



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Contact: Mark Plowden
803-734-3670
mplowden@scag.gov

Silent Witness Ceremony Honored 2010 Victims of Fatal Domestic Violence

Ceremony Held During First Week Of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Columbia, SC – Attorney General Alan Wilson led participants through the annual Silent Witness Domestic Violence ceremony that was held today on the south steps of the State House in Columbia.

The ceremony marked the first week of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

During the solemn ceremony, Attorney General Wilson called the names of thirty-four (34) women and ten (10) men from across the state who lost their lives as the result of domestic violence in the previous year.

Victims' family members, friends, or volunteers carried a life-sized silhouette representing the victim to the State House steps as a bell was rung for each victim. An additional forty-fifth (45th) silhouette represented the potential unknown victims.

“This is a sad and solemn occasion to commemorate the lives that were lost in the past year to domestic violence,” said Wilson.

“This is a cycle of violence that must be broken in our state,” said Wilson. “All too often, not only is the life of the victim lost, but in ways, we lose the children who grow up in a home where domestic violence is taking place.”

Domestic violence survivors, officials and victims' advocates made special remarks to highlight the problem of violence against women.

A statistical breakdown for each county is available at
<http://www.scattorneygeneral.com/fraud/cdv/index.html> .

2011 SILENT WITNESS ROLL CALL

Aiken County

Brandi Jordan (23 years old). Ms. Jordan was shot and killed on July 7, 2010. Ms. Jordan's boyfriend, Travis Miller, shot her in the chest with a 12-gauge shotgun, then argued with his father before shooting and killing himself.

Anderson County

Shayron Dooley (38 years old). Ms. Dooley was shot and killed on September 16, 2010. Ms. Dooley was shot in the head by her ex-husband, Christopher Look. Mr. Look then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. The couple divorced the prior year but were trying to repair their relationship for the sake of their 7-year-old daughter. Ms. Dooley is survived by her daughter.

Patricia Jones (20 years old). Ms. Jones was stabbed and killed on August 10, 2010. Ms. Jones was stabbed multiple times in the neck by her boyfriend, Mauricio Weber. He was arrested and charged with murder and possession of a knife during the commission of a violent crime. Mr. Weber is currently awaiting trial.

Kathy Valkenburg (38 years old). Ms. Valkenburg was shot and killed on June 27, 2010. According to a witness, Ms. Valkenburg's boyfriend, Larry Stovall, came to her house and shot her at her kitchen table. Afterward he threatened to kill the witness, then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. Ms. Valkenburg was trying to end the relationship with Mr. Stovall. Ms. Valkenburg is survived by two sons.

Charleston County

Robert Fontaine (58 years old). Mr. Fontaine was stabbed and killed on March 29, 2010. Mr. Fontaine was stabbed in the chest by his wife, Nancy Fontaine. Mrs. Fontaine told responding officers that she stabbed her husband following an argument in the driveway of their home. She was arrested and charged with murder. Mrs. Fontaine is currently awaiting trial. Mr. Fontaine is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Marilyn Skinner (62 years old). Mrs. Skinner was shot and killed on July 13, 2010. Mrs. Skinner was shot by her husband, Bruce Skinner, at their residence. He then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. Neighbors of the couple said there were no signs of trouble between them before the shootings occurred. Mrs. Skinner is survived by two sons and two daughters.

Cherokee County

Suzanne Bridges (41 years old). Ms. Bridges was shot and killed around April 16, 2010. Ms. Bridges was shot by her ex-boyfriend, Cass Smith. Ms. Bridges, her current boyfriend, and her 15-year-old daughter were ambushed in her home by Mr. Smith, who shot and killed all three victims through an open window. Mr. Smith confessed to the killings and said he was upset after the breakup of his relationship with Ms. Bridges. He is currently awaiting trial on three charges of murder. Ms. Bridges is survived by three sons.

Winter Wingard (26 years old). Ms. Wingard was beaten to death on December 2, 2010. Ms. Wingard was beaten in the head, strangled, and stabbed by her ex-boyfriend, Joey Clark. Ms. Wingard left her mother's home that night to go to the store and never returned. Her body was later discovered on the side of a remote road in Cherokee County. Mr. Clark was arrested and charged with murder. He is currently awaiting trial.

Chesterfield County

Bellanie Clyburn (27 years old). Ms. Clyburn was stabbed to death on January 1, 2010. Ms. Clyburn died as the result of multiple stab wounds inflicted by the father of her child, Thomas Stewart. Mr. Stewart forced his way into Ms. Clyburn's apartment, where she tried to fight him off. Ms. Clyburn's young sons were present and witnessed Mr. Stewart repeatedly stab her. Ms. Clyburn had applied for an order of protection against Mr. Stewart just three days earlier. Mr. Stewart was charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial. Ms. Clyburn is survived by two sons.

Colleton County

Consuela Drayton (30 years old). Ms. Drayton was shot and killed on September 18, 2010. Ms. Drayton was shot in the front yard of a friend's home by the father of her children, Terrance Kelly. Ms. Drayton had taken her children to the friend's home to get away from Mr. Kelly. Mr. Kelly then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. Ms. Drayton is survived by three children.

Rose Meyers (57 years old). Mrs. Meyers was shot and killed on July 25, 2010. Mrs. Meyers died as the result of a gunshot wound to the head that was inflicted by her husband, Eli Meyers. Mr. Meyers called 911 to report that he had shot his wife and himself. Mr. Meyers survived and was arrested and charged with murder. He is currently awaiting trial.

Darlington County

Crystal Strickland (30 years old). Ms. Strickland was shot and killed on September 30, 2010. Ms. Strickland was shot by the father of her child, Jamie Williamson, in the parking lot of a convenience store in front of their 5-year-old. Mr. Williamson fled the scene and left their child with his wounded mother. Mr. Williamson later committed suicide.

Olukemi Wheeler (29 years old). Ms. Wheeler was shot and killed on October 25, 2010. Ms. Wheeler died as the result of a gunshot wound to the chest inflicted by the father of her child, Willie Smith, Jr. Mr. Smith told police that he had left Ms. Wheeler at a cookout they were attending, and she was upset and began driving around to find him. During an argument outside her car, Mr. Smith claimed Ms. Wheeler grabbed his gun and it accidentally went off. He tried to hide her body before calling law enforcement. Mr. Smith was charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial. Ms. Wheeler is survived by a son and three daughters.

Dorchester County

Treva Benton (36 years old). Mrs. Benton was shot and killed on October 30, 2010. Mrs. Benton was shot by her estranged husband, Randal Benton. Employees at a restaurant saw a male and female fighting in the parking lot outside. The employees witnessed Mr. Benton shoot his wife multiple times. He then threatened the employees before trying to escape. Mr. Benton was arrested and is awaiting trial for murder. Mrs. Benton is survived by two sons.

Georgetown County

Sheina Wilson (29 years old). Ms. Wilson was shot and killed on January 13, 2010. Ms. Wilson died as the result of gunshot wounds inflicted by her ex-boyfriend, Keith Bryant. Mr. Bryant chased and shot Ms. Wilson in the parking lot of a convenience store. Ms. Wilson attempted to escape by getting into the passenger side of a customer's car and was shot as she did so. The customer drove her to a community center, where he called for help. Mr. Bryant continued to shoot at the car as it drove away. He later committed suicide in a standoff with police. Ms. Wilson is survived by two daughters and a son.

Greenville County

Jessica Anderson (36 years old). Ms. Anderson was shot and killed on June 1, 2010. Ms. Anderson's ex-boyfriend, Dennis Gibbs, shot her in the chest. Children in the home were awakened by an argument between Ms. Anderson and Mr. Gibbs. Mr. Gibbs shot Ms. Anderson before turning the gun on himself. Ms. Anderson's 14-year-old daughter was also injured in the shooting. Ms. Anderson is survived by a daughter and son.

Christine Baudas (48 years old). Ms. Baudas was killed on October 14, 2010. Police discovered the bodies of Ms. Baudas and her boyfriend, Nicky Vanpelt, in their home after a fire. Her two dogs were also killed in the fire. Investigators believe that the fire was intentionally set and that Ms. Baudas was likely killed by Mr. Vanpelt beforehand. The couple had been having financial problems before the incident.

Tracy Bazzle (45 years old). Mrs. Bazzle was shot to death on October 20, 2010. Mrs. Bazzle died from a gunshot wound to the chest by her estranged husband, James Bazzle. Mrs. Bazzle's mother and young daughter were outside the home and heard the gunshots. Mr. Bazzle told his daughter through the door that he had just shot her mother and that she should leave the house. He then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. Mrs. Bazzle is survived by her daughter.

Christine Crane (23 years old). Ms. Crane was stabbed and killed on July 26, 2010. Ms. Crane suffered multiple stab wounds inflicted by her boyfriend, Zacharia Pearson. Mr. Pearson was upset over their breakup and stabbed Ms. Crane with a kitchen knife, then attacked two other people in the home before fleeing. Ms. Crane ran from the residence to get help, but collapsed and died on a neighbor's porch. Mr. Pearson was arrested and is awaiting trial for murder. Ms. Crane is survived by a daughter.

Rachel Fielding (23 years old). Ms. Fielding was stabbed to death on March 31, 2010. Ms. Fielding suffered multiple stab wounds inflicted by her fiancé, Christopher Villafane. Neighbors heard the couple arguing in their apartment that morning. Mr. Villafane stabbed Ms. Fielding and then himself. He told police that two assailants had broken into their apartment, tied them up, and stabbed them, but his story

was not consistent with the physical evidence and investigators determined he committed the stabbings. Mr. Villafane died later at the hospital.

Natasha Kerns (28 years old). Ms. Kerns was shot and killed on July 10, 2010. Ms. Kerns' estranged husband, Willie Williams, came to her home and shot her through a window while she was on the phone with 911 asking for help because she was afraid of him. Mr. Williams then broke into the home and shot Ms. Kerns' boyfriend in front of her children. Mr. Williams had a history of domestic violence against Ms. Kerns, and witnesses indicate that she was in the process of getting a restraining order against him. He is charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial. Ms. Kerns is survived by a son and daughter.

Horry County

Tara Gore (33 years old). Ms. Gore was shot and killed on December 11, 2010. Ms. Gore died as the result of a single gunshot wound inflicted by her boyfriend, Sherman Evans. Mr. Evans had an extensive criminal history and a prior domestic violence conviction. He was arrested and is currently awaiting trial for murder. Ms. Gore is survived by a son.

Phyllis Monarch (49 years old). Mrs. Monarch was beaten to death on April 14, 2010. Daniel Monarch called the police that morning to report his wife missing after a jog. His statements to responding officers were inconsistent and a bloodstain was found in the home. A bloodhound tracking team located Mrs. Monarch's body in a ditch near the area. It was determined that she died from blunt force trauma to the head. Mr. Monarch was arrested and charged with murder. He died seven months later while awaiting trial. Mrs. Monarch is survived by a daughter.

Karen Williams (45 years old). Ms. Williams was strangled and killed on January 3, 2010. Ms. Williams was strangled to death by her boyfriend, Timothy Browder. Ms. Williams' son came home around 9 p.m. and found his mother lying on the floor beside her bed. It was determined she died several hours earlier from suffocation due to strangulation. Mr. Browder admitted to family members that he killed Ms. Williams, then later shot and killed himself. Ms. Williams is survived by a son.

Jasper County

Kyle Way (24 years old). Mr. Way was stabbed and killed on December 31, 2010. Mr. Way died as the result of a stab wound to the chest by his girlfriend, Tara Weber. After an argument, Ms. Weber stabbed Mr. Way in the chest with a kitchen knife. Ms. Weber then called 911. Officers arrived at the home to find EMS rendering medical services to Mr. Way. He died upon arrival at the hospital. Ms. Weber was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 23 years in prison. Mr. Way is survived by his sons.

Laurens County

Rodney Babb (32 years old). Mr. Babb was shot and killed on February 11, 2010. Mr. Babb was shot in the head by his girlfriend, Stacey Patton, or an accomplice. A day after his death, Ms. Patton and her friend were trying to dispose of his body when officers arrived at the home. The officers found Mr. Babb's body in the living room covered up with blankets. Ms. Patton and the accomplice were both

arrested and charged with murder. Ms. Patton is currently awaiting trial. Mr. Babb is survived by his daughter.

Lexington County

Jermaine Davis (37 years old). Mr. Davis was shot to death on September 22, 2010. Mr. Davis was shot and killed by his estranged wife, Shellie Davis. Mrs. Davis shot her husband in the back of the head and then drove to Charlotte to meet a friend. Mrs. Davis later shot herself in the head. Mr. and Mrs. Davis had been separated due to problems in the relationship. Mrs. Davis survived the gunshot and has been charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial. Mr. Davis is survived by four sons and a daughter.

Yadira Rodriguez (21 years old). Mrs. Rodriguez was stabbed and killed on April 26, 2010. Mrs. Rodriguez died as the result of multiple stab wounds to the torso by her husband, Gerardo Rodriguez. Witnesses stated that Mr. Rodriguez pushed Mrs. Rodriguez to the ground, then stabbed her with a kitchen knife numerous times. Weeks before her death, Mrs. Rodriguez had filed an incident report with police because Mr. Rodriguez beat her with a broom. After filing the report, Mrs. Rodriguez moved in with her sister to get away from her husband. Mr. Rodriguez was charged with murder and is still at large. Mrs. Rodriguez is survived by her son and daughter.

Marion County

Sharon Stackhouse (36 years old). Mrs. Stackhouse was stabbed to death on September 17, 2010. Mrs. Stackhouse was stabbed by her husband, Edward Stackhouse, in front of her 14-year-old son. Her son was also stabbed in the incident but was able to run next door to his aunt's house and get help. Mr. Stackhouse was arrested and charged with murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime. He is currently awaiting trial. Mrs. Stackhouse is survived by two sons.

Marlboro County

Tammy Norris (42 years old). Ms. Norris was shot on July 18, 2010 and died the next day. Ms. Norris was shot in the head by her boyfriend, George Cousins. She was transported to a hospital, where she later died. Mr. Cousins was arrested at the scene and charged with murder. He is currently awaiting trial. Ms. Norris is survived by one daughter and three sons.

Orangeburg County

Anthony Harrison (49 years old). Mr. Harrison was stabbed and killed on April 23, 2010. Mr. Harrison died as the result of multiple stab wounds inflicted by his girlfriend, Lynda Hueston. The couple had been drinking and arguing all day. The argument became physical inside the home and then moved to the backyard, where Mr. Harrison was stabbed in front of witnesses. Ms. Hueston was arrested and charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial.

Dorothy Mecke (53 years old). Mrs. Mecke was shot and killed on October 31, 2010. Mrs. Mecke died as the result of a gunshot wound inflicted by her husband, Carl Mecke Jr. EMS was sent in response to a 911 call by Mr. Mecke, who was threatening suicide. Upon arrival, respondents found Mrs. Mecke dead in her bed. Investigators said she may have been there for days. Police found a handwritten note, where Mr. Mecke said that he had cleaned his wife up and put her on the bed. He was charged with murder and is awaiting trial.

Pickens County

Cheryl Kinsela (47 years old). Mrs. Kinsela died of smoke inhalation on July 3, 2010. Mrs. Kinsela died as the result of smoke inhalation from a fire that investigators believe was intentionally set by her husband, Donald Kinsela. Mr. Kinsela set fire inside their storage building, trapping Mrs. Kinsela inside a closet in the building. Mr. Kinsela was arrested and charged with first degree arson and murder. He is currently awaiting trial. Mrs. Kinsela is survived by a daughter.

Richland County

Letitia Cason (38 years old). Mrs. Cason was shot and killed on September 22, 2010. Mrs. Cason's estranged husband, Charlie Cason, shot her multiple times in her upper body. Mrs. Cason fled to an adjacent apartment for safety after Mr. Cason broke in to her home. Mr. Cason was able to force his way inside the neighbor's apartment, where he shot Mrs. Cason to death in front of her son. Mr. Cason was arrested and charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial. Mrs. Cason is survived by a son.

Stephon Sibert (41 years old). Mr. Sibert was shot and killed on November 28, 2010. Mr. Sibert was shot in the head by his wife, Stephanie Sibert. A neighbor called 911 after Mrs. Sibert informed her that she had shot her husband. Officers found Mr. Sibert dead in the hallway of their home. The couple was having an argument when Mrs. Sibert shot Mr. Sibert. Mrs. Sibert was arrested and charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial.
Mr. Sibert is survived by a son.

Spartanburg County

Barry Jones (45 years old). Mr. Jones was shot and killed on February 14, 2010. Mr. Jones was shot in the chest by his girlfriend, Juanita Neal, as he tried to enter their home. She then called the police to report that she had shot Mr. Jones. Ms. Neal was later arrested and charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial. Mr. Jones is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Paul A. Manis (51 years old). Mr. Manis was shot and killed on October 21, 2010. Mr. Manis died as the result of a gunshot wound to the head by his wife, Caroline Manis. The shooting happened after an argument, but family members said they were unaware of any problems between the couple. There was no prior history of domestic violence in the marriage. Mrs. Manis was charged with murder and is awaiting trial. Mr. Manis is survived by a son and daughter.

Jeanette Martin (85 years old). Mrs. Martin was stabbed to death on June 1, 2010. Mrs. Martin was struck numerous times in the head with a hatchet by her husband, William Martin. The couple's grandson

went to the home to check on them and was met at the door by Mr. Martin, who told him that he thought he had just killed his wife. Mr. Martin later told police that he had argued with his wife about a power of attorney matter and decided to kill her because he was not able to take care of her anymore. He was arrested and charged with murder. Mr. Martin is currently awaiting trial.

Dawn Mims (36 years old). Mrs. Mims was shot and killed on April 27, 2010. Mrs. Mims was shot by her estranged husband, Arthur Mims. During the incident Mr. Mims also shot and injured his teenage stepdaughter. He then set the house on fire before fleeing to North Carolina. After a three-hour standoff with police, during which Mr. Mims tried to kill himself, he surrendered and was arrested. Mr. Mims pled guilty to murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Mrs. Mims is survived by two daughters.

Rebecca Rosa (21 years old). Ms. Rosa was stabbed to death on June 12, 2010. Ms. Rosa died as the result of multiple stab wounds inflicted by her ex-boyfriend and father of two of her children, Robert Lee Jr. The couple had a history of domestic violence incidents, and Ms. Rosa had stayed in shelters to try to get away from him. She also had recently sought an order of protection against Mr. Lee. Her body was discovered in a wooded area by relatives several days after her death. Mr. Lee eventually confessed to police that he killed her after an argument. He was arrested and is currently awaiting trial for murder. Ms. Rosa is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Sumter County

Walter Barfield (47 years old). Mr. Barfield was stabbed and killed on September 27, 2010. Mr. Barfield died after being stabbed in the throat by his girlfriend, Carolyn Pearson. The couple had been fighting that day, and there was a history of both domestic violence and mental illness in the relationship. Ms. Pearson was arrested and charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial.

Beverly Thomas (45 years old). Ms. Thomas was shot and killed on February 13, 2010. Ms. Thomas died as the result of a gunshot wound to the head by her boyfriend, Derrick Shannon. The couple had been arguing that day, but Mr. Shannon told investigators he was trying to clean his gun when it accidentally went off. He was arrested at the scene and charged with murder. Mr. Shannon had a long criminal history that included prior domestic violence. He was found guilty at trial of involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to five years in prison. Ms. Thomas is survived by her daughter.

Union County

Catina Beacham (37 years old). Ms. Beacham was shot and killed on October 29, 2010. Ms. Beacham was shot in the head by her boyfriend, Steven Littlejohn. Mr. Littlejohn had been arguing with Ms. Beacham at her home that evening. Ms. Beacham's two young sons discovered their mother bleeding in her bedroom when they checked on her the next morning. They ran to a neighbor's house to get help. Police reports state that Mr. Littlejohn had a prior violent felony conviction that prohibited him from owning a firearm. He was arrested and charged with Ms. Beacham's murder. Mr. Littlejohn pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to five years in prison. Ms. Beacham is survived by two sons.

York County

Melvin Roberts (79 years old). Mr. Roberts was strangled to death on February 4, 2010. Mr. Roberts died at his home from asphyxiation due to strangulation. He was also shot. Mr. Roberts' girlfriend, Julia Phillips, was questioned by police and gave statements about the scene that were inconsistent with the evidence. Investigators believe that an unknown accomplice killed Mr. Roberts and that Ms. Phillips conspired to have him killed. At the time of his death, Mr. Roberts was the longest serving member of the South Carolina Bar. Ms. Phillips was arrested and charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial. Mr. Roberts is survived by two sons.

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