



# Corrections U.S.A.

*The National Corrections Voice for Professionals by Professionals*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CORRECTIONS USA DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE FOR FALLEN HERO'S FAMILY

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Highland Hills, Ohio: William Hesson, a 39 year old hero-Correctional Officer, military personnel, and dedicated family man was murdered in the line of duty at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility in Highland Hills, Ohio. He is the first officer to be killed during an assault in the 28 year history of the juvenile detention facility. His murder was the result of a severe beating at the hands of inmates.

The county and administration have added to the trauma of the family by refusing to pay any death in the line of duty benefits to his surviving pregnant spouse and three children. It is the administration's position that Officer Hesson had not served as a Correctional Officer long enough for his family to be entitled to these benefits.

Corrections USA Chairman, Jim Baiardi, called the actions of the administration despicable and incomprehensible. "When Officer Hesson was asked to wear a badge to protect public safety, he was never told that seconds, minutes, or days mattered, he was just told to do his job. Correctional Officers are heroes the minute they put on their badge. The Officers deserve to be treated as heroes and their families deserve to be compensated for their loss, regardless of how long the officer has been on the job. Officer Hesson died a hero, doing his job while protecting the public."

Corrections USA has vowed to provide assistance to the Hesson family and call on the administration and county government to do the right thing. They should take care of Officer Hesson's family because he paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life protecting the public. Corrections USA is spearheading a national campaign amongst Corrections groups to assist the family of Officer Hesson and to right this wrong.

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