

**DEBRA FIFER, Wisconsin
Mother of Kirk Bickham, Jr.,
murdered in Wisconsin in 2003**

Debra Fifer's 22-year-old son was shot and killed, along with Deshawn Windbush and Carl Hall, in Milwaukee in 2003. Jaki Marion was convicted of the three murders and is serving three consecutive life sentences in prison.

Debra founded the group Mothers Against Gang Violence, is Chair of the Wisconsin chapter of the Million Mom March, and serves on the City of Milwaukee Safety Commission. She has spoken to numerous university and other groups. In 2005, the Congressional Black Caucus presented Debra with its Celebration of Leadership Unsung Hero Award.

“If the death penalty could bring my son back, then sure, I'd be all for it. But that's not how it works, and in fact I believe that just as citizens do not have the right to take someone else's life, the state should not have that right either. States that have the death penalty are not crime-free, and it's already been proven that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime. We do not need the death penalty in Wisconsin.”

Links to more information:

http://www.house.gov/list/press/wi04_moore/pr280905.html

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/?id=233901>

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/?id=274416>

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/?id=184866>



Debra with several of Kirk's favorite belongings



Kirk Bickham, Jr.