

# Tookie

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around the world and watching TV. He rejected the traditional last meal before his execution. Williams died still denying that he had murdered four people.

He was convicted of killing Albert L. Owens, 26, a clerk at a 7-Eleven store on Feb. 28, 1979. He was convicted of killing Yen-I Yang, 76; his wife, Tsai-Shai Yang, 63, and their daughter, Yee-Chen Lin, 43, during a motel robbery in south Los Angeles on March 11, 1979. A total of \$220 was taken in both robberies.

A jury in Torrance, Calif., convicted Williams of murder in 1981, leading to his capital punishment sentence. By 1992, Williams said he had changed and regretted his gangster past. He issued an open apology for his actions on April 13, 1997, a copy of which appears on his website, www.tookie.com.

"Twenty-five years ago when I created the Crips youth gang with Raymond Lee Washington in South Central Los Angeles. I never imagined Crips membership would one day spread throughout California, would spread to much of the rest of the nation and to cities in South Africa, where Crips copycat gangs have formed. I also didn't expect the Crips to end up ruining the lives of so many young people, especially young Black men who have hurt other young Black men. Raymond was murdered in 1979. But if he were here, I believe he would be as troubled as I am by the Crips legacy."

Williams continued, "So today I apologize to you all — the children of America and South Africa — who must cope every day with dangerous street gangs. I no longer participate in the so-called gangster lifestyle, and I deeply regret that I ever did."

The former gang leader

wrote a series of children's books with Barbara Becnel urging young people to stay away from drugs. Williams brokered gang truces in Los Angeles and New Jersey. Williams' life was the subject of a movie, "Redemption," starring Jamie Foxx.

On death row, Williams became a cause celebre attracting supporters as diverse as South African Bishop Desmond Tutu and rapper Snoop Dogg, as well as Jesse Jackson and NAACP President Bruce Gordon.

Earlier Monday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued a strongly worded 5-page statement rejecting Williams' request for clemency.

"During the early morning hours of February 28, 1979, Williams and three others went on a robbery spree," Schwarzenegger stated. "Around 4 a.m., they entered a 7-Eleven store where Albert Owens was working by himself. Here, Williams, armed with his pump-action shotgun, ordered Owens to a backroom and shot him twice in the back while he lay face down on the floor. Williams and his accomplices made off with about \$120 from the store's cash register. After leaving the 7-Eleven store, Williams told the others that he killed Albert Owens because he did not want any witnesses. Later that morning, Williams recounted shooting Albert Owens, saying 'You should have heard the way he sounded when I shot him.' Williams then made a growling noise and laughed for five to six minutes."

The governor continued: "On March 11, 1979, less than two weeks later, Williams, again armed with his shotgun, robbed a family-operated motel and shot and killed three members of the family: (1) the father, Yen-I Yang, who was shot once in the torso and once in the arm while he was laying on a

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— California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

sofa; (2) the mother, Tsai-Shai Lin, who was shot once in the abdomen and once in the back; and (3) the daughter, Yee-Chen Lin, who was shot once in her face. For these murders, Williams made away with approximately \$100 in cash. Williams also told others about the details of these murders and referred to the victims as "Buddha-heads."

Schwarzenegger noted that over the 24 years that Williams had been on death row, his claims about an unfair trial had been "thoroughly reviewed" by state and federal courts.

"Based on the cumulative weight of the evidence, there is no reason to second guess the jury's decision of guilt or raise significant doubts or serious reservations about Williams' convictions and

death sentence," he wrote.

The governor questioned the effectiveness of Williams' anti-gang efforts.

"Williams has written books that instruct readers to avoid the gang lifestyle and to stay out of prison," he noted. "In 1996, a Tookie Speaks Out Against Gang Violence children's book series was published. In 1998, 'Life in Prison' was published. In 2004, Williams published a memoir entitled 'Blue Rage, Black Redemption.' He also recently (since 1995) tried to preach a message of gang avoidance and peacemaking, including a protocol for street peace to be used by opposing gangs."

"It's hard to assess the effect of such efforts in concrete terms, but the continued pervasiveness of gang violence leads one to question

the efficacy of Williams' message. Williams co-founded the Crips, a notorious gang that has contributed and continues to contribute to predatory and exploitative violence."

Finally, Schwarzenegger turned to the issue of redemption.

"Is Williams' redemption complete and sincere, or is it just a hollow promise?" Schwarzenegger asked. "Stanley Williams insists he is innocent, and that he will not and should not apologize or otherwise atone for the murders of the four victims in this case. Without an apology, atonement for these senseless and brutal killings, there can be no redemption. In this case, the one thing that would be the clearest indication of complete remorse and full redemption is the one thing Williams will not do."

When Williams' lawyers made a second appeal to the governor late Monday night, he, also, rejected that plea.

At a news conference Monday, Jonathan Harris, one of Williams' lawyers, said: "Our petition for clem-

ency was based on Stanley Williams' personal redemption, his good works and positive impact that those works have had on thousands and thousands of kids across this country and on Williams' ability to continue to do those good works going forward."

He added, "I have spent many hours with Stanley Williams and I refuse to accept that Stanley Williams' redemption is not genuine."

Williams, among the 651 people on death row, became the 12th person executed since California reinstated the death penalty in 1978. Authorities said one of his sons, Stanley Williams Jr., who is serving a 16-year murder sentence in High Desert State Prison in California, was notified of his father's death.

Fred Jackson, who works with Internet Project for Street Peace, Williams' gang intervention project, said Williams spoke with an Oakland support group Sunday. According to Jackson, "He said he doesn't fear death — he doesn't fear what he does not know."

## Your Horoscope Says... Dec. 15-21

### ARIES

Make sure that you let your generous impulses rule your week. There is a great reward waiting for you and all you have to do to qualify is to think of the welfare of those you love more than your own personal welfare.

Soul Affirmation: I find a new way to get to a familiar destination.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 25, 43

### TAURUS

Get in touch with those who can help you achieve your goals. Place the accent on initiative. Romance, passion and work are singing in harmony this week. Peace should be your motto. Seek peace, even when the price seems a little too high.

Soul Affirmation: Cooperation is my middle name.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 19, 23

### GEMINI

Look at your business or employment situation as a game. You have the skills to win that game if you don't take everything that happens too seriously. Spend some time with children. They can help you see the world as you need to see it this week.

Soul Affirmation: I am guided by my instincts this week in relation to romance.

Lucky Numbers: 16, 24, 46

### CANCER

Make sure that your friends know that you are using your gift for gab as entertainment and that you are not trying to create confusion in anyone's mind. Talking your way into love will be especially easy. Your lover might care more about what's behind the

talk. Be honest.

Soul Affirmation: I use the pictures inside my head to bring cheer to others.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 36, 48

### LEO

Use your communications skills to make a great impression on influential people. An issue that you've been avoiding can now be resolved. This week the vibes are good with the in crowd.

Soul Affirmation: I decorate my surroundings to reflect my inner being.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 28, 45

### VIRGO

Love is a learning experience for you this week. What you know about love can be used on someone rich and powerful this week. This week, matters of the heart and business matters coincide.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy hearing about the dreams of others.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 41, 55

### LIBRA

You're learning a valuable lesson about money. Remember the money you have is more satisfying than the money you seek. Save! Seek support and encouragement from a friend.

Soul Affirmation: My love of friendship will pay dividends.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 23, 40

### SCORPIO

Be a public speaker this week. Any subject you choose is ripe for the "rap." People listen. They are impressed. Watch out for a jealous soul. Don't neglect the home front. Be especially kind to older people this week.

Soul Affirmation: My happy spirit draws good things to me.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 33, 47

### SAGITTARIUS

You face a big challenge that allows you to take big steps toward a goal. You don't have to be fearful. Compromise with a partner. Lots of new and great ideas will pop into your mind this week. Use them wisely.

Soul Affirmation: I take the long view and see beautiful things ahead.

Lucky Numbers: 22, 29, 30

### CAPRICORN

Emphasize friendships. Give, and the gift itself turns into the reward. This week is excellent for making important decisions and for reaching agreements with others. Look for love from an unlikely person.

Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for who I am.

Lucky Numbers: 21, 25, 28

### AQUARIUS

Apply for that mortgage or home improvement loan. Direct action works best in all things this week. Set personal ambitions aside. Enjoy romance in all its forms. Slow down and let love catch up with you.

Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for who I am.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 25, 46

### PISCES

Enhance your appeal by starting a diet or exercise program. A serious health benefit will be a side effect. Be especially flexible in your dealings with others this week. Suppress your need to feel that you are right.

Soul Affirmation: I am conscious of my body and enjoy how it feels to be me.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 44, 51

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