



## **Meting Out Justice for Child Predators**

Another child falls victim to a predator. When will it end? I hope it ends for David Onstott, Roger P. Bentley and John Evander Couey right here. The end of the line for these sex offenders turned child murderers *must* be minimally life imprisonment or the death penalty!

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> John Evander Couey abducted and murdered 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford in Homosassa, Florida. On March 24<sup>th</sup> Robert P Bentley abducted and murdered 10-year-old Jetseta Marrie Gage in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. On April 9<sup>th</sup> David Onstott abducted and murdered 13-year-old Sarah Lunde in Ruskin, Florida. In six weeks, men who should *still* have been incarcerated murdered three beautiful young girls.

Not only do these scumbags steal beautiful, innocent children, they steal a community's trust and faith. Their families are left wondering for days what happened to their beloved child— a torture like no other- while the predator roams free. Where is *their* torture? Hopefully, it lies ahead after a jury swiftly convicts them and recommends the harshest punishment possible.

Houston is not without its analogs. Just a few short years ago Gary Dale Cox trolled the streets of Houston looking for children to abduct. He was successful along the I-10 corridor, not only here, but also in San Antonio and Slidell, Louisiana. Cox, too, had violated his parole as a registered sex offender, by failing to report to the parole office. It's possible, had the system worked well, that three little girls could have been saved from his victimization. At least those girls were found alive but one was held for *thirteen* days. Cox committed suicide rather than face a trial – perhaps his only bit of humanity, saving the victimized girls from having to testify in court.

Two years ago, in April 2003, President Bush signed into law the Child Protect of 2003. I had the good fortune to attend the White House Ceremony marking this auspicious event. Now I would like to have the pleasure of truly watching the enactment of this legislation carried out in a courtroom, with the harshest penalties possible, delivered to John Evander Couey, Roger P. Bentley and David Onstott. These men must never be free again – ever!

Let's put an end to the victimization and slaughter, of our most innocent, by these serial sex offenders. Let's commit ourselves to keeping children safe and predators in prison. Let's dole out the maximum sentence to child sex offenders. Let's remember Jessica Lunsford, Jetseta Marrie Gage and Sarah Lunde.

We must *all* work together to stop this list from growing longer.

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