

**Statement from the Family of Martin Tankleff  
September 7, 2004**

It was exactly 16 years ago, on September 7, 1988, that we lost our relatives Seymour, Arlene and Marty Tankleff. It was a Tuesday after Labor Day, just like today, the first day of what should have been Marty's senior year in high school. Instead, Marty awoke to find his parents in pools of blood, their throats severed and their skulls bashed in, his mother dead, his father soon to be. Within hours, a Suffolk County detective took Marty's life, using deceit and trickery to coerce a false confession out of a traumatized teenager.

We believe history will record the Marty Tankleff case not as the tragedy of one individual or of one family, but as an epic tale of corruption, conspiracy and cover-up in the Suffolk County criminal justice system. Marty was in the wrong place at the wrong time, guilty only of waking up at the scene of the crime that morning. Marty Tankleff could be any of us.

From the beginning, any impartial observer familiar with the facts of this case—and with the sordid history of the Suffolk County criminal justice system to which it will be forever linked—has come to the same conclusion: Marty didn't do it. That's where we find ourselves, 16 years later: Marty didn't do it, and everybody knows it. Yet, Marty remains in prison.

And because Marty remains in prison, murderers roam free on the streets. In a bizarre hearing currently underway in a Riverhead courtroom, the Suffolk County District Attorney is fighting hard, very hard, too hard, to keep Marty in jail and the truth from coming out. There has been more than enough evidence presented by Marty's defense team to arrest the real murderers of Seymour and Arlene.

We are grateful that after 16 years, the truth is finally coming to light. It's all there in the public record today, and any impartial observer who reviews it will conclude that Marty is innocent and it's time to end this charade.

On September 7, 1988, Seymour, Arlene and Marty had their lives taken. But Marty is still alive, and we will not rest until we bring him back to life.

**Marcella Alt Falbee, Ron Falbee, Carol Falbee, Carolyn Falbee, Suzanne Falbee, Marianne McClure, Mike McClure, Jennifer Cooney, Dan Cooney, Norman Tankleff, Ruth Tankleff, Autumn Tankleff-Asness, Howard Asness, Jeff Tankleff, Shelley Tankleff, Landon Asness, Steve Tankleff, Lynn Kadan, Larry Kadan, Adam Kadan, David Kadan, Kristi McClure, Doug McClure, Joy Picirrillo, Tom Picirrillo, Kevin Picirrillo, Harold Alt**

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