

By Elizabeth Crisp, USA TODAY Updated 5/10/2011 9:14 PM | [88](#) | [6](#) | [Share](#)

[Reprints & Permissions](#)

PARCHMAN, Miss. — Benny Joe Stevens, 52, became the first death row inmate in Mississippi to be executed with a new lethal injection cocktail Tuesday evening.



By Charles Smith, AP

Activists gather Tuesday in front of the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss., to protest the execution of convicted killer Benny Joe Stevens.

Ads by Google

Protect Your Organization
The Link Between Software Quality & Business Risk-Free Forester Report
www.coverity.com/software-quality

Drinking Bottles
Safe, Recyclable packaging From O-T: Discover Why Glass Is For Life
GlassIsLife.com

Find The Car You Want
Find A Car In Your Area.
View New & Used Local Listings Now!
AutoTrader.com

Stevens, who was convicted in 1999 of killing four people, was pronounced dead at 6:22 p.m. (local time) at the State Penitentiary at Parchman.

"What I did was terrible," he said just before a mix of pentobarbital, Pavulon and potassium chloride was pumped into his veins. "Ain't no forgiveness."

Stevens fatally shot his ex-wife, Glenda Reid; her husband, Wesley Reid; her 11-year-old son, Dylan Lee; and Lee's 10-year-old friend Heath Pounds at the Reid's trailer in rural Marion County in October 1998 in a dispute over child support payments.

He also shot his then-16-year-old daughter, Erica Stevens, who survived the attack. Now 28, she witnessed her father's execution Tuesday along with several relatives. She wept during the execution but did not speak to the media after.

"While this does not bring closure to our pain, it is a step in the healing process," said [Mike Lee](#), brother of Glenda Reid.

Officials reported no problems in using the new lethal injection cocktail.

Mississippi previously used sodium thiopental — one of the most common execution drugs in the U.S. — but a nationwide shortage has forced some states to consider

other options.

Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner Chris Epps said officials recognized the shortage and looked to Oklahoma and Texas, which have recently used the new cocktail.

"Oklahoma has done two executions (with it), and they didn't have any problems," he said.

The drug switch was the point of at least one appeal on Stevens' behalf, but the Mississippi Supreme Court on Thursday refused to consider an appeal of a lower judge's ruling that the move did not violate state law.

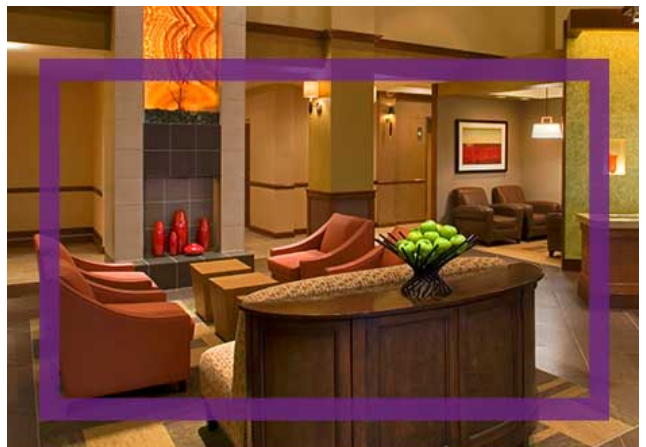
Mississippi has scheduled two more executions this month with the new drug: Rodney Gray's on May 17 and Robert Simon Jr.'s on May 24.

Gray, 38, was sentenced to death for the 1994 rape and murder of a 79-year-old Loulin woman.

Simon, 47, was condemned for killing a Quitman County family shortly after they arrived home from church services in 1990.

The new drug costs \$400 more per execution, bringing the total to about \$11,400 each, Epps said.

Crisp also reports for *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Miss.

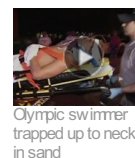


NEVER *settle*. At Hyatt Place, you'll find everything you need to travel without disruption.

[LEARN MORE](#) ▸

HYATT PLACE
welcome to a different place®

Videos you may be interested in



Olympic swimmer trapped up to neck in sand



1st appearance for full face transplant patient



53 yr Old Mom Looks 30

Powered by [Taboola](#)
[More videos](#)

Most Popular

Stories

- California district can't afford to use new \$105M...
- Should Casey Anthony testify at her murder trial?
- Hazards of boating while intoxicated often ignored

Videos

- Demand fast growing for pilots
- Talking Tech | Final Cut Pro X
- FDA issues new graphic cigarette labels

Photos

- New cigarette labels feature graphic images
- Arizona Wildfires
- One determined Ranger

Most Popular E-mail Newsletter

Sign up to get:

Top viewed stories, photo galleries and community posts of the day

Most popular right now:

Update: [Roger Ebert didn't intend to be 'cruel'](#)



Sign up for USA TODAY E-mail newsletters



For more information about [reprints & permissions](#), visit our [FAQ's](#). To report corrections and clarifications, contact Standards Editor [Brent Jones](#). For publication consideration in the newspaper, send comments to letters@usatoday.com. Include name, phone number, city and state for verification. To view our corrections, go to corrections.usatoday.com.

You might also be interested in:

[U.S. puts al-Qaeda boss on notice](#) (USATODAY.com in News)

[AP sources: Pakistanis tip off militants again](#) (USATODAY.com in News)

[Giffords' husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, to retire from NASA](#) (USATODAY.com in On Deadline)

[London police arrest teenager for alleged hacking in possible Sony Playstation link](#) - (USATODAY.com in On Deadline)

Selected for you by a sponsor:

[Singer Evan Emory Back On YouTube: Web Redemption or Bad Timing?](#) (Reel/SEO)

We've updated the Conversation Guidelines. Changes include a brief review of the moderation process and an explanation on how to use the "Report Abuse" button. [Read more.](#)

What Do You Think?

To leave a comment, you need to sign up.

Sign up

Log in

71 comments

Sort: Oldest to Newest

USAImploding 9:13 PM on May 10, 2011 Score: 24 The new drug costs \$400 more per execution, bringing the total to about \$11,400 each wow, that's cheap considering since 1999 he cost the US taxpayers approximately 18 million dollars. Just another reason for my name. USA...USA...USA...USA	Report Abuse
bamzai 9:13 PM on May 10, 2011 Score: 16 \$11,400 to execute someone? Agree or disagree with capital punishment, but this is fiscally irresponsible. 1 reply	Report Abuse
trezdude 9:14 PM on May 10, 2011 Score: 40 Gray and Simon committed their crimes 17 and 21 years ago, That's too long to wait to kill the b a \$ t a r d s.	Report Abuse
Cryptoe 9:18 PM on May 10, 2011 Score: 45 Abullet costs about a quarter apiece.. we can get a four-man firing squad (I am sure that there are enough people who would volunteer for free) and save \$11, 399.. not to mention millions of dollars in legal fees.. by speeding up the process (reduce appeals by requiring DNA evidence and multiple reliable witnesses) and using the firing squad to get rid of these murderers...	Report Abuse
Tea Party Nation 9:25 PM on May 10, 2011 Score: 1 YES!!! ~ TPN ~ 1 reply	Report Abuse
Pits and McGoo 9:26 PM on May 10, 2011 Score: -16 So much for the pro-life righties.	Report Abuse
Tea Party Nation 9:29 PM on May 10, 2011 Score: 0 McGoo, you are the pits. I'm excited about this news. Don't let costs or shortages stop progress! ~ TPN ~	Report Abuse
The Worldover 9:35 PM on May 10, 2011 Score: 17 We've come to the point where we're concerned about what kind of drug we use to kill people? I'm ambivalent towards capital punishment, but if it's used I have to think that the method is not a big deal.....	Report Abuse

Beatty v. Brewer, No. 11-99007 archived on June 21, 2011

 Tea Party Nation 9:38 PM on May 10, 2011 The Worldover, the method does make a difference. I prefer slow and painful. Others don't want use such tactics. Sad, but true story nonetheless. However, we agree, price and method should not stop progress. ~ TPN ~	Score: 0      Report Abuse
 The Worldover 9:40 PM on May 10, 2011 Tea Party Nation The Worldover, the method does make a difference. I prefer slow and painful. Others don't want use such tactics. Sad, but true story nonetheless. However, we agree, price and method should not stop progress. ~ TPN ~ ----- Slow and painful - huh? Are you Christian?	Score: 2      Report Abuse

Next ▶ ▶|

powered by Pluck

Ads by Google

Meet Mature Singles

Join the Top Mature Dating Network & Meet Singles Online Today!

www.SeniorPeopleMeet.com

Iran Human Rights

A searchable database for right abuses in the Islamic Republic

www.iranrights.org

USA TODAY Digital Services

[Mobile](#) | [E-Newsletters](#) | [RSS](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [Widgets](#) | [e-Edition](#) | [USA TODAY for iPad](#) | [Kindle Edition](#) | [Print Edition](#) | [Subscribe to paper](#)
[Reprints & Permissions](#) | [USA TODAY Topics](#) | [Report an Index](#) | [Corrections/Clarifications](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Archives](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Travel](#) | [Money](#) | [Sports](#) | [Life](#) | [Tech](#) | [Weather](#)

Visit our Partners: [USA WEEKEND](#) | [USA TODAY LIVE](#) | [Sports Weekly](#) | [Education](#) | [Space.com](#) | [Travel Tips](#)

[Contact us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Pressroom](#) | [Media Lounge](#) | [Jobs](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Reprints/Permissions](#) | [Privacy Notice/Your California Privacy Rights](#) | [Ad Choices](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Site Index](#)

© 2011 USA TODAY, a division of Gannett Co. Inc.

A GANNETT COMPANY

 Share
  Recommend

 Tweet
 31


Fan and follow us:
 



Sponsored by:
 

HIDE