

Dead Man Cooking: Last Meals on Death Row

In the United States, capital punishment is a legal form of punishment for certain crimes, including murder. When a person is sentenced to death, they are typically given the opportunity to choose a last meal before their execution. These last meals can range from simple to extravagant, and they often reflect the inmate's personality or cultural beliefs.

One of the most famous last meals was that of Timothy McVeigh, who was executed in 2001 for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing. McVeigh's last meal consisted of two pints of mint chocolate chip ice cream.



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by Nicholas Booth

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Another famous last meal was that of Aileen Wuornos, who was executed in 2002 for murdering six men. Wuornos's last meal consisted of a steak, baked potato, green beans, and apple pie.

While some last meals are simple, others are quite extravagant. In 2011, John Allen Muhammad, who was executed for his role in the Beltway sniper attacks, ordered a last meal of lobster tail, steak, shrimp cocktail, and pecan pie.

The last meal is often seen as a way for the inmate to have one last taste of freedom before their execution. It can also be a way for the inmate to express their personality or cultural beliefs. In some cases, the last meal can even be a way for the inmate to make a statement.

For example, in 2007, Ronnie Lee Gardner, who was executed for murdering a bartender, ordered a last meal of seven cheeseburgers, a large order of french fries, and a strawberry milkshake. Gardner's last meal was seen by some as a way to protest the death penalty.

The last meal is a complex and often controversial tradition. Some people believe that it is a cruel and unusual punishment to deny an inmate their last request. Others believe that it is a way for the inmate to have one last taste of freedom before their execution.

Whatever your beliefs, there is no denying that the last meal is a fascinating tradition that provides a glimpse into the lives of those who have been sentenced to death.

The History of Last Meals

The tradition of last meals dates back to the early days of capital punishment. In the 18th century, inmates in England were typically given a simple meal of bread and water before their execution. However, over time,

the tradition of last meals began to change. In the United States, inmates were eventually given the opportunity to choose their own last meal.

The first recorded instance of an inmate choosing their own last meal was in 1829. The inmate, a man named James Copeland, was executed for murder in New York City. Copeland's last meal consisted of a steak, potatoes, and vegetables.

Over time, the tradition of last meals became more elaborate. In the 19th century, inmates began to order more extravagant meals, such as lobster, steak, and champagne. In some cases, inmates even ordered meals that were not available in the prison. For example, in 1894, an inmate named Charles Guiteau ordered a last meal of quail on toast, oysters, and champagne.

The tradition of last meals continued to evolve in the 20th century. In the 1960s, inmates began to order meals that reflected their cultural beliefs. For example, in 1967, an inmate named George Jackson ordered a last meal of soul food.

In the 1970s, the tradition of last meals began to come under fire. Some people argued that it was cruel and unusual punishment to deny an inmate their last request. Others argued that it was a way for the inmate to have one last taste of freedom before their execution.

Despite the controversy, the tradition of last meals continues to this day. Inmates are still given the opportunity to choose their own last meal before their execution.

The Last Meal Controversy

The last meal is a controversial tradition. Some people believe that it is a cruel and unusual punishment to deny an inmate their last request. Others believe that it is a way for the inmate to have one last taste of freedom before their execution.

There are several arguments against the last meal tradition. Some people argue that it is a waste of taxpayer money. Others argue that it is a way for the inmate to manipulate the system. For example, some inmates have ordered last meals that are not available in the prison, or that are so large that they cannot be eaten in one sitting.

Despite the controversy, the last meal tradition continues to this day. Inmates are still given the opportunity to choose their own last meal before their execution.

The last meal is a complex and often controversial tradition. It is a tradition that has been around for centuries, and it is likely to continue for many years to come.

Whether you believe that the last meal is a cruel and unusual punishment or a way for the inmate to have one last taste of freedom, there is no denying that it is a fascinating tradition. It is a tradition that provides a glimpse into the lives of those who have been sentenced to death.

Here are some additional facts about last meals:

- The most common last meal request is fried chicken.
- The most expensive last meal on record was ordered by a man named Thomas Silverstein in 1998. Silverstein's last meal consisted of a

lobster tail, a steak, a baked potato, and a slice of apple pie. The meal cost \$75.

- The most unusual last meal on record was ordered by a man named John Wayne Gacy in 1994. Gacy's last meal consisted of 12 fried shrimp, a bucket of KFC fried chicken, a pound of french fries, and a pint of strawberry ice cream.

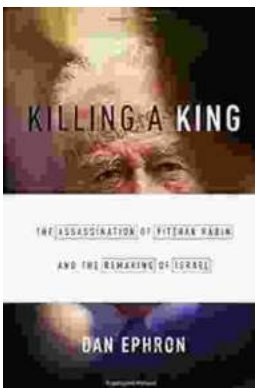


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