

**Artist Statement: 26th Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners**

Artist Name: <sup>\*</sup> David L. Forbes II

In January of 2020, I was talking to my lovely Grandmother, Karen E. Forbes about a few ideas for art work and one idea was "Constitution Cemetery". On February 10, 2020 my Grandmother past away at the age of 80. So I waited until March 3rd to start and have been working away at it until COVID-19 hit and stopped for a bit. The painting was pushed to the back burner in November of 2020 and picked back up, working on the painting on June 2, 2021. I spent 4 to 6 hours a day working on it and some times I find myself just stairing into the painting, thinking or looking to add more detail.

You have two Gargoyles that have come to life and are setting on either side of the gate to the cemetery, guarding it from the PEOPLE. The red one represents our Government as it feeds off the PEOPLE. The gray one represents our Law Enforcement who seems to go out of their way to torment and even kill the PEOPLE. Buried in the cemetery are the PEOPLE'S Bill Of Rights; Amend. 1 Free Speech, Amend. 2 Right to Bear Arms, Amend. 5 Right to Due Process of the Law, Amend. 8 Free from Cruel & Unusual Punishment, Amend. 9 Unenumerated Rights, Amend. 13 Slavery Abolished and Amend. 15 Race No Bar To Voting Rights... These rights seem to be more for the evil Gargoyles of our world and not for the PEOPLE and are slowly being silenced!

Please edit your Artist Statement to the space provided.

Respectfully,

*David L. Forbes II*