



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

December 30, 2021

Ashley Dowell
Executive Director
Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole
3056 Elder St.
Boise, ID 83705

Dear Director Dowell,

I hereby advise you that I return without my approval the recommendation to commute Gerald Pizzuto's death sentences for the cruel and calculated 1985 murders of Berta and Del Herndon in Idaho County.

The Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole voted 4-3 to commute Pizzuto's death sentences. Pursuant to Article IV, Section 7 of the Idaho Constitution and Section 20-1016, Idaho Code, the Commission's written decision constitutes a recommendation to the Governor. After a thorough review of the voluminous records submitted during the November 30 public hearing, I conclude commuting Pizzuto's death sentences would be inappropriate.

Pizzuto was convicted of robbery and four grisly murders, all committed within a year after his release from prison in Michigan for rape. He killed Rita Drury, a grandmother, after binding her hands and feet, brutally assaulting her, and violating her in a disgusting and humiliating manner. He fatally shot John Ray Jones in the face at near point-blank range. At Ruby Meadows in Idaho, Pizzuto bound Berta and Del, gruesomely bludgeoned their heads repeatedly, and concealed their bodies in a shallow grave. But for a brave Idaho jury and devoted law enforcement, Pizzuto would have certainly left countless other victims in his wake.

The severity of Pizzuto's brutal, senseless, and indiscriminate killing spree strongly warrants against commutation. Therefore, I respectfully deny the Commission's recommendation so that the lawful and just sentences for the murders of Berta and Del can be fully carried out as ordered by the court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho