

RENNY CUSHING, New Hampshire Son of Robert Cushing, murdered in New Hampshire in 1988

Renny Cushing's father, Robert Cushing, was killed by two shotgun blasts fired by a stranger through the family's screen door. The two people who were convicted of the murder – an off-duty police officer and his wife – are now serving sentences of life without parole.

Renny is a lifelong social justice activist and a pioneer in the effort to bridge the death penalty abolition movement and the victims' rights movement. He has testified before the U.S. Congress and several state legislatures and addressed hundreds of audiences in other venues in the U.S. and abroad regarding victim opposition to the death penalty. A former two-term New Hampshire lawmaker, he sponsored a measure that would have abolished the death penalty in that state. He now serves as Executive Director of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights.

“Before my father's murder I had evolved a set of values that included a respect for life and an opposition to the death penalty. For me to change my beliefs because my father was murdered would only give more power to his killers, for they would then take not only his life but also his main legacy to me: the values he instilled. The same is true for society. If we let murderers turn us to murder, we give them too much power. They succeed in bringing us to their way of thinking and acting, and we become what we say we abhor.”

Links to more information:

<http://www.prospect.org/print/V11/19/lowenstein-t.html>

http://www.forusa.org/fellowship/mar-apr_03/sheffer.html

<http://pfadp.org/news/rennycushing.html>



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Robert Cushing with Renny