



BY **BILL CLUTTER**

# PI Lynn-Marie Carty: Her work may free Tommy Zeigler from Florida's Death Row



Tommy Zeigler and PI Lynn-Marie Carty

**T**ommy Zeigler, who turned 71 in July, has spent more than 40 years on Florida's death row. He was among the first people in the U.S. to be sentenced to death after capital punishment was re-instated in 1976. Over the years, there have been doubts stirred about whether the Florida furniture store owner killed his wife, his in-laws, and a citrus worker on Christmas Eve 1975.

For the last five years, Tampa Bay area PI Lynn-Marie Carty has been on a mission to prove Zeigler's innocence.

In 2000, the former Mrs. Florida contestant and public relations professional, embarked on a new career, becoming a licensed private investigator. She quickly established herself as a top PI, earning a reputation for reuniting adopted birth families for the past 16 years through her website ReunitePeople.com. But it is the case of Tommy Zeigler that has given her the most satisfaction as a private investigator.

Before she became a PI, Lynn-Marie's father, Fred Carty, asked her to watch a video on the wrongfully convicted. He encouraged her to do something to help the innocent. "My father spent much of his time working for social justice. I am blessed that my father planted that seed in my heart and soul," Lynn-Marie said. Her father passed away last fall after a long illness. He was proud of her work on the Zeigler case. "On my last visit with my father he said, 'Tell them to let Tommy out of there.'"