



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

September 2, 2015

For information: Crystal Archdeacon, 503-378-2678, Crystal.L.Archdeacon@doc.state.or.us
Betty Bernt, 503-945-9426, Betty.A.Bernt@doc.state.or.us

Oregon State Penitentiary reports inmate death

At approximately 6:20 a.m. on September 2, Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) inmate Ronald Anthony Drennen, 69, died unexpectedly in the infirmary. Oregon State Police confirmed the death was due to natural causes.

Drennen entered Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) custody on January 16, 2013, on one count of assault in the third degree out of Clackamas County. His earliest release date was September 22, 2016.

Next of kin has been notified. No other details are available at this time.

OSP is Oregon's only maximum-security prison, located in Salem, and houses over 2,000 male inmates. OSP is surrounded by a 25-foot-high wall with 10 towers. The facility has multiple special housing units including death row, disciplinary segregation, behavioral health, intermediate care housing, and an infirmary (with hospice) with 24-hour nursing care. OSP participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises including the furniture factory, laundry, metal shop, and contact center. It provides a range of correctional programs and services including education, work-based education, inmate work crews, and pre-release services. OSP was established in 1866 and, until 1959, was Oregon's only prison.

####