

June 17, 2018

President of the United States
Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20500

RE: Letter in support of clemency for Michelle West

Dear Mr. President,

This letter of appeal for clemency for Michelle West comes from one who deems it one of the most honorable experiences of my 88 years of what I gratefully accept as a life-time of a truly privileged person. Privileged because of the gift of two very remarkably loving and inspiring parents, Dr. Frederick W. Rice, MD, Ob/Gyn, whose professional life was truly dedicated to assisting disadvantaged and abused women during the the depression years in New York City (1928-the 1930's) (but before and after, until his death at 68 in 1948.).

Our mother spent her professional life as Professor of American History at Hunter College of CCUNY, specializing in African American History, on which her dissertation for Columbia University discussed the American Catholic Opinion on the Slavery Controversy. I include these remarks as a general background to my own early and continuing education in the formation of my values, concerns and goals in life.

I was able to meet up with Michelle West while detained in a Federal Correctional Facility for conscientiously acting to oppose and expose the US government's illegal and immoral production, development, testing, storage and threats to use nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Michelle at this time, March 2014, I gradually learned, had been serving two life sentences plus fifty years in Danbury Federal Women's Prison. Along with 59 other women from Danbury, Michelle had also recently been moved to the one-room dormitory at Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Gradually I learned by observation that Michelle was uniquely wise, kind, trusted, respected and a gentle woman. She worked in the Associate Warden's office, a privileged job among the available few, because of these obvious traits, and because of her impeccable record of conduct over the decades she spent in Danbury.

We 'bunked' near to each other. I could well observe the pattern of her days. It always began with a faithful prayer and phone call with her daughter from whom she was separated at the age of ten, 26 years ago. After her work assignment in the administrative area of the detention center, her time was often given to paging through fashion magazines for information to send to her daughter, a qualified and practicing wardrobe stylist. Much time was given just to be available to

the many women who came to receive her wise much appreciated counsel. She also taught a parenting class to the ladies in the dorm.

I must add that I hope and pray that these pictures of Michelle I have come to know, honor and love deeply, will in some way describe who she really is, and be of influence for those who have the opportunity of bringing about her release. It will surely benefit those in prisons around the country, as I know that her long experience in the system has made her an expert for enlightening the task of making these facilities more reconstructive places of confinement for society at large.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Megan Rice

Sister Megan Rice

cc: Jared Kushner