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## **Ward Bird and Chad Evans: wrongfully convicted "heroes"**

By [morrisonbonpasse](#) - 01/28/2011 - 11:24 am

Ward Bird and Chad Evans share three characteristics:

1. They both were recongized as "heroes" by the Union Leader for saving lives in the 1990's, and
2. They both were persuaded not to testify at their own trials, and
3. They both were wrongfully convicted.

Chad Evans was wrongfully convicted in 2001 of assaulting and murdering Kassidy Bortner in 2000. For more information about his case see [www.chadevanswronglyconvicted.org](http://www.chadevanswronglyconvicted.org).

The juries in both cases saw only part of the evidence. In Chad's case, the jury did not see photographs of the apparently healthy Kassidy only 20 days before she died. The jury did not know of DNA tests performed by the Maine State Police, showing that the blood under Kassidy's fingernails (about which the jury also did not know) belonged to her. The jury did not know that Chad had encouraged Kassidy's mother to see a doctor for a wart on one finger and for her apparent foot-inward problem. Kassidy did go to the doctor on August 10, 2000 and September 11, 2000, but the jury did not know of these appointments and it convicted him of abuse beginning in August. Chad has served almost 10 years in prison for something he didn't do, and has asked the States of Maine and New Hampshire to reinvestigate the case.



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