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Gov. Christie: John's Story Is The Reason I Believe That No Life Is Disposable

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Tags: [Addiction Taskforce](#)

Gov. Christie: John's Story Is The Reason I Believe That No Life Is...



Transcript:

Governor Christie: John's story is the reason why I believe what I do, that no life is disposable. No life is beyond redemption and just because you engaged in criminality at one part of your life, just because you've fallen victim to the addiction, the disease of addiction rather, that your life can be redeemed. John is an example of that. And it's for that reason today that I'm signing a pardon for John. It's not just as a symbol of a life that's been redeemed and reclaimed and lived well, but also to send a broader message of the example that he sets for our society. I want to thank him, for his courage and his commitment. It's not easy to be here and to take this step, but what I told him when we met was that I really thought that giving his story a broader stage as uncomfortable as it might be for him a little bit personally would be helping to touch even more lives than he's touched already.

John Berry: I didn't know 28 years 1 month and 22 days ago, that I would be standing here with the Governor of the State of New Jersey and it is an honor and a pleasure. This is the first time I have ever met him so I want that to be noted because the conversation that we just had, he just shared some things with me and I knew some of those things from the press, about him. I really feel like the state of New Jersey is very fortunate to have a governor like Governor Christie because he is very knowledgeable about the concept of the disease of addiction and with that information I think that he would be able to assist a lot of other folks like myself that was, so to speak, bit by the same dog as some other folks that was bit by, that suffer from that disease.

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