

# The George Ryan scandal: 10 years since conviction



## George Ryan convicted

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(Chuck Berman / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on April 17, 2006, after he and co-defendant Larry Warner were found guilty on all counts in their federal corruption trial in Chicago.

On April 17, 2006, former Gov. George Ryan was convicted of 18 felony corruption charges and later sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison. The scandal that led to Ryan's downfall was set off by a crash that killed the six youngest children of Scott and Janet Willis. The resulting federal investigation revealed a licenses-for-bribes scheme inside the secretary of state's office, when Ryan was head of the agency.



## George Ryan convicted

(Chuck Berman / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on April 17, 2006, after he and co-defendant Larry Warner were found guilty on all counts in their federal corruption trial in Chicago.

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## The Willis tragedy

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(William Meyer / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

The charred remains of Scott and Janet Willis' van sits on the side of Interstate 94 near Milwaukee after a part fell off a truck causing a fire that killed six of their children Nov. 8, 1994. The fiery crash led to an investigation that eventually led to the conviction of Gov. George Ryan in federal court.



## The Willis tragedy

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(Roberto Borea / Associated Press)

Scitt Willis recounts on Nov. 16, 1994, how he escaped from his van after it burst into flames on an expressway near Milwaukee after hitting a part that had fallen off a truck. Willis and his wife, Janet, suffered burns and six of their nine children were killed in the accident. The driver of the truck had paid to get an Illinois license while George Ryan was secretary of state and his office was in charge of the driver's license program.



## Charges reach Ryan's inner circle

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(Chuck Berman / Chicago Tribune)

Scott Lassar, U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announces a six-count indictment against Dean Bauer, former inspector general for the secretary of state, for allegedly covering up corruption and bribery in the secretary of state's office when George Ryan was secretary. Also at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse news conference, at rear, from left: Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick M. Collins, FBI Associate Special Agent-in-Charge Walter B. Stowe Jr., Assistant U.S. Attorney Zachary Fardon and Ida Gillis, inspector in charge of the Northern Illinois Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.



## Ryan makes statement on Bauer indictment

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(Phil Greer / Chicago Tribune)

Gov. George Ryan took no questions but made a statement outside the Executive Mansion on Feb. 1, 2000, in Springfield. He said he was sad about the indictment of Dean Bauer for allegedly covering up corruption and bribery in the secretary of state's office.



## Dean Bauer arraigned

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(Phil Greer / Chicago Tribune)

Attorney Ed Genson, left, and Dean Bauer, former inspector general for the secretary of state's office, make their way out of the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on Feb. 9, 2000, after Bauer was arraigned in federal court in the Operation Safe Roads investigation.



## Ryan feels fallout from scandal in former office

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(Phil Velasquez / Chicago Tribune)

Gov. George Ryan tells the media he will not answer questions on April 3, 2002, about the indictments of two of his former aides, Scott Fawell and Richard Juliano. Ryan was accepting an award from the Illinois Arts Alliance Foundation at the Four Seasons Hotel. He addressed the media later.





## Richard Juliano pleads guilty

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(Stephanie Sinclair / Chicago Tribune)

Richard Juliano, 35, pleaded guilty April 18, 2002, to one count of mail fraud as part of an agreement to help federal prosecutors build their case against Scott Fawell, George Ryan's former chief of staff.



## Ryan aide Scott Fawell sentenced

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(E. Jason Wambsgans / Chicago Tribune)

Scott Fawell, former aide to George Ryan, speaks to reporters June 30, 2003, after being sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison for racketeering and other offenses in the secretary of state's office scandal.



## Ryan indicted in Operation Safe Road

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(José Moré / Chicago Tribune)

U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, left, holds a news conference Dec. 17, 2003, about the indictment of former Gov. George Ryan in the Operation Safe Road investigation. Next to Fitzgerald is Assistant U.S. Attorney Pat Collins. Far right is Anita Davidson, inspector in charge of the U.S. Postal Service.



## Ryan jury

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(Terrence Antonio James / Chicago Tribune)

A sketch shows the jury in the trial of former Illinois Gov. George Ryan. Two replacement jurors are top row at left and bottom row third from right.



## George Ryan entering court

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(Phil Velasquez / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan prepares to enter the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in November 2005 to hear another prosecution witness. Ryan faces charges of steering state business to cronies for bribes, of gutting corruption-fighting efforts to protect political fundraising and of misusing state resources for political gain.



## Scott Fawell testimony

(Cheryl A. Cook / Chicago Tribune)

A sketch shows Scott Fawell, former aide to George Ryan, breaking down on the stand during Ryan's corruption trial. Falwell had been previously convicted.

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## Another day of testimony

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(David Klobucar / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan, left, along with his wife Lura Lynn and attorney Dan Webb, right, arrive at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse for another day in Ryan's corruption trial Jan. 17, 2006.



## Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer

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(Carol Renaud / WGN)

Sketch of U.S. District Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer as former Illinois Gov. George Ryan and co-defendant Larry Warner are found guilty on all counts April 17, 2006, in their federal corruption trial in Chicago.





## George Ryan found guilty

(Nancy Stone / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan talks to the media at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on April 17, 2006, after he and co-defendant Larry Warner were found guilty on all counts in their federal corruption trial in Chicago.

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## Dan Webb and George Ryan

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(Nancy Stone / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan, left, and his attorney Dan Webb talk to the media at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on April 17, 2006, after Ryan and co-defendant Larry Warner were found guilty on all counts in their federal corruption trial in Chicago.



## Larry Warner convicted

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(Charles Osgood / Chicago Tribune)

Larry Warner leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on April 17, 2006. Warner and former Gov. George Ryan were found guilty on all counts in their federal corruption trial in Chicago.



## George Ryan addresses court

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(Cheryl A. Cook / Chicago Tribune)

A sketch shows former Gov. George Ryan addressing U.S. District Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer before being sentenced to 6 1/2 years in his racketeering and fraud trial on Sept. 6, 2006, in Chicago. Ryan, 72, was convicted April 17 of racketeering conspiracy, mail fraud and other offenses while he was secretary of state from 1991 to 1999. He was governor of Illinois for four years after that.



## 6 1/2-year term

(Charles Cherney / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan and his wife, Lura Lynn, leave the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago, after Ryan was sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison.

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## Sentencing questions

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(Zbigniew Bzdak / Chicago Tribune)

Dan Webb, attorney for former Gov. George Ryan, talks with reporters after Ryan's sentencing at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on Sept. 7, 2006, in Chicago. Ryan was sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison.



## Off to prison

(Zbigniew Bzdak / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan, with his wife, Lura Lynn, at his side, leaves his home in Kankakee, Ill., on Nov. 7, 2007, to head to federal prison.

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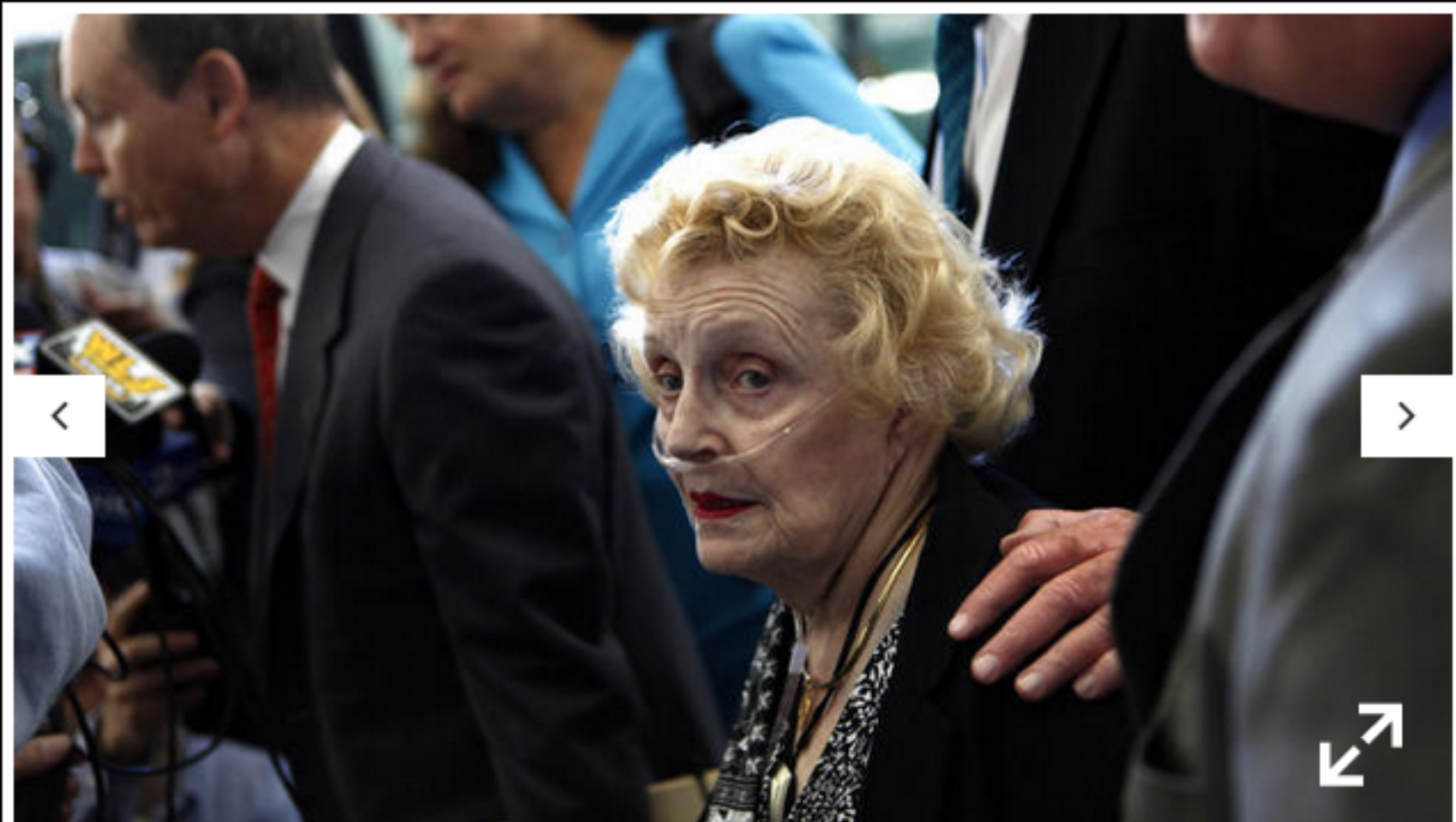
## See you later

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(Chuck Berman / Chicago Tribune)

A grim-faced former Gov. Jim Thompson, left, is greeted by former Gov. George Ryan, a friend, on Nov. 7, 2007, as he exits the Original Pancake House restaurant in Chicago. Ryan was headed to federal prison in Oxford, Wis., to begin serving his sentence.





## Plea for release

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(Jos M. Osorio / Chicago Tribune)

Lura Lynn Ryan, wife of former Illinois Gov. George Ryan, stands with attorneys Dan Webb, left at microphone, and former Gov. Jim Thompson, hand on her shoulder, on Sept. 8, 2010, as they talk to the media at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse regarding the former governor.



## Petition denied

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(Zbigniew Bzdak / Chicago Tribune)

George Ryan Jr., son of former Gov. George Ryan, helps his mother, Lura Lynn Ryan, as she returns home in Kankakee, Ill., after a federal court denied a petition for the release of her husband Dec. 21, 2010.

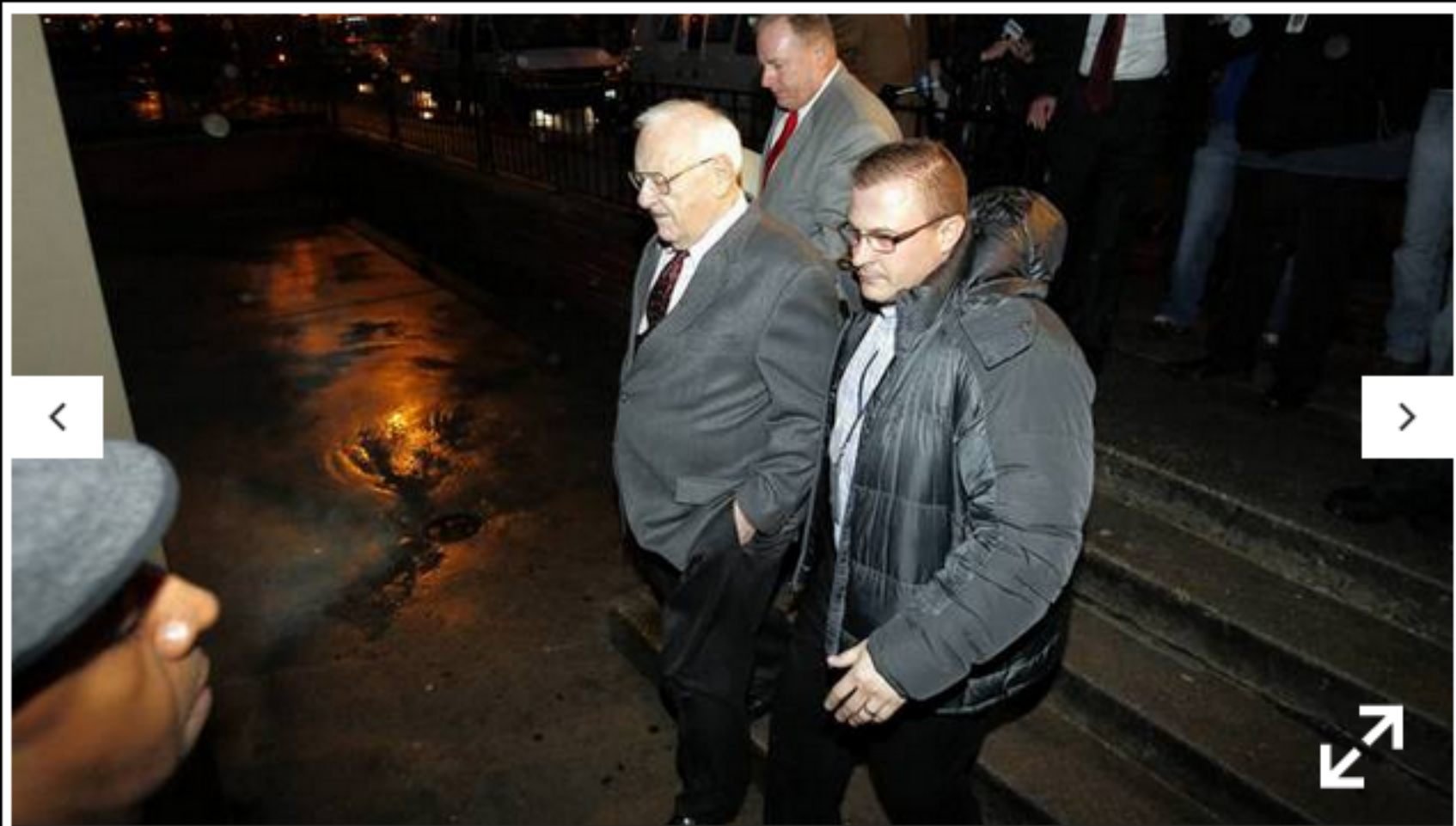


## Lura Lynn Ryan dies

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(David Pierini / Chicago Tribune)

Pictures and flowers are displayed at Life Story Funeral Home in Kankakee, Ill., for former First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan, Friday, July 1, 2011. Lura Lynn Ryan died after a battle with cancer, spending her final days fighting for the release of her imprisoned husband, former Gov. George Ryan. George Ryan was granted a six-hour release and was at his wife's side when she died.

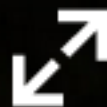


## Out of prison

(Jose M. Osorio / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan walks to a halfway house in Chicago on Jan. 30, 2013, after being released from prison.

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## Halfway house arrival

(Jose M. Osorio / Chicago Tribune)

Former Gov. George Ryan, second from right, walks to a halfway house in Chicago on Jan. 30, 2013, after being released from prison.

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