

To All Alaskans:

My name is Yvette Jack DeBlois, I am Thomas Jack Jr.'s oldest sister. I grew up with my brother in Hoonah Alaska before moving away to attend college, eventually obtaining a Masters degree in Social Work from Temple University in Philadelphia. I currently reside in Washington D.C. with my family.

Thomas and I have three sisters who also grew up with us in Hoonah. My parents, Thomas and Christine Jack, continue to reside in Hoonah.

I wanted to write a letter to accompany David's letter to provide a personal perspective on this heartbreaking injustice against my baby brother.

From the beginning anyone who knows my brother knows the allegations against him were wrong. It has been almost 11 years since they took our brother away from us. We face another holiday season without Thomas. We sat down for another Thanksgiving dinner with thoughts of him in prison. And now Christmas will be here in a just few short weeks. And we will sit down for our meal, and again he will sit down for his in prison.

The pain in my parent's hearts and ours never lessens. The hopelessness we feel is consuming at times. My brother also at times feels hopeless. However, there are times Thomas feels positive and he talk about fishing and climbing mountains again with his cousins and nephews when he is released. He talks of getting out to help take care of my parents. My parents are now in their late 70's. The only wish they have during the holiday seasons over the last 11 years is to have my brother under their roof again Christmas morning.

I'm asking anyone reading this letter to close your eyes and try to imagine the one male member of your family that you love the most. Now imagine that precious loved one sitting in Lemon Creek Correctional facility. This is our reality.

Every family member in our family knows of a victim of the type of crime that my brother was wrongly convicted of. If anyone of us thought that he did anything close to the allegations we would not fight for him. This is not a case of turning a blind eye because he is our brother. No, this is us knowing he is innocent based on clear evidence, as summarized in David's article, and attending the trials.

I was in Juneau for the first trial and I "knew" that there was no way Thomas was going to be convicted! I wasn't even concerned the jury who were not his "peers" would convict him. However, we got a hung jury, and we were devastated! Then the judge stacked the deck against my brother Thomas and rushed to the second trial knowing the new lawyer did not have adequate time to prepare! Again, I ask you, what if this was your baby brother, uncle, father or SON!

We continue to ask ourselves every holiday season how this could have happened to our brother. There are times after talking with him on the phone I can hardly breathe due to the pain. It's much worse on the rare times I get to return to Alaska to visit him in prison. There I get to hug him and see with my own eyes that he is unharmed.

The State of Alaska has robbed my brother of the last 11 years. Thomas should be married and raising a family of his own. But that's not the case. Thomas' reality is that he sits in prison because the "system" "felt" he was guilty. Not because they had evidence or eye witnesses. They convicted him because they "could". Thomas was a "win" for a new prosecutor, and yet another "native boy" from a village they thought "probably" did it. Is this the justice you want for your son or brother? Well it's the justice we got for my brother. Thomas was sucked into the "justice system" and spit out! Right into a prison cell. For 10 years my brother has been utilizing all his rights and fighting back against the State of Alaska. However, each time the system fights back and Thomas is denied justice. But now we have David.

David has spent hundreds of hours on this case investigating and writing about Thomas' case. He has been able to demonstrate very clearly that my brother Thomas was wrongfully convicted. Yet, the State

of Alaska has decided that they are not willing to admit they were wrong. They are willing to allow an innocent man, Thomas to waste away in prison when the right thing to do is set my brother free today.

David's letter has suggested some specific ideas on how to get involved in various ways, please, please for the sake of my brother, help us to set him free.

Imagine, you can help us to prevent Thomas from spending another Thanksgiving, Christmas or birthday in prison by getting involved and taking action!

Is there any hope the state of Alaska will do the right thing? Maybe, with the bright light of truth and public involvement it's possible.

We continue to pray someone within the State government will soften their heart and do the right thing and set my brother Thomas free.

Thank you,

Yvette DeBlois