. And that trail led straight to him.

His past spoke volumes. A history of violence. A disregard for human life. And a pattern that prosecutors wouldn't ignore.

In nineteen ninety four, James Derrick O'Neal stood before a jury. The evidence was overwhelming. The crime was senseless. And the verdict? Guilty.

The sentence? Death.

But even behind bars, O'Neal wasn't done fighting. For decades, he appealed, challenged, and attempted to delay the inevitable. Legal battles stretched on, year after year. But in the end, there was no escaping justice.

After more than three decades on death row, O'Neal's time is finally running out. Ohio has set his execution date. Soon, the state will close the book on a case that has haunted the victims' families for far too long.

James Derrick O'Neal believed he could take a life and walk away. He believed he could outlast the system. But justice, though delayed, is never denied. And in 2026, Ohio will ensure that his reign of terror comes to an end.

Some killers act in the heat of the moment. Others—like Gerald Hand—plan their crimes with chilling precision. Hand didn't just kill once... he killed twice. And each time, it was for one reason—money.

Gerald Robert Hand was a man who believed he could commit the perfect crime—twice. He was a respected businessman, a family man... but behind closed doors, he was something else entirely.

In 1976, tragedy struck when his first wife, Donna, was found dead under mysterious circumstances. Hand, the grieving husband, collected her life insurance payout. The case remained unsolved, and authorities couldn't prove his involvement. So, he walked free.

Years passed. Hand remarried. Then again. And again. Three more wives. But one thing never changed—his greed.

Fast forward to 2002. Hand's fourth wife, Jill Hand, was found murdered in their home. This time, the crime scene told a story—a staged home invasion meant to look like a robbery gone wrong.

But detectives weren't fooled. The so-called 'burglars' had left everything of value behind. No forced entry. No stolen jewelry. Just a woman, brutally murdered, and a husband with everything to gain.

The investigation dug deeper into Hand's past, uncovering a horrifying pattern. Hand wasn't just unlucky in marriage—he was eliminating his wives for financial gain. And this time, there was no escaping justice.

Prosecutors presented their case, showing how Hand had been hiring hitmen to carry out his deadly scheme. His own greed and arrogance became his downfall. In 2003, the jury wasted no time—Hand was sentenced to death.

For over two decades, he's sat on death row, filing appeal after appeal, trying to delay the inevitable. But now, time is running out. After 24 years, Ohio has set an execution date—June 17, 2026.

Gerald Robert Hand believed he could get away with murder. He believed he could outsmart the law. But in just months, the state of Ohio will ensure that his reign of terror comes to an end.

[CASE 22: JEROME HENDERSON] (Execution Date: October 21, 2026 – Ohio)

Some crimes are so violent, so senseless, that they leave entire communities shaken. They instill fear. They rob families of their loved ones. They remind us of the darkness that lurks just beneath the surface.

That was the case with Jerome Henderson, a convicted murderer who has spent decades fighting to escape his fate. But now, after thirty years on death row, his time is running out.

It was May nineteen ninety five. Elmore Brunson, a fifty-eight-year-old husband and father, was at home with his wife in Cleveland, Ohio. It was supposed to be a peaceful evening—until the nightmare began.

A shadow appeared in the doorway. A stranger? No. A predator.

Jerome Henderson forced his way inside, armed and dangerous. This wasn't a robbery gone wrong—this was calculated. He wanted money. He wanted control. But when Elmore refused to comply, Henderson's true intentions became horrifyingly clear.

The first shot rang out like a thunderclap. Then another. And another. Elmore Brunson was struck multiple times, his body crumbling to the floor. His wife—his partner in life—was left helpless, forced to watch the horror unfold, knowing she could be next.

The killer didn't just take a man's life. He shattered a family. He stole a future. And then—he vanished into the night.

But Henderson wasn't as smart as he thought. The Cleveland police tracked him down within hours. His past told the story of a violent man—a career criminal who had long been walking the line between freedom and a prison cell.

This time, there would be no escape.

In nineteen ninety six, Jerome Henderson was convicted of murder, burglary, and armed robbery. The jury didn't need long to decide—he was sentenced to death. But as the years passed, Henderson refused to accept his fate.

Appeal after appeal. Motion after motion. For thirty years, he fought to avoid execution, arguing for a second chance he never gave his victim.

But the clock is ticking. And the state of Ohio has made its decision. The sentence will be carried out on October twenty first, two thousand and twenty six.

After three decades of delays, the family of Elmore Brunson will finally see justice served.

[CASE 23: MELVIN D. BONNELL JR.] (Execution Date: November 18, 2026 – Ohio)

Some crimes linger in the minds of a city for decades. Some cases seem to stretch on forever, with endless appeals, legal battles, and delays. But for Melvin D. Bonnell Jr., time has finally run out.

After nearly forty years of courtrooms, motions, and last-minute stays, the state of Ohio is ready to carry out his sentence. His execution date is set—marking the end of one of the longest-running death row cases in Ohio's history.

It was a cold night in November nineteen eighty six. In a quiet Cleveland apartment, twenty three-year-old Robert Bunner was enjoying a peaceful evening, completely unaware that his life was about to be stolen in a burst of violence.

Suddenly, his front door crashed open. The intruder? Melvin Bonnell. And he didn't come to talk.

Within seconds, gunfire rang out. Two shots—point-blank—straight to the chest. Bunner collapsed, blood soaking through his shirt as his life slipped away. The walls of his home, once a place of safety, became the backdrop to a senseless execution.

Neighbors heard the gunshots. They called nine one one. But by the time police arrived, there was nothing they could do. Robert Bunner was dead. And Melvin Bonnell? He was already on the run.

Bonnell thought he could escape. But the city of Cleveland was watching. Witnesses had seen him fleeing the scene, and the evidence against him piled up fast.

The murder weapon? Recovered.

The bullet casings? Matched to Bonnell's gun.

And when they finally caught up with him, his clothes were still stained with blood. There was no question—Melvin Bonnell had pulled the trigger.

The trial was swift. The jury didn't hesitate. By nineteen eighty eight, Bonnell was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Justice, it seemed, had been served.

But the story didn't end there.

For nearly four decades, Bonnell fought his fate. Appeal after appeal, hearing after hearing, he used every legal loophole available to him. He challenged the evidence. He questioned the trial's fairness. His attorneys argued over forensic details, procedural errors, and his right to new DNA testing.

Each time his execution neared, a new motion delayed it. Victims' families waited. Years turned into decades.

But now, the waiting is over.

Ohio has set Melvin Bonnell's final execution date for November eighteenth, twenty twenty six.

The delays are over. The legal battles are done. And after nearly forty years, the book on this case is finally closing.

[CASE 24: DANNY LEE HILL] (Execution Date: July 22, 2026 – Ohio)

Some crimes are so horrifying, so unimaginable, that they leave an entire community scarred forever. This is one of them.

It was September tenth, nineteen eighty five. Twelve-year-old Raymond Fife left home on his bike, just like he had done so many times before. But this time... he never came back.

When Raymond didn't return home for dinner, his family panicked. Hours passed. Then, the search began.

At nine PM, Raymond's father made a discovery that would haunt him forever. His son's body was found in an overgrown field—tortured beyond belief.

Raymond had been beaten, strangled, sexually assaulted, and set on fire. His injuries were so severe that doctors couldn't believe he had survived even a few hours.

For two days, Raymond fought for his life. But the brutality was too much. On September twelve, he took his final breath.

It didn't take long for police to zero in on their suspect—eighteen-year-old Danny Lee Hill. And what did he do next? It was as disturbing as the crime itself.

Hill inserted himself into the investigation, acting like a concerned citizen. But something was off. He knew details about the crime that hadn't been made public.

Under questioning, Hill's story kept changing. At one point, he even laughed while describing the attack. That was all the police needed.

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The jury wasted no time. Danny Lee Hill was sentenced to death. The judge called his crimes 'pure evil'—a level of cruelty beyond comprehension.

But justice would be delayed. Hill spent nearly four decades on death row, appealing his sentence again and again. His lawyers claimed he had intellectual disabilities, and that he was unfit for execution.

But in two thousand and twenty three, Ohio courts made a final ruling: Danny Lee Hill would be executed on July twenty second, two thousand and twenty six and the state of Ohio is preparing to carry out his sentence.

[OUTRO: FINAL THOUGHTS]

Nine names. Nine crimes. And a justice system that has determined their fate. But the debate over capital punishment continues—should these men pay the ultimate price? Or is there another side to the story? Let us know your thoughts in the comments below.

Sources:

<https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/executions/upcoming-executions>

[Wikipedia pages of different criminals](#)

