

THE STATE OF



TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

COMMUTATION

TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, on January 14, 1986, in the Criminal Court for our County of Shelby, Gaile Kirksey Owens, #109737, was convicted of Accessory Before the Fact to-wit, Murder First Degree (Indictment # 85-01174). The court imposed a sentence of death for this conviction; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's Constitution and statutory law gives the governor broad power to grant executive clemency, including the power to commute sentences; and

WHEREAS, this appears to me an extraordinary death penalty case in which the defendant admitted her involvement in the murder of her husband and attempted to accept the district attorney's conditional offer of life imprisonment. This acceptance was ineffective only because of her co-defendant's refusal to accept such an agreement; and

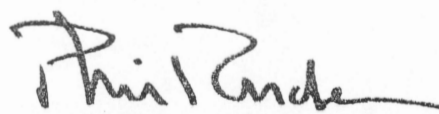
WHEREAS, this case also raises unresolved allegations of domestic violence and emotional abuse that, while inconclusive, raise the possibility that the defendant suffered from the form of post-traumatic stress disorder then known as battered woman syndrome; and

WHEREAS, this case therefore appears to me a proper one for the exercise of executive clemency.

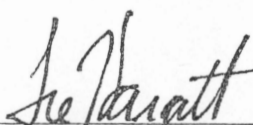
NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 6 of the Tennessee Constitution and by the laws of the State of Tennessee, do hereby commute the sentence imposed upon Gaile Kirksey Owens for her January 14, 1986, conviction of Accessory Before the Fact to-wit, Murder First Degree (Indictment #85-01174), from death to life in prison, as though that sentence had been imposed on January 15, 1986, for the commission of this offense. Ms. Owens shall be granted one thousand (1,000) days of prisoner sentence reduction credits for the period of time she has served up to this date, and from this date forward she shall be eligible to earn sentence credits in accordance with state law and Department of Correction policy.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed at Nashville, Tennessee on this the 14th day of July 2010.





GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE