



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Contact: Mark Plowden  
803-734-3670  
[mplowden@ag.state.sc.us](mailto:mplowden@ag.state.sc.us)

## **Silent Witness Ceremony Honored 2003 Victims of Fatal Domestic Violence**

Ceremony Held During First Week Of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**Columbia, SC** – Attorney General Henry McMaster 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 beginning of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

During the solemn ceremony, Attorney General McMaster called the names of thirty-six (36) women from across the state who lost their lives as the result of domestic violence in the previous year, including an additional thirty-seventh (37<sup>th</sup>) silhouette representing the potential unknown victim.

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.

"This is a sad and solemn occasion to commemorate the lives of women that were lost to domestic violence," said McMaster. "It also serves to inspire us to redouble our efforts to break this tragic cycle of violence for all the people of our state, especially the children."

"We not only lose the victim of these crimes, but in ways, we lose the children who grow up in a situation where this domestic violence is taking place. It is a cycle that must be broken," continued McMaster.

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

## **2004 SILENT WITNESS ROLL CALL**

### **AIKEN COUNTY**

**Gloria McKie** - age 34 - died from a gunshot wound to the head on April 19, 2003. Her boyfriend, Raymond Stevens, Jr., has been charged with her murder. His trial is pending.

## **ANDERSON COUNTY**

**Catherine Cole** - age 45 - was shot and killed on May 10, 2003. Her ex-husband, Thomas Gary Washington, murdered her and then killed himself.

An hour prior to her death, Ms. Cole called police to report that Washington was attempting to gain entry to her house. Police were unable to locate him at that time.

She is survived by a son.

**Melinda Estes Glenn** - age 31 - was shot and killed on March 22, 2003. Her husband, David Wayne Glenn, murdered her and later committed suicide.

She is survived by her four children.

## **BERKELEY COUNTY**

**Tammy Anne Van Dyke Bingham** - age 38 - died from a gunshot wound to the body on July 3, 2003. Her estranged husband, James Scott Bingham, is accused of shooting his wife and her acquaintance. His murder trial is pending.

**Diana L. Hallmark** - age 31 - died from a gunshot wound to the head on December 21, 2003. Her boyfriend, John Stewart, has been charged with her murder and is awaiting trial.

She is survived by her teenaged son.

**Dawn E. Hearn** - age 39 - died from a gunshot wound to the head on November 23, 2003. Her common law husband, Ronald A. Kabasta, Jr., killed her and then himself.

## **CHARLESTON COUNTY**

**Antoinette Heyward** - age 32 - died on September 6, 2003 from multiple gunshot wounds to the body. Her common-law husband, Herbert Lee Butler, has been charged with murder and is awaiting trial.

**Melanie Lain** - age 28 - was beaten to death on March 15, 2003. Her boyfriend, Leonard Herbert Oliver, III, confessed to the murder and is awaiting trial.

**Lakeyisha Mitchell** - age 24 - died from a gunshot wound to the head on September 9, 2003. Her ex-boyfriend, Ashanti Wright, shot her and her 2 year old daughter, Waltajah Smith, before killing himself.

Ms. Mitchell had signed a warrant for Wright's arrest the day prior to her death. She accused him of criminal domestic violence and said she feared for her safety.

**Truemetria Wright** - age 35 - was shot and killed on January 3, 2003. Her husband, Clarence Wright, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and is currently serving a twenty year sentence.

## **DARLINGTON COUNTY**

**Virginia Mae Joye** - age 49 - died on February 26, 2003 from a cut to her throat. Her boyfriend, Danny Ray, has been indicted for her murder and is awaiting trial. She is survived by a son.

## **DILLON COUNTY**

**Mary Kathleen Ard** - age 32 - died from a fatal gunshot wound to the head on July 6, 2003. Her husband, Darren Ard, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and is currently serving a twenty-one year sentence.

She is survived by her two children.

## **FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**Davetta Roseboro** - age 32 - was shot and killed on July 21, 2003. Her ex-boyfriend, Sherman DeWalt, is charged with her murder and first degree burglary. His trial is pending.

She is survived by her three children. All three witnessed the incident.

## **FLORENCE COUNTY**

**Shannon D. Carter** - age 39 - was found strangled to death in her bed on March 28, 2003. Her boyfriend, Kevin Walton, has been charged with her murder and is awaiting trial.

She is survived by a young daughter who was home during the incident.

## **GREENVILLE COUNTY**

**Daisy Octavia Jones** - age 46 - was shot in the back and died on July 9, 2003. Rico Lindsey, her ex-boyfriend, has been charged with the murder. His trial is pending.  
She is survived by an adult daughter.

**Sandra K. Posey** - age 52 - was shot in the chest and died on January 1, 2003. Randy Joe Yard, her boyfriend, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to seven years in prison and will be eligible for parole in December of 2008.

She is survived by an adult daughter.

**Maranda L. Williams** - age 24 - died from multiple gunshot wounds to the back on September 3, 2003. Her boyfriend, Charles Christopher Williams, is awaiting trial.

**Mery D. Zenlaya** - age 23 - died from multiple gunshot wounds to the body and head on April 20, 2003. Her children and sister witnessed the incident. Hermosillo Alcaraz, Ms. Zenlaya's boyfriend, has been charged with the murder and is awaiting trial.

She is survived by her two young children.

## **HAMPTON COUNTY**

**Latoya Bing** - age 25 - died on October 28, 2003. She was stabbed over sixty times. Her common-law husband, Kevin Lamont Reed, has pled guilty to murder and first degree burglary charges. His sentencing is pending.

She is survived by her two children.

## **HORRY COUNTY**

**Barbara Grate** - age 27 - died on January 24, 2003 from gunshot wounds inflicted by her boyfriend, Larry Donnell Herring. Herring was convicted of her murder and is serving a thirty year sentence.

## **LAURENS COUNTY**

**Kim Sophia Sanders** - age 31 - was shot in the body and died on August 25, 2003. Her ex-boyfriend, Dwight Fitzgerald Sullivan, has been charged with murder.

She is survived by her teenaged daughter, who was at home during the incident.

## **LEE COUNTY**

**Joan Simon** - age 48 - was shot in the head and died on October 10, 2003. Her husband, Richard Simon, faces murder charges. His case is set to be heard this month.

## **OCONEE COUNTY**

**Roberta Flora Davis** - age 47 - died on June 20, 2003 from blunt force trauma to her head. Her boyfriend, Dennis "Joe" Crowe, was found guilty of her murder and sentenced to forty-seven years in prison.

## **ORANGEBURG COUNTY**

**Leticia Shivers Brown** - age 27 - was shot and killed on December 19, 2003. Her husband, Keman Brown, murdered her and then committed suicide.

**Lasasha R. Richburg** - age 20 - died in her home on September 14, 2003 from a gunshot wound. Her boyfriend, Lamont Lambright, has been charged with her murder. His trial is pending.

Ms. Richburg is survived by two sons, one of which was in the room when Ms. Richburg was shot.

**Kasai Rinhthi** - age 48 - died from gunshot wounds on May 7, 2003. Her husband, Hiroshi Rinhthi, murdered her and then committed suicide.

**Sonya D. Vereen** - age 32 - died from blunt force trauma to her head on July 1, 2003. Her boyfriend, Eugene King, has been charged with the murder.

She is survived by her daughter, who was home during the incident.

## **PICKENS COUNTY**

**Rhonda Fleming** - age 42 - died on May 23, 2003 from a gunshot wound to the chest. Her estranged husband, William L. "Bill" Snipes, murdered her as she left work and then later committed suicide.

She is survived by an adult daughter and three adult sons.

**Maxine D. Gantt** - age 38 - died in October of 2003 but her body was not discovered until December 9<sup>th</sup> of that year. Her boyfriend, Rayfus Hagood, admitted to stomping her to death. He died in September.

Ms. Gantt is survived by an adult daughter.

**Connie Waldrop** - age 43 - was held hostage, shot and killed on March 22, 2003. Her husband, Rod Waldrop, has been convicted of her murder and that of their grown son. He is currently serving a life sentence.

Ms. Waldrop is survived by an adult son.

### **RICHLAND COUNTY**

**Grace D. Courtney** - age 45 - died from blunt force trauma to her head on August 17, 2003. Her boyfriend, Bejay Harley, has been charged with murder and is awaiting trial.

**Cathie Delores Fowler** - age 45 - was found strangled to death on September 8, 2003. Her boyfriend admitted to having killed her two days earlier because she started seeing someone else. He pled guilty to murder charges and is serving 40 years.

Ms. Fowler is survived by an adult daughter.

**Martha O. Weber** - age 74 - was shot in the head and killed on November 5, 2003. Her husband, Rudolf Weber, killed her and then committed suicide.

She is survived by an adult son.

### **SPARTANBURG COUNTY**

**Tijuanna Elaine Nesbitt** - age 29 - died on February 18, 2003 of a gunshot wound to her body. Her ex-boyfriend, Derek Shawn Turner, has been charged with her murder.

Ms. Nesbitt is survived by three small children.

**Sheri Annette Wall** - age 43 - was stabbed numerous times and died on April 15, 2003. Mitchell Eugene Wall, her estranged husband, was convicted on murder charges and is currently serving a thirty-five year sentence.

### **SUMTER COUNTY**

**Janice Sharlene Murphy** - age 37 - died from a gunshot wound on September 12, 2003. Her ex-husband, Tommy Donerson, has been charged with the murder. His trial is pending.