

**DESIREE BABBITT, Rhode Island  
Daughter of Manny Babbitt,  
executed in California in 1999**

Desiree Babbitt's father, Manny Babbitt, was executed in San Quentin prison in 1999 after being convicted of the murder of Leah Schendel, who suffered a heart attack after Manny broke into her home. Manny had served two tours of duty in Vietnam and had been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Paranoid Schizophrenia.

Desiree participated in the Journey of Hope speaking tour in Texas in the fall of 2005, addressing several audiences around the state.

"I always felt like my father raised me from prison. I loved him and felt his love for me. There were a lot of secrets in the family, and although I knew my father was in prison, no one told me that he was facing a death sentence until I was 20 and the whole family was going to California to beg for his life before the pardon board. I spoke at the hearing and talked about what my father meant to me, and everyone seemed to be listening. I thought we had saved him, but we didn't. Sometimes I think that if I had understood the truth earlier, I might have been able to do more. I wish people could understand how much it hurt me that he was executed."



*Desiree Babbitt with her uncle Bill, Manny's brother, on the 2005 Journey of Hope*