



NEWS RELEASE

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Silent Witness Ceremony Honored 2013 Victims of Fatal Domestic Violence

Ceremony Held During First Week Of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

(Columbia, S.C.) 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 38 women and eight men from across the state who lost their lives as the result of domestic violence in the previous year.

South Carolina currently ranks second in the nation for women killed by men.

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 47th silhouette represented the potential unknown victims.

"It is important that we pause and remember each life that was lost to domestic violence in the past year," said Wilson.

"This ceremony also encourages people to talk about the problem," Wilson continued. "That is a key step in ending the cycle of violence. It is especially important that we have an open and honest dialogue with our children about domestic violence."

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.scag.gov/criminal-domestic-violence-in-south-carolina>.

2013 SILENT WITNESS VICTIMS

Samuel George
33 years old
Abbeville County

Mr. George was killed on December 28, 2013.

Mr. George's former live-in girlfriend, Lakeicha Burton, shot and killed him following an argument. There was a history of domestic violence in the relationship. Ms. Burton was arrested and charged with murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime. She is currently awaiting trial.

Christopher Rowley
31 years old
Aiken County

Mr. Rowley was killed on November 6, 2013.

Robin Herndon shot and killed her live-in boyfriend, Mr. Rowley, during an argument at their home. Ms. Herndon told police that Mr. Rowley grabbed the gun and it went off during the fight. She was charged with murder and is awaiting trial.

Mr. Rowley is survived by a son and daughter.

Brenda Hurl
42 years old
Anderson County

Mrs. Hurl was killed on July 19, 2013.

Robert Hurl shot his estranged wife, Mrs. Hurl, during an argument when she came to visit their son. Mr. and Mrs. Hurl had recently separated, and Mr. Hurl was staying at a friend's home. Mr. Hurl also shot and wounded a friend who attempted to break up the fight. Mrs. Hurl had previously obtained an Order of Protection against her husband for a prior domestic violence charge. Mr. Hurl was arrested and charged with murder, attempted murder, and unlawful conduct toward a child. He pled guilty to all three charges and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Mrs. Hurl is survived by a son and daughter.

Sonja Roe
48 years old
Anderson County

Mrs. Roe was killed on January 5, 2013.

Jonathan Roe shot his wife, Mrs. Roe, multiple times in their home. Afterwards Mr. Roe covered her body with a bedspread and fled to Pennsylvania. He then informed local police that he had killed his wife. Police searched the home and found Mrs. Roe's body. Mr. Roe pled guilty to murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime and received forty years and five years, respectively, in prison.

Mrs. Roe is survived by a son and daughter.

Theresa Williams
47 years old
Anderson County

Ms. Williams was killed on August 7, 2013.

Robert Rampolla shot his live-in girlfriend, Ms. Williams, in a van outside of a bar. After shooting Ms. Williams, Mr. Rampolla unsuccessfully attempted suicide. He was arrested and is currently awaiting trial on charges of murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.

Ms. Williams is survived by a son and daughter.

Ashley Kaney
26 years old
Berkeley County

Ms. Kaney was killed on September 30, 2013.

Ms. Kaney and her eight-year-old daughter were strangled to death by her boyfriend, Jacob Phillips, after an argument at their home. Mr. Phillips, who was an officer with the U.S. Navy, stole a car and fled to Virginia but was later arrested on unrelated charges and confessed to the killings. He was charged with two counts of murder and is currently awaiting trial.

Melinda Ford
37 years old
Charleston County

Ms. Ford was killed on February 16, 2013.

Timothy Wright, Ms. Ford's live-in boyfriend, shot her during an argument. Mr. Wright then asked Ms. Ford's 15-year-old daughter to shoot him. When she refused, he shot himself and fled the scene. Mr. Wright was later arrested and is currently awaiting trial on charges of murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.

Ms. Ford is survived by two daughters.

Kathy Hawkins
52 years old
Charleston County

Ms. Hawkins was killed on August 22, 2013.

David Reagan strangled Ms. Hawkins, his former live-in girlfriend, in her apartment. He then stole her credit card and used it several times after her death. Mr. Reagan had a criminal history, including charges for domestic violence. He was arrested and charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial.

Ms. Hawkins is survived by a daughter.

Zakiya Lawson
34 years old
Charleston County

Ms. Lawson was killed on June 18, 2013.

Peter Williams shot his former live-in girlfriend, Ms. Lawson, during an argument at her home. When police arrived on the scene they found Mr. Williams threatening Ms. Lawson with a gun. As officers attempted to secure the scene, Mr. Williams shot Ms. Lawson and then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. At the time of the shooting, Mr. Williams was out on bond for a domestic violence charge against Ms. Lawson earlier in the year.

Ms. Lawson is survived by six sons and a daughter.

Tasha Lucia
25 years old
Charleston County

Ms. Lucia was killed on February 10, 2013.

Robert Kronsberg stabbed Ms. Lucia, his live-in girlfriend, at their home. Police called to the scene found Mr. Kronsberg sleeping on a bed with Ms. Lucia's body nearby. Mr. Kronsberg was arrested and is awaiting trial on charges of murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.

Barbara Reese
84 years old
Charleston County

Mrs. Reese was killed on February 27, 2013.

Thomas Reese shot his wife, Mrs. Reese, in their home before turning the gun on himself. Mr. Reese left a note stating that both he and his wife were getting sick and that he did not want her to have to live in a nursing home if he died before her. The couple had been married for 55 years.

Doris Smith
69 years old
Cherokee County

Mrs. Smith was killed sometime in April 2013.

James Smith shot his wife, Mrs. Smith, at their home. Evidence suggested that after shooting his wife, Mr. Smith turned the gun on himself. The bodies were discovered at the couple's rural home approximately a week after the incident.

Mrs. Smith is survived by a daughter.

Mong Thuy Doan
27 years old
Dorchester County

Mrs. Doan was killed on December 25, 2013.

Mrs. Doan was shot in the head by her husband, Du Xuan Dao. On December 30, Mrs. Doan's brother alerted police that he had not heard from his sister since Christmas Eve. Upon arriving at the residence, police found the bodies of Mrs. Doan and her husband, Mr. Dao, who shot himself after shooting his wife.

Mrs. Doan is survived by two children.

Otis Key, Jr.
25 years old
Edgefield County

Mr. Key was killed on April 26, 2013.

Ashley Butler, Mr. Key's girlfriend and the mother of two of his children, shot Mr. Key in the chest following an argument. Ms. Butler was arrested and charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial.

Mr. Key is survived by two sons.

Kendra Johnson
34 years old
Florence County

Ms. Johnson was killed on February 20, 2013.

Ms. Johnson died from gunshot wounds to the head inflicted by her former live-in boyfriend, Doni Anderson. The morning of the shooting a coworker alerted police that she was concerned about Ms. Johnson when she did not appear for work. Ms. Johnson had received disturbing phone messages from Mr. Anderson a few days before she was killed and told friends she was afraid of him. Mr. Anderson was arrested and charged with murder. He is currently awaiting trial.

Ms. Johnson is survived by a son.

**Yvonne Holmes
31 years old
Georgetown County**

Ms. Holmes was killed on March 27, 2013.

Carnell Kennedy, Ms. Holmes' live-in boyfriend, shot her during an argument at their apartment. Afterwards Mr. Kennedy told Ms. Holmes' neighbor and mother that he had shot her. Mr. Kennedy was arrested and charged with murder. He pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 21 years in prison.

Ms. Holmes is survived by a son.

**Kristin Collins
25 years old
Greenville County**

Ms. Collins was killed on August 11, 2013.

Ms. Collins died from a gunshot wound to the chest inflicted by Carlos Toj de la Cruz, the father of one of her children. Witnesses alerted 911 that a woman was outside an apartment and appeared to be injured. Ms. Collins was taken to the hospital and died during surgery. Mr. Toj de la Cruz was arrested and charged with murder. He is currently awaiting trial.

Ms. Collins is survived by two daughters and two sons.

**Joyce Elliott
64 years old
Greenville County**

Mrs. Elliott was killed on October 10, 2013.

Mrs. Elliott died from a gunshot wound to the head inflicted by her husband, Donald Elliott, Jr. After shooting his wife, Mr. Elliott committed suicide. A family friend reported that Mr. Elliott was upset after his wife's medical insurance was canceled and he was diagnosed with kidney failure. Both were in failing health and were planning to move to a nursing home soon.

Mrs. Elliott is survived by several children.

**Tracie Gilbert
31 years old
Greenville County**

Ms. Gilbert was killed on September 29, 2013.

Larry Howard, II, shot Ms. Gilbert, the mother of their child, at her home. Ms. Gilbert's father alerted 911 that she had been shot by her estranged boyfriend. When police arrived, Mr. Howard was hiding under a bed and resisted arrest. Mr. Howard later died of unrelated causes.

Ms. Gilbert is survived by a daughter.

**Mary Guthrie
18 years old
Greenville County**

Ms. Guthrie was killed on April 25, 2013.

Ms. Guthrie died from a gunshot wound to the head inflicted by Erith Carrillo, with whom she had a child. After killing Ms. Guthrie, Mr. Carrillo shot and killed himself. In February 2013, Mr. Carrillo was arrested and charged with criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature against Ms. Guthrie. He was out on bond and awaiting trial at the time of Ms. Guthrie's death.

Ms. Guthrie is survived by two children.

**Teresa Valentine
45 years old
Greenville County**

Ms. Valentine was killed on June 4, 2013.

Ms. Valentine died from multiple stab wounds inflicted by Richard Ashford, her live-in boyfriend. Earlier that day, officers responded to Ms. Valentine's home in reference to an argument. Mr. Ashford was released from jail 13 days before this incident after serving 13 days for a criminal domestic violence charge against Ms. Valentine. Mr. Ashford was arrested and charged with murder. He pled guilty to murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

**Chandra Fields
26 years old
Greenwood County**

Ms. Fields was killed on October 29, 2013.

Bryan Sweatt shot Ms. Fields in the head at her parent's home. He had been hiding at the home for several hours waiting for family members to arrive. Mr. Sweatt also shot and killed Ms. Fields' father, mother, and two nephews before shooting himself. Mr. Sweatt allowed several other children, including his child with Ms. Fields, to escape to the home next door. At the time of the shootings, Mr. Sweatt was out on bond on an unrelated burglary charge and was involved in a custody battle with Ms. Fields for his child.

Ms. Fields is survived by three daughters.

Felicia Rayford
41 years old
Greenwood County

Ms. Rayford was killed on November 5, 2013.

Ms. Rayford died from a gunshot wound to the head inflicted by Charles Belcher, Sr., her former live-in boyfriend, at her home. Mr. Belcher was later found dead at his home from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Ms. Rayford is survived by a daughter.

Steven Hall
59 years old
Horry County

Mr. Hall was killed on July 18, 2013.

Teresa Hall shot her husband, Mr. Hall, but told the police that she had discovered his body after returning home from taking care of her sick father. The gun she used was found at the bottom of the Intracoastal Waterway. Mrs. Hall was arrested and charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial.

Ebony Parson
28 years old
Horry County

Mrs. Parson was killed on September 14, 2013.

Richard Register shot Mrs. Parson, his former live-in girlfriend, at a bingo hall in the presence of multiple witnesses. Mr. Register had been arrested and charged with kidnapping and criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature against Mrs. Parson 10 days before this incident and was out on bond. Mr. Register died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Herbert Robinson
52 years old
Horry County

Mr. Robinson was killed on December 24, 2013.

Connie Highsmith stabbed her live-in boyfriend, Mr. Robinson, in the chest at their home. Police arrived to find Ms. Highsmith holding Mr. Robinson's head as he sat unresponsive in a chair, and he was later pronounced dead at the scene. Ms. Highsmith was arrested and charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial.

David Sims, Jr.
35 years old
Horry County

Mr. Sims was killed on August 11, 2013.

Police responded to the home where they found Mr. Sims unresponsive on the floor with a gunshot wound. His wife, Heather Sims, was performing chest compressions on him and had a knife wound in her left side. EMS pronounced Mr. Sims dead at the scene. Mrs. Sims later turned herself in and was charged with murder. She is currently awaiting trial.

Terry Vick
55 years old
Horry County

Mrs. Vick was killed on March 30, 2013.

Harry Vick shot his wife, Mrs. Vick, at their home. After killing his wife he turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. Their daughter, who had spoken with them the previous evening, found them in their home after speaking with them the previous evening.

Mrs. Vick is survived by a daughter.

Elaine Ghent
54 years old
Lancaster County

Mrs. Ghent was killed on October 28, 2013.

John Ghent, Jr., stabbed Mrs. Ghent, his wife, numerous times with a knife in their home. When police arrived, they found Mrs. Ghent in the bedroom dead from the stab wounds. Mr. Ghent called family members and told them he "did what he had to do" and that he had hurt Mrs. Ghent. Mr. Ghent is currently awaiting trial for murder.

Mrs. Ghent is survived by a son and daughter.

Deborah Hilton

**59 years old
Lancaster County**

Mrs. Hilton was killed on February 11, 2013.

Joseph Hilton shot Mrs. Hilton, his wife, during an argument at their home. Mr. Hilton called 911 to report that he killed his wife. When authorities arrived, they discovered Mrs. Hilton unresponsive with a gunshot wound to the chest. Mr. Hilton was arrested and charged with murder. He pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Mrs. Hilton is survived by a son and daughter.

**Sierra Landry
18 years old
Lancaster County**

Ms. Landry was killed on December 30, 2013.

Tanner Crolley, Ms. Landry's former live-in boyfriend, shot Ms. Landry in the head. Police began to search for Mr. Crolley and Ms. Landry after multiple phone calls from witnesses stating Mr. Crolley had shot Ms. Landry. Mr. Crolley was already a suspect in a stolen handgun case authorities had begun investigating that same day. Ms. Landry was found dead in another person's front yard. Mr. Crolley was charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial.

**Emily Anna Asbill
19 years old
Laurens County**

Ms. Asbill was killed on June 29, 2013.

Police discovered Ms. Asbill unresponsive in a car after she had attended a party with her former live-in boyfriend, Michael Beaty, Jr. The couple had been arguing and fighting throughout the night. Ms. Asbill was taken to the hospital where she was pronounced dead from asphyxiation by strangulation. Mr. Beaty was arrested and charged with murder and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He is currently awaiting trial.

**Anndrenna Butler
72 years old
Newberry County**

Mrs. Butler was killed on December 20, 2013.

Charles Butler shot Mrs. Butler, his wife, in the head at her home. At the time of the incident, Mr. and Mrs. Butler were separated and living apart. Multiple witnesses said that Mr. Butler's behavior had changed over time and that he had begun to act strangely toward Mrs. Butler, exhibiting paranoia,

confusion, and anger. Mr. Butler was arrested and charged with murder. He died from natural causes while in detention.

Allyson Greenway
17 years old
Newberry County

Ms. Greenway was killed on April 15, 2013.

Douglas Inman smothered Ms. Greenway, the mother of his child, to death with a plastic bag at her home. After Ms. Greenway informed Mr. Inman that she no longer wanted a relationship with him, Mr. Inman choked her, stabbed her with a knife, and put the bag over her head. Mr. Inman tried to make the crime scene look like a robbery but later confessed to police. Mr. Inman pled guilty to murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Ms. Greenway is survived by a daughter.

Sally Myers
65 years old
Newberry County

Mrs. Myers was killed on April 13, 2013.

Johnny Myers shot Mrs. Myers, his wife, at their home. After killing his wife, Mr. Myers turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. Their bodies were discovered by a concerned family member who had not been able to get in touch with them.

Mrs. Myers is survived by a son.

Gwendolyn Hiott
58 years old
Oconee County

Ms. Hiott was killed on January 5, 2013.

James Foxx shot Ms. Hiott, his live-in girlfriend, at their home. After shooting Ms. Hiott, Mr. Foxx killed himself. Evidence suggests that Ms. Hiott might have been trying to leave the home when she was killed. Passing motorists saw two bodies in the front yard and notified law enforcement, who arrived to find Ms. Hiott and Mr. Foxx dead.

Ms. Hiott is survived by a daughter.

Alan Oakley
48 years old
Orangeburg County

Mr. Oakley was killed on December 28, 2013.

Mr. Oakley's wife, Melody Oakley, conspired with two other people to kill Mr. Oakley. He was stabbed in the neck by one of the co-conspirators at his home. Mr. and Mrs. Oakley had been involved in a relationship with a third party. When Mr. Oakley tried to end the third-party relationship, the plan for his murder was formed. All parties involved were charged in Mr. Oakley's death. Mrs. Oakley pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and conspiracy and was sentenced to 30 years in prison for voluntary manslaughter and 5 years, concurrent, for conspiracy.

Mr. Oakley is survived by two stepchildren.

Cristy Ingram
39 years old
Pickens County

Ms. Ingram was killed on April 26, 2013.

Police were called to a hotel after an employee discovered two bodies in one of the rooms. When police arrived, they found Ms. Ingram dead from a gunshot wound to the face. It was determined that Robert McPeak, Sr., Ms. Ingram's former live-in boyfriend, shot Ms. Ingram. He then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide.

Ms. Ingram is survived by a son and daughter.

Temukisa Enele
25 years old
Richland County

Ms. Enele died on January 2, 2013.

Faasiu Toese stabbed Ms. Enele, his live-in girlfriend, at their apartment following an argument, put her body into a plastic container, and drove with the container to a nearby restaurant. Mr. Toese then called authorities and told them to look in the back seat of his car, where police saw Ms. Enele's body. Mr. Toese was charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial.

Dierra Fisher
22 years old
Richland County

Ms. Fisher was killed on February 28, 2013.

Tristan Gist shot his live-in girlfriend, Ms. Fisher, then took her to a wooded area where he set her body on fire. Ms. Fisher was 21 weeks pregnant when she was killed. Mr. Gist was later arrested at his home and charged with murder, death of a child in utero, and arson in connection with the fire he started in the woods. He pled guilty to all three charges and was sentenced to 60 years for murder and death of a child in utero and a concurrent 5 years for arson.

Ms. Fisher is survived by a child.

Zelda Kollock
51 years old
Richland County

Ms. Kollock was killed on September 14, 2013.

Police were called to check on Ms. Kollock's residence when neighbors heard arguing coming from the garage. Upon arrival police had to break into the house, where they found Ms. Kollock, who was shot by her former live-in boyfriend, John Washington. Mr. Washington fled the scene before police arrived. He was later charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial.

Reynettia Mosley
44 years old
Richland County

Mrs. Mosley was killed on March 22, 2013.

Mrs. Mosley was shot by her estranged husband, Steven Mosley, in the front yard of her home. After shooting Mrs. Mosley, Mr. Mosley turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. The couple's bodies were discovered by police who responded to a report of shots fired.

Mrs. Mosley is survived by two children.

Tabatha Priester
35 years old
Richland County

Ms. Priester was killed on February 25, 2013.

Percy Williams shot his live-in girlfriend, Ms. Priester, at their home. Mr. Williams called 911 to report the shooting and said he did not mean to do it. He then drove Ms. Priester's car to a gas station, where he was picked up by an acquaintance and taken to the sheriff's department. He was charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial.

Ms. Priester is survived by a son.

Annie Rowe
61 years old
Saluda County

Ms. Rowe was killed on October 20, 2013.

Jimmy Rhinehart shot Ms. Rowe, his former live-in girlfriend, multiple times in her home. Mr. Rhinehart then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. The couple's bodies were discovered by Ms. Rowe's brother, who came to check on her after he was unable to reach her.

Ms. Rowe is survived by a daughter.

David Moholland
20 years old
Spartanburg County

Mr. Moholland was killed on May 20, 2013.

Erika Sutelman shot her boyfriend, Mr. Moholland, in the chest at their apartment. Ms. Sutelman claimed that they were playing with the gun and that she thought the gun's safety was on. She was arrested and charged with murder and is currently awaiting trial.

Mary Martin
81 years-old
York County

Mrs. Martin was killed on December 8, 2013.

James Martin shot Mrs. Martin, his wife, at their home and then shot himself. Mrs. Martin's caregiver found the couple unresponsive in their bed when she arrived at the house. Mr. Martin left a note instructing whoever found the couple to call family members. Both Mr. and Mrs. Martin were in failing health.

Mrs. Martin is survived by a son.

Unknown

Domestic violence affects us all.

Domestic violence cuts across gender, race, and ethnicity. People in every socioeconomic status experience this type of violence. Domestic violence victims are all around us: in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and our places of worship.

Therefore, let us have a moment of silence to remember those victims of whom we are unaware.