



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## **Silent Witness Ceremony Honored 2004 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-seven (37) women and seven (7) men from across the state who lost their lives as the result of domestic violence in the previous year, including an additional forty-fifth (45<sup>th</sup>) silhouette representing the potential unknown victims.

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 and men 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.

A statistical breakdown for each county is available at [www.sattorneygeneral.com/public/women.php](http://www.sattorneygeneral.com/public/women.php).

The Silent Witness ceremony can be viewed in its entirety online at <http://www.myetv.org/>.

## **2005 SILENT WITNESS ROLL CALL**

## **Aiken County**

**Ronald Patterson** (34 years old) Mr. Patterson was shot and killed on January 6, 2004. Rosa Lee Ross, Mr. Patterson's girlfriend, killed him after they had an argument. Ms. Ross pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in September 2005 and was sentenced to serve ten years for the crime.

**Sharon Youmans** (45 years old) Ms. Youmans was shot in the head and killed on May 29, 2004 as she left work. Witnesses say Terry A. Bamfield, Ms. Youmans' boyfriend, approached her in the parking lot, and they began to argue. When co-workers attempted to separate the two, Mr. Bamfield produced a handgun and fired, killing Ms. Youmans. He then fled the scene. Mr. Bamfield was later found in the couple's apartment, dead from a suicidal gunshot wound to the head. She is survived by a son.

## **Anderson County**

**Lois Bridges Gambrell** (44 years old) Mrs. Gambrell was killed on or around July 14, 2004. Her husband, Johnny Ray Gambrell, has been charged with her murder. Mrs. Gambrell's remains were found in a trash pile that her husband was seen to have been burning on July 16, 2004. The couple had a history of domestic violence. Mr. Gambrell awaits trial.

**Lisa Moore Holcombe** (39 years old) Ms. Holcombe was shot and killed on October 14, 2004. Her boyfriend, Jay Carl Brooks, has been charged with her murder and is awaiting trial. She is survived by a teenaged son.

**Kenica Richardson** (27 years old) Ms. Richardson was shot in the abdomen and killed on August 14, 2004. Cedric Andre Clinkscales, her boyfriend, has been charged with the murder. His trial is pending.

## **Charleston County**

**Tashera Fields** (22 years old) Ms. Fields was shot in the chest at her place of employment on October 22, 2004. Antonio Wright, Ms. Fields' ex-boyfriend, killed her when she tried to leave him. He later committed suicide. The couple had a history of domestic violence. She is survived by an infant son.

**Karen Healey** (45 years old) Ms. Healey was shot in the back of the head as she attempted to leave her husband on August 29, 2004. William Bruce Hill, her husband, killed her and later himself. The couple's grandson was at home at the time of the incident. She is survived by a daughter.

**Catherine Hicks** (38 years old) Mrs. Hicks was shot and killed on August 8, 2004. Her husband, Reginald Hicks, is accused of murdering her. Mrs. Hicks had decided to leave the marriage several months prior to her death. She is survived by two teenage sons.

**Diane Jacox** (49 years old) Ms. Jacox was strangled to death on November 26, 2004. Her boyfriend, Michael D. Schellenger, Jr., has been charged with her murder and is awaiting trial.

**Tanya Little** (34 years old) Ms. Little was shot and killed on January 26, 2004. Her common-law husband, Warren Keith Hamilton, murdered her and then himself. She is survived by a son, now 13 years old, and a daughter, now 11 years old.

## **Cherokee County**

**Sadie Mae Hemphill** (*41 years old*) Ms. Hemphill was shot and killed on June 13, 2004. James Wade Mickles, her boyfriend, pled guilty and was convicted of the murder on October 11, 2004. He is currently serving a thirty year sentence. She is survived by two sons.

**Benjamin Abraham Merrell** (*40 years old*) Mr. Merrell was shot in the back and killed on February 5, 2004. His ex-wife, Tammy Merrell, was arrested and charged with the murder. She committed suicide a few days prior to her trial.

**Sandra Lee Sprouse** (*50 years old*) Mrs. Sprouse was shot in the head and killed on March 16, 2004. Paul Ray Sprouse, her husband, pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter and was sentenced to serve six years. His projected release date is February 24, 2010. She is survived by two daughters.

## **Chester County**

**Janet Jackson** (*18 years old*) Ms. Jackson was killed on January 2, 2004. Her ex-boyfriend, Terry Pendergrass, has been charged with the murder and is awaiting trial. She is survived by an infant son.

## **Dorchester County**

**Gloria Jean Hart** (*37 years old*) Ms. Hart was shot and killed on May 17, 2004. Her boyfriend, Gary Lavar Brown, is awaiting trial for the murder.

## **Greenville County**

**Terry Kay Hembree** (*43 years old*) Ms. Hembree was beaten to death on February 24, 2004. Bobby R. Hembree, her husband, pled guilty to manslaughter charges and is currently serving thirty years.

**Tarshish Shaboo Massey** (*29 years old*) Ms. Massey was shot in the head and killed on January 4, 2004. Her boyfriend, Gregory Leon Stewart, pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter and is currently serving a twenty-two year sentence.

**Frankie Williams Spoone** (*49 years old*) Mrs. Spoone was shot to death on April 6, 2004. Mrs. Spoone had been living with her son and his family as she waited for her divorce to be finalized. The family was at home when James Spoone broke into the house, kicked down the bathroom door and repeatedly shot his wife. On May 24, 2005, Mr. Spoone pled guilty to murder, first-degree burglary and possession of a deadly weapon during the commission of a violent crime. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. She is survived by an adult son.

## **Horry County**

**Kim Long** (*40 years old*) Ms. Long died on February 1, 2004. Her boyfriend, Mark Anthony McDaniel, was found at the scene. Mr. McDaniel lunged at police officers, who were then forced to shoot and kill him.

**Violordia "Viola" Quiles** (38 years old) Ms. Quiles was shot in the head and killed on June 29, 2004. John R. Munn, Ms. Quiles' boyfriend, had suspected her of seeing someone else. He shot her, called 911, reported his crime and then shot himself. She is survived by a son.

### **Lancaster County**

**Brenda Gayle Steen** (36 years old) Ms. Steen was stabbed numerous times and killed on October 19, 2004. Her boyfriend, David Cauthen, is currently wanted on murder charges. He is a five foot, ten inch tall white male. He weighs 170 pounds and has brown hair and brown eyes. He has been seen in Lancaster and Kershaw counties. Anyone with information in connection to this case is asked to immediately contact the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office at 803-283-3388. She is survived by a daughter.

### **Lexington County**

**Deborah Ann Williams Allen** (48 years old) Ms. Allen was shot and killed on September 10, 2004. Sandy Lee Elam, her boyfriend, first killed her and then himself. She is survived by a daughter.

**Janet Marie Hall** (39 years old) Ms. Hall was shot and killed on July 2, 2004. Her children were present at the time. Tony Hall, her husband, had been convicted of Criminal Domestic Violence in March 2004 in the Lexington County Domestic Violence Court, and was sentenced to attend intensive alcohol treatment and domestic abuse counseling. The couple, however, reconciled prior to the murder. Mr. Hall has been arrested and charged with Murder. He is currently awaiting trial. She is survived by two sons and a daughter.

**Megan Jackson** (18 years old) Ms. Jackson was attacked as she attempted to drive away from her boyfriend on October 17, 2004. Her boyfriend, Michael Humphrey, jumped into the back of the pickup truck Ms. Jackson was driving, broke the rear glass window and grabbed her and the steering wheel. This caused the truck to veer off of the road and strike a tree. When emergency personnel arrived, they found Mr. Humphrey yelling at the unconscious body of Ms. Jackson. She died four days later while being treated for head injuries. The trial is pending. She is survived by her two young children.

**Linda Marie Morris** (44 years old) Ms. Morris was shot in the head and killed on June 18, 2004. James William Morris, Jr., her husband of more than twenty-five years, was arrested and is awaiting trial on murder charges. The couple had a history of domestic violence, although the Lexington County Sheriff's Office had not been called to the residence for domestic violence since 2001. She is survived by two daughters.

### **Marion County**

**Byron Riggins** (50 years old) Mr. Riggins was stabbed and killed on July 31, 2004. Following an argument, Doris Ann Sealey, Mr. Riggins' girlfriend, stabbed and killed him. Ms. Sealey has been charged with Murder and is awaiting trial.

### **Orangeburg County**

**Patricia Clemmons** (42 years old) Ms. Clemmons was shot in the chest and killed on August 5, 2004. Lawrence Stroman, her boyfriend, has been charged with her murder and is awaiting trial.

**Prezzy Mae Guest** (47 years old) Ms. Guest was shot five times and killed on January 9, 2004. Her boyfriend, Louis Joyner, killed her and then later himself. Ms. Guest had been attempting to end the relationship at the time of her death. She is survived by a son and a daughter.

**Latasha Shante Singleton** (19 years old) Ms. Singleton was shot in the face on October 31, 2004 and later died of the wound. Her boyfriend, Corey Anthony Stephens, claimed that he had been on a walk and that an intruder must have shot Ms. Singleton. Mr. Stephens has been charged with the murder.

**Mary Thomas** (34 years old) Ms. Thomas was shot in the back and killed on April 23, 2004. Her ex-boyfriend, Dexter Govan, shot her following a verbal argument in front of her home. He later committed suicide.

### **Richland County**

**Todd Acreman** (34 years old) Mr. Acreman was shot and killed on February 22, 2004. Beth Acreman, his wife, reported that she had been moving the gun when it accidentally fired. He is survived by a teenaged son.

**Robert Kent Anderson** (51 years old) Mr. Anderson was stabbed to death on October 15, 2004. His wife, Arlene Gilmore Anderson, is accused of murdering him and fleeing the scene. She awaits trial on murder charges.

**Gervonya Goodwin** (34 years old) Ms. Goodwin was murdered, probably in December 2004. Ms. Goodwin was last seen in early December by her mother before being discovered dead on January 7, 2005. She was six months pregnant with the child of her boyfriend, Christopher Commander. He has been charged with her murder and was apprehended in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 13, 2005. His trial is pending.

**Tommy Goodwin** (49 years old) Mr. Goodwin was shot and killed on April 11, 2004. While struggling with his wife, Marrie E. Goodwin, Mr. Goodwin was shot and later died. Ms. Goodwin has been arrested on murder charges.

**Coretta Webber** (36 years old) Ms. Webber was killed on April 25, 2004. Sheriff's deputies responded to a domestic violence call close to an hour before Ms. Myers was murdered. Her boyfriend, Richard Seymour, could not be located at that time. Witnesses report that Mr. Seymour returned later and began to shoot at Ms. Myers. He then committed suicide. She is survived by three sons.

**Sarah C. Williams** (70 years old) Mrs. Williams was shot in the chest and killed on August 22, 2004. Crawford Williams, her husband, has been arrested and charged with her murder. She is survived by an adult son.

**Willy Wooten** (33 years old) Mr. Wooten was shot and killed on June 21, 2004. His wife, Tricia A. Wooten, claimed that her gun accidentally fired as she cleaned it. She awaits trial.

## **Spartanburg County**

**Elizabeth Anne Chesterman** (*31 years old*) Mrs. Chesterman was beaten to death with a shovel on May 22, 2004. Her husband, John Chesterman, has pleaded guilty to the murder and was sentenced to thirty years in prison.

**Michelle Leigh Clary** (*35 years old*) Ms. Clary was shot to death on February 7, 2004. Her mother, Diane Mills, was also killed. Ms. Clary had been trying to end her relationship with boyfriend Randy Sullens at the time of her death. Mr. Sullens shot both women with a shotgun, locked their bodies in his home and drove to Mexico. He was arrested days later as he tried to re-enter the United States. Mr. Sullens pled guilty to two counts of murder and was sentenced on August 30, 2004 to two life sentences without the possibility of parole or early release. She is survived by a son and a daughter.

**Shelitha D. Hutchinson** (*27 years old*) Ms. Hutchinson was killed on February 26, 2004. Bobby Waters, the father of Ms. Hutchinson's child, killed her and later himself.

**Kimberly Stokely** (*33 years old*) Ms. Stokely was stabbed in the neck and killed on March 6, 2004. Her boyfriend, Ogden Bullard, has been charged with her murder and is awaiting trial. She is survived by a son and a daughter.

## **Sumter County**

**Monique Alissa Jackson** (*19 years old*) Ms. Jackson was stabbed in the chest and killed on November 12, 2004. Investigators have charged her boyfriend, Cedric Simon, with the murder. He is accused of killing Ms. Jackson after she attempted to end their relationship.

## **Williamsburg County**

**Katie Graham** (*38 years old*) Ms. Graham was beaten to death on July 24, 2004. Her boyfriend, Freddie Bradley, stated that he hit her eleven or twelve times before finally putting her body on her bed. He pled guilty to murder charges and is currently serving a twenty year sentence.

**Rosa Marie Witherspoon** (*46 years old*) Mrs. Witherspoon was shot twice and killed on August 16, 2004. Her husband, Bobby James Witherspoon, later admitted to the murder and was taken into custody. The Sheriff's Office reports that the couple had a long history of domestic violence. Mr. Witherspoon was found to be guilty of the murder and was sentenced to life in prison plus five years. She is survived by a son and a daughter.

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