BREAKING NEWS

*WELCOME "OG" JEFFREY EICHEN TO CRONIC MAG TEAM !*

# 420 OG of The Month

HEMP, HEMP, HOORAY

## INTERVIEWING HEROES OF THE CANNABIS MOVEMENT

BY JEFF EICHEN

# AMY ROLSTON POVAH "THE CAN-DO CLEMENCY"

## - FORMERLY A VICTIM OF THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS/PEOPLE -

**Jeff:** *Take us back to the beginning. How did your journey start, and when did the 420 space become part of your story?*

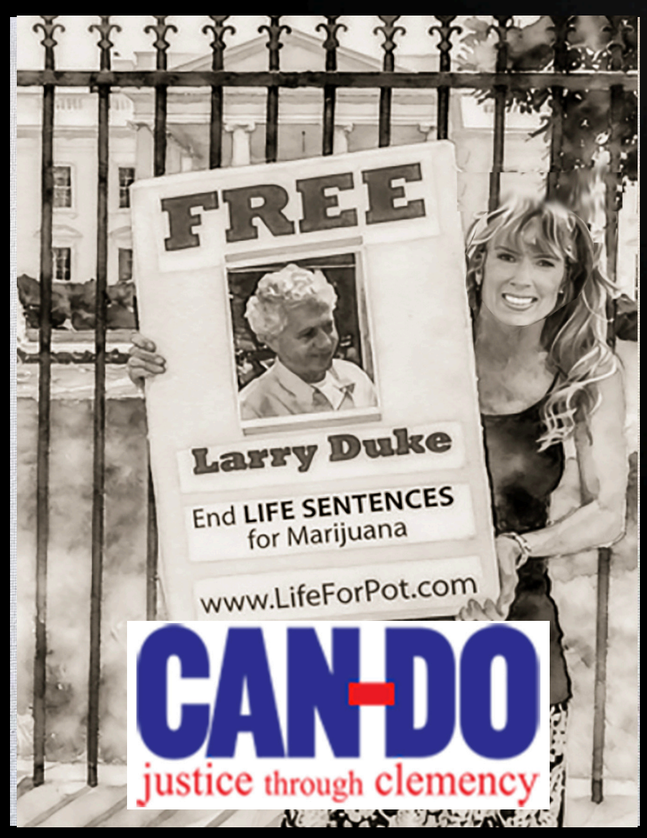
**Amy:** My journey didn't start in the 420 space in any romantic way. It started in a federal courtroom in Waco, Texas in 1991, where I was convicted of conspiracy for actions attributed almost entirely to my then-husband's operation — a man who never even took the stand against me. I was 28 with no prior record and handed a 24-year sentence. Behind those walls I met cannabis lifers and women with life sentences the country had simply decided to forget. Once I got out, bringing them home became my mission.

**JEFF:** *You served nine years before President Clinton commuted your sentence in 2000. How did that experience plant the seeds for CAN-DO?*

**Amy:** Prison strips away everything except who you actually are. While I was still incarcerated I launched a letter-writing campaign from my cell that eventually brought seventeen members of Congress to my side. Before I walked out, I had already filed a clemency petition for my cellmate, Lau Ching Chin — a woman who received 17 years for passing a single phone message for a boyfriend. That is what the conspiracy law does: it captures the least culpable and punishes them most. CAN-DO was born from that moment. I didn't walk out thinking about freedom. I walked out thinking about everyone I was leaving behind.

**JEFF:** *Walk us through the progress and where the fight to bring the 420 POWs home stands today.*

**Amy:** The progress has been real and hard-won. CAN-DO has over 100 people on our 'Now Free' page. But I want to be honest: we are nowhere near done. There are still people in federal cages for cannabis offenses that are perfectly legal in the states where they occurred. We continue corresponding personally with hundreds of incarcerated individuals —




*THE WHITE HOUSE*

**Amy Povah** Amy Ralston Povah is a true OG in the fight for drug war justice — a clemency recipient who turned her own 24-year federal sentence into a lifelong mission. As founder of the CAN-DO Foundation, she has helped more than 100 nonviolent drug offenders win their freedom.

every person gets a response, every case matters. The most direct path to freedom remains clemency. Courts have largely closed their doors. Congress moves slowly. But the President's pen can reach anyone with a single signature. We must keep demanding that every administration use that power.

***JEFF:*** *Has moving cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III actually meant anything for the 420 POWs?*

***Amy:*** She didn't forget anybody. I knew too many people with no one fighting for them — so I became that person. If history records that Amy Povah was a pain in the neck to every administration that tried to ignore this issue, I will consider that a compliment.

***JEFF:*** *Last question, from the heart — what keeps Amy Povah going?*

**AMY:** The letters keep me going. People inside who've watched the world legalize the very thing they're serving life for — and they still write to me in hope, not bitterness. I know what it feels like to be counted out, and I know what it feels like when someone refuses to let that happen — because that's what saved my life. As long as one person remains behind bars for a nonviolent cannabis offense, I will have a reason to get up in the morning.

**"OG"= s**omeone dedicated to a cause and movement for life... **Jeff:** "IN MY LIFETIME..."


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