

# Former minister executed

By Ron Word  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STARKE, Fla. — Paul Hill, a former minister who said he ordered an abortion doctor and his bodyguard to save the lives of unborn babies, was executed Wednesday by injection. He was the first person put to death in the United States for anti-abortion violence.

Hill, 49, was condemned for the July 29, 1994, shooting deaths of Dr. John Bayard Britton and his bodyguard, retired Air Force Lt. Col. James Herman Barrett, and the founding of Barrett's wife outside the Ladies Center in Pensacola.

Death penalty opponents and others had urged Bush to halt the execution, some of them blaming Hill's death would make him a martyr and unleash more violence against abortion clinics. The governor said he would not be "bullied" into stopping the execution.

"Paul Hill is a dangerous psychopath," said Marti McKenzie, spokeswoman for Dr. James S. Pendergraft, who runs clinics in Orlando, Ocala, Tampa and Fort Lauderdale.

Hill, a former Presbyterian minister, had final visits with his wife and son, his mother and father and two sisters. His two daughters visited him earlier in

the week. His religious adviser stayed with him until just before his execution.

Since losing his automatic appeals, Hill has not fought his execution and insisted up to the day before his death that he would be forgiven by God for killing to save the unborn.

*"I expect a great reward in heaven. I am looking forward to glory."*

— Paul Hill  
former minister, received death penalty

"I expect a great reward in heaven," he said in an interview Tuesday, during which he was cheerful, often smiling. "I am looking forward to glory."

Hill suggested others should take up his violent cause.

Fringe elements of the anti-abortion movement that condone clinic violence have invited attacks on Web sites that proclaim Hill as a martyr. Members of the mainstream anti-abortion move-

ment have denounced the calls for violence.

Most abortion clinics in Florida reached by The Associated Press on Wednesday declined comment. McKenzie said security is high at their clinics, but they are particularly cautious now because of Hill's call for people to follow his actions.

"The bottom line is when you work in the industry you're aware those people are out there every single day," she said.

Inspired by the 1993 shooting death of another abortion doctor in Pensacola, Hill purchased a shotgun and went to a gun range to practice. The morning of the murder, as Britton and the Barretts entered the clinic parking lot, Hill shot James Barrett in the head and upper body. He then reloaded and fired again, hitting Britton in the head and arm. June Barrett was wounded in the arm.

Hill put down the shotgun because he did not want to get shot by police and walked away. When officers arrested him without incident, he said, "I know one thing, no innocent babies are going to be killed in that clinic today."

Hill was the 57th inmate executed since Florida resumed executions in 1979 and the third in Florida this year.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Agassi beats Dent

NEW YORK (AP) — After surviving two rain delays, Andre Agassi defeated unseeded American Taylor Dent 6-7 (5), 6-1, 7-5, at the U.S. Open, with Dent retiring because of tightness in his lower right hamstring in the fourth-round match.

#### Bush moves ahead with UN resolution

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is consulting with other countries on a new Security Council resolution that would give the United Nations a leading role in building an Iraqi government and transform the military presence in Iraq to a multinational force.

Powell agreed Tuesday to move forward with a new U.N. resolution in an effort to attract more foreign contributions to postwar Iraq, three senior administration officials said on condition of anonymity.

Powell and his aides will begin talking about the new resolution in coming days with key members of the Security Council whose support is critical: close ally Britain, as well as France and Russia.

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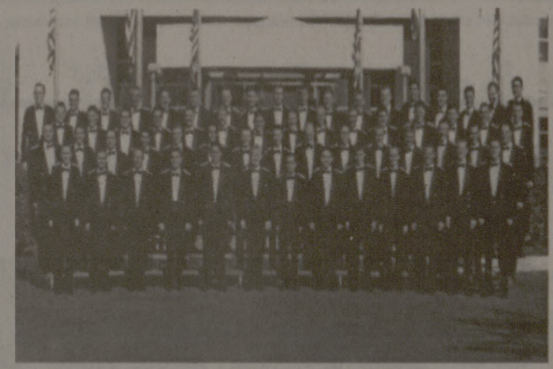


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