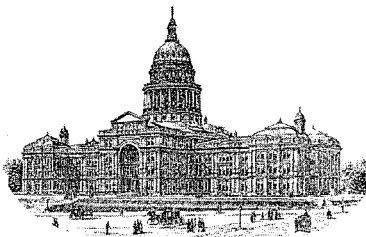


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## COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE

**PETE P. GALLEGO**  
CHAIRMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 2, 2010

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### **Chairman Pete P. Gallego Lauds Timothy Cole's Pardon**

**AUSTIN** - Texas House Criminal Jurisprudence Chairman Pete P. Gallego (D - Alpine) praised the posthumous pardon of Timothy Cole.

"This day has been a long time in coming," said Chairman Gallego. "Not only was an innocent man jailed, but then died in prison before his name was cleared. The pardon is a small token of redemption for Mr. Cole and his family."

Convicted in 1985 of a series of rapes in Lubbock, Texas, Mr. Cole proclaimed his innocence from the very beginning. Despite the lack of physical evidence, an alibi and another man's confession, he remained jailed until his death of an asthma attack in 1999. DNA tests later proved Mr. Cole's innocence of the crimes.

The family's struggle to clear Mr. Cole's name has been long and arduous. Along the way, they also led the fight for others wrongly convicted of crimes. Their efforts not only resulted in the posthumous pardon, but also shined light on this serious issue in the Texas criminal justice system.

"The House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and Texas House of Representatives passed legislation that established the Timothy Cole Advisory Panel, and another which significantly improved the compensation for those wrongly convicted," remarked Gallego. "The leadership of Mr. Cole's family on innocence issues resulted in significant policy changes in Texas."

The Texas House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee is made up of 11 State Representatives. The Committee focuses on public policy and legislation affecting criminal law, criminal procedure and revision or amendment of the Penal Code in the State of Texas.

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