



## South Carolina Department of Corrections

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For immediate release

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**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – The capital punishment sentence of Marion Bowman Jr. was carried out tonight, pursuant to the order of the S.C. Supreme Court and in accordance with state law.

The execution began at 6:04 p.m. He was pronounced dead by a physician at 6:27 p.m.

Bowman was sentenced to death for murder and arson in the Feb. 16, 2001, death of 21-year-old Kande Louise Martin in Dorchester County. Bowman shot Martin, stuffed her in the trunk of her car and then set the car on fire.

Bowman's last statement was read to witnesses by his attorney and is attached.

Witnesses to the execution included Bowman's attorney, a representative from the prosecuting solicitor's office and three members of the news media.

Bowman's last meal was fried seafood including shrimp, fish and oysters, chicken wings and tenders, onion rings, banana pudding, German chocolate cake, cranberry juice and pineapple juice. It was served Wednesday evening.

## **Marion Bowman Jr. Last Words**

*Submitted to SCDC 1/28/2024*

I did not kill Kandee Martin. I'm innocent of the crimes, I'm here to die for.

Living behind these walls has taught me a lot about loss and grief. It is never easy, but I have learned to find comfort in sharing good memories and funny stories. My suffering will soon be at an end, but I know it is the beginning for others. Please keep your head up, remember I love you, and please share your memories of me.

I know that Kandee's family is in pain, they are justifiably angry. If my death brings them some relief and ability to focus on the good times and funny stories, then I guess it will have served a purpose. I hope they find peace.

To my family, friends, and supporters, I have nothing to give, but I have gained so much. I have tried to give a good return on your investment with love and care. I had bad moments but never a bad day because there were so many people that I could reach out to, investing in me and giving me a hand up. We all ended up as family, and I got a whole lot of family. Thank you

Over the years I have learned that we are labeled as the worst of the worst. None of these guys that I have gotten to know and grown to love are the people that they were when they had their moment that cost them everything. If the world could see us in our day to day, they would have a different view of the death penalty. We all pray for grace and forgiveness, but the outside world is stuck with images of monsters perpetrated by the State, while our real voices are silenced. We are not what the State labels us to be. We are kind, caring, loving people, and it's a shame the world can't see that.

### **Last Breath or Sigh**

Last breath or sigh of relief,  
It was God who breathed the breath of life into Adam.  
So why is taking our last breath so hard to fathom?  
How many times you've held your breath,  
When you've wondered what would happen if you exhaled.  
Overcoming your fears, doubts, and many tears,  
And you know God's pulled or pushed you through,  
Only to release a sigh of relief.  
Let there be no mistaking—  
I've felt love with every breath I've taken.  
I hope I've given a good return on that investment.  
So, when I've breathed my last gasp,  
The good Lord just took back what He gave me as breath.  
Know that I'm in God's grasp,  
And it's in His bosom I'll rest in.  
Did I take a last breath or sigh of relief?  
Last breath or sigh of relief.  
Peace, Love, and Respect.

**- Marion Bowman Jr.**