

# Collection of Articles about Police Officers Killed by Semi-Automatic Rifles in 2000;

## Incidents Identified in the "*Officer Down*" Report

(<http://www.vpc.org/studies/officecont.htm> )

Part 3 of four

Philip F. Lee, PhD 2/1/04

### Larry Todd Cook

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/00leoka.pdf>

#### Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2000

A line patrol deputy with the Davidson County Sheriff's Office was shot and killed at approximately 1 p.m. on January 27 while attempting to serve a trespassing warrant. The 30-year-old deputy, with nearly 3 years of law enforcement experience, waited at the subject's residence in Lexington as the man went into a bedroom to get a coat. He returned with a 12-gauge pump shotgun and shot the officer, who was wearing body armor, twice in the back below the belt line. Apparently, he then returned to the bedroom, retrieved a 7.62x39 mm semiautomatic rifle, and shot the officer behind the left ear. Other officers responded to a report of gun shots fired and found the wounded deputy. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The 22-year-old man led officers on a high-speed chase before crashing his vehicle and committing suicide by shooting himself.

<http://www.odmp.org/year.php?year=2000&Submit=Go>

<http://www.odmp.org/officer.php?oid=15353>

Deputy Sheriff Larry Todd Cook

Davidson County Sheriff's Office, NC

End of Watch: Thursday, January 27, 2000

Weapon Used: Shotgun

Suspect Info: Committed suicide

Deputy Cook was shot and killed while serving a misdemeanor trespassing warrant. Deputy Cook had gone to the suspect's home alone to serve the warrant when the suspect shot him with a shotgun in the back of the head, the back, and the legs. Another person in the house called 911 to report the shooting as the suspect fled the scene. A chase ensued with officers from several agencies and ended when the suspect crashed into a roadblock. As officers approached his vehicle he committed suicide. The suspect had a lengthy criminal record consisting non-violent crimes. Deputy Cook had been with the agency for three years and is survived by his fiancée and young daughter

<http://www.vpc.org/studies/000127.htm>

#### Section Three: Selected Incidents of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty by Assault Weapons, 1998 Through 2001

**Date:** January 27, 2000

**Location:** Lexington, North Carolina

## **Assault Weapon:** Maadi 7.62mm rifle

On January 27, 2000, Sheriff's Deputy Todd Cook was killed with a Maadi 7.62mm rifle. Deputy Cook was serving a warrant at the home of Christopher Lee Cooper who had been accused of trespassing and was also wanted by Lexington police for questioning about a statutory rape. Deputy Cook was shot at least five times from behind. After the shooting, Cooper led police on a car chase that ended when he crashed through a roadblock. Officers found Cooper dead in the car from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

"Piedmont Community Mourns Loss of Slain Deputy," *Associated Press*, January 29, 2000.

<http://www.thesunnews.com/news/stories/2045527.htm>

LEXINGTON, North Carolina

DEPUTY TODD COOK, *murder victim*

Christopher Lee Cooper, *murderer & suicide victim*

### **Deputy shot 5 times, killed in ambush**

--(The Sun News)--*The killing was especially senseless because the warrant was a step above a traffic violation*

[http://www.geocities.com/ncleom/Larry\\_Todd\\_Cook.html](http://www.geocities.com/ncleom/Larry_Todd_Cook.html)

Deputy Cook was shot and killed while serving a misdemeanor trespassing warrant. Deputy Cook had gone to the suspect's home alone to serve the warrant when the suspect shot him with a shotgun in the back of the head, the back, and the legs. Another person in the house called 911 to report the shooting as the suspect fled the scene. A chase ensued with officers from several agencies and ended when the suspect crashed into a roadblock. As officers approached his vehicle he committed suicide. The suspect had a lengthy criminal record consisting of non-violent crimes.

Deputy Cook started out as a prison guard in the Davidson County Jail, then joined the Davidson County Sheriff's Office where he had worked for the last three years..

Deputy Todd Cook is survived by his parents, Herb and JoAnn Cook, a fiancée, Kim Hamilton, his one-year-old daughter, Fallon, and his sister, Lori Cook.

<http://www.hpe.com/2000/02/03/news/203topnews.html>

### **They mostly cried**

By Tony Taylor

*It was haunting and moving, the funeral of slain Davidson County Deputy Larry Todd Cook.*

An overflow crowd jammed into and around the First Pentecostal Holiness Church in Lexington Wednesday to pay its respects to Cook. Law enforcement agencies throughout the state were present to honor the officer who was shot to death last Thursday.

The funeral, delayed for a couple of days by weather, was scheduled to start at 2 p.m. But it was delayed Wednesday so church staff could hook up speakers outside the building to enable the crowd outside to hear the service.

Officers lined the walls of the church's chapel. Extra chairs were brought in and placed beside pews. Some officers were seated in the choir area, although they did not sing.

Bagpipes rang out with the sounds of the familiar religious hymn "Amazing Grace" as the service started. Funeral attendees sang, prayed and cried.

But they mostly cried.

### **Parents gaze at photo of Deputy Larry Todd Cook**

The Rev. Henry Cook, Cook's uncle, was one of three ministers to eulogize him.

"I guess we'll have to cry a bit," said Henry Cook as he broke down sobbing.

Henry Cook regained his composure and told Cook's family members how much his nephew loved them and his job. He praised Cook's fellow officers and told them to continue their jobs.

"You've got no reason to run away," he said.

He spoke of his nephew's shooting and urged family members to forgive Christopher Lee Cooper, the man authorities say shot him.

The Rev. Wayne Knight, Davidson County Sheriff's Office chaplain, told the crowd Cook was a hero.

"Todd gave his life and in my opinion his death saved us from something much worse in our county," Knight said.

Knight said Cook loved working in law enforcement. He said it was in his blood and Cook died doing what he loved.

"When God looks for law enforcement officers, he looks for someone who can go on cups of coffee and half-eaten meals," Knight said. "He was looking for someone with a heart bigger than his body and he found Todd."

He told sheriff's deputies to make a concerted effort to praise one another.

"It's easy to brag on someone when they're gone," Knight said. "Let's brag on each other while we're living."

After the funeral, a motorcade of some 300 law enforcement vehicles drove north on U.S. 52 to Rural Hall where Cook was laid to rest.

Along the way, officers lined up across overpasses to pay their respects. Some placed their right hand over their chests, others saluted.

Cook was buried at Crestview Memorial Park. The Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police served as a color guard at the burial.

Officers fired the traditional 21-gun salute and presented Cook's family with an American flag.

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<http://www.salisburypost.com/2000february/020100b.htm>

### **Friends remember a different Chris Cooper**

**BY ROSE POST**

**SALISBURY POST**

***Some day all doubt and mystery,  
Will be made clear  
The threatened clouds which now we see  
Will disappear ...***

LEXINGTON — By twos and threes, friends leave their pews and go to the dark blue casket at the front of Mt. Carmel Free Will Baptist Church, look at a peaceful 22-year-old Chris Cooper — and say goodbye.

They dry their eyes, clear their throats, reach into the casket to ... to what? Leave a note, perhaps? Pledge friendship for eternity? Touch, one last time, a friend they loved?

One after the other, they look at the three pictures his dad propped against the back of the casket's baby blue lining. Two are of Chris on a motorcycle he loved in happier days. One is of Chris with his Mustang.

"He always loved Mustangs," cousin Bridget Reynolds says. That picture was made with an early one. Not the Mustang he roared away in last Thursday after he killed Davidson County Sheriff's Deputy Todd Cook, leading officers on a chase that ended when he took his own life.

Did all that really happen?

Bridget Reynolds hugs her girls, Ciera, 7, and Brittany, 5, and tries to understand — and explain — and can't.

What she can do is remember a cousin she loved.

"He was a typical teen-ager," she says. "We grew up together." Stayed together at their grandparents' house. Skated together. Swam. Fished. Watched movies. And recently, before the horror of the past few weeks, they talked when he found out his 15-year-old girlfriend was pregnant. They talked when he started getting those threatening calls that came every day for maybe a week. Maybe more.

But she couldn't foresee the girlfriend's mother swearing out a trespassing warrant against Cooper or the deputy coming to take him to the courthouse or Cooper with a gun, shooting Deputy Cook at least five times and, eventually, himself.

***Some day what seems a punishment,  
Or loss, or pain,  
Will prove to be God's blessing sent  
For every gain.***

Some day. Not this day, when sunlight pours through the stained glass windows of the church and a man blows his nose and a woman pulls her coat a little tighter.

Not this day, when two men from the funeral home carefully pick up the pictures, close the casket, reposition the flowers, and Christopher Lee Cooper's funeral begins.

Does it feel unreal? Surely his mother and his father and his stepfather, who they all agree is his father, too, and his half-brother, all sitting close to each other and to the rest of the family, can't believe it.

Surely they feel it's sudden for Chris, who was just beginning his life ...

***Some day our weary feet will rest  
In sweet content,  
And we will know how we were blest  
By what was sent***

"Father," implores the Rev. Darrell Cartrette, "today we so humbly call upon you in Jesus' name ... I pray you to give strength to the family for they need it, to give guidance and leadership. ... I know as a father that we all try to teach our children the best we can. ...

"And I believe it should be a wake up call to a lot of us in a lot of ways, to our community and our personal lives, to the fact that our lives are precious and we need to cherish them ..."

And now Arthur Cooper of Linwood goes to the lectern, clears his throat and talks about his son.

In past years, he says, they had a lot of conversations. "But we never said goodbye. We'd just always look at each other, and I'd say, 'See you.' And he'd say, 'See you later.'"

"He was always a comic. You never knew what to expect from him. And he always worried about peer pressure and how he'd be accepted by his friends and family. ... I didn't tell him I loved him."

He looks at the closed casket.

"I love you, Chris."

"Due to the weather," the pastor says, "we can't go to the graveside today. ... Sometime, we'll read the meaning of our tears, and we will understand."

The pallbearers — all young men with short hair, long hair, with grim faces — rise and solemnly place their carnation among the flowers on the casket and follow it from the church.

***And looking back with clearer eyes  
O'er Life's short span,  
Will see with wondering, glad surprise,  
God's perfect plan.***

But not yet. Right now so many questions won't go away. Nor will the memories of the last few days. Or the regret.

Memories of Christmas Day when Chris ate with his girlfriend's family, memories of his terror — and how cornered he felt when the calls started coming, calls telling him he'd go to prison, calls describing the horror of what would happen to him there.

Memories of the stranger, a man who snapped, who went over the edge and killed a deputy, for whom they also grieve. That wasn't the Chris they knew.

So many memories that will never go away.

How can Polly Cook ever forget the message his friend brought, the friend at whose home her son stopped just before the officers got a tip about where he was and gave chase.

"He said Chris wanted to use the phone," she says. "He said Chris said, 'I want to call my mama and tell her that I love her and the family, and I'll never see them again.' "

But he didn't reach her, so he hurried back to that yellow Mustang.

"And that really sticks right here," she says, her hand on her heart.

Pain — and love.

***And knowing that the way we went  
Was God's own way  
Will understand His wise intent,  
Some day, some day.***

[http://www.ncdot.org/news/dailyclips/2000/00\\_09/2000-09-20l.html](http://www.ncdot.org/news/dailyclips/2000/00_09/2000-09-20l.html)

## **Killer acted alone, DA says**

LEXINGTON -- After a seven-month investigation, the district attorney has decided that the man who killed a Davidson County deputy in January acted alone and later committed suicide.

Garry Frank said that there is no evidence that anybody besides Christopher Lee Cooper, 22, was responsible for the death of Deputy Todd Cook, 30. Nor is there any evidence that Davidson County sheriff's deputies killed Cooper, although at least two deputies fired into Cooper's car.

Cook had gone to Cooper's house at 346 Beechwood Drive in Lexington on Jan. 27 to serve a warrant for second-degree trespassing. Cooper let Cook into the house, then walked into his bedroom, grabbed a shotgun and started shooting at Cook. As Cook laid bleeding on the floor, Cooper went back to the bedroom and returned with an assault rifle and shot Cook again. Cook was shot at least five times.

Cooper drove away and was spotted a half hour later. Deputies chased him through southern Davidson County. He drove through a roadblock formed by two patrol cars and wrecked into a ditch. As deputies approached, they heard a gunshot and fired on the car, officials said. Investigators said that the shot they heard was Cooper shooting himself with an assault rifle.

## **Ricky Leon Kinchen**

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/00leoka.pdf>

### **Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2000**

At 8:45 p.m. on March 16, a Fulton County Sheriff's deputy was fatally wounded while trying to serve an arrest warrant for failing to appear on a charge of Impersonating a Police Officer. The 35-year-old deputy, with more than 10 years of law enforcement experience, and another deputy drove to an Atlanta address on the warrant. Finding no one there, they returned to their vehicle and prepared to leave. However, as the deputies pulled away from the curb, they noticed a car pulling in behind them; a man who fit the physical description on the warrant exited the vehicle. The deputies, who were both wearing body armor, returned to the address, exiting their vehicle at the same time. When one deputy asked the man to show his right hand, the subject reportedly opened fire on both law enforcement officers with a .223-caliber semiautomatic rifle. He fired approximately 24 shots, hitting both deputies. The victim deputy's partner was hit in the right hip, in the left arm, both legs, and in the back. The shot that hit his hip ruptured the deputy's OC gas canister, blinding him; however, he kept firing his weapon in the direction of the shooter as he ran to find cover. The first deputy was shot in the abdomen below his protective vest and in the right hand, disabling his weapon by ejecting the magazine. He was lying in the street when the 56-year-old suspect allegedly produced a 9 mm handgun and shot the victim deputy in the groin before getting into his car and driving away. The deputies were able to call for help on their radios. The victim deputy died of his injuries the next day. The other deputy is recovering. The suspect, who had prior arrests for intimidating a federal agent, attempted homicide, robbery, arson, and assault, was arrested 4 days later and charged with five counts of Murder, two counts of Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer, two counts of Obstruction of Officers-Felony, two counts of Use Firearms in Crime by Convicted Felon, Aggravated Battery on Officer- Felony, and Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon.

<http://www.odmp.org/year.php?year=2000&Submit=Go>

<http://www.odmp.org/officer.php?oid=15375>

Deputy Sheriff Ricky Leon Kinchen

Fulton County Sheriff's Department, GA

End of Watch: Friday, March 17, 2000

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Weapon Used: Rifle; .223 caliber

Suspect Info: Sentenced to life

Deputy Kinchen died from gunshot wounds he received the night before while attempting to serve a warrant with another deputy. Deputy Kinchen and the other deputy went to suspect's job to serve the warrant. After failing to locate anyone at the business they drove around the block and located a vehicle. While approaching the vehicle, the deputies told an individual standing next to it to show them his hands. At that time, the suspect responded by saying "Here they are," and opened fire with a .223 caliber assault rifle, striking both deputies several times. Deputy Kinchen was struck in the abdomen and leg and was transported to a local hospital, where he died the next day. Deputy Kinchen was wearing a vest, however, the round struck him in an area not protected by the vest.

The second deputy was struck several times and admitted to the hospital in critical condition. The suspect was originally wanted for several charges, including impersonating a police officer. The suspect was a former member of the Black Panthers, a radical, militant group, with a long criminal record, including inciting a riot. He fled the scene after the shooting but was arrested several days later in Alabama. The deputies were unaware of the suspect's background. On March 9, 2002, the suspect was found guilty of 13 charges, including murder of a police officer, in connection with Deputy Kinchen's murder. On March 13, 2002, the suspect was sentenced to life without parole. Deputy Kinchen had been with the agency for nine years and is survived by his wife and two young children.

<http://www.atlantaofficers.com/lessonslearned.pdf>

Also, let us not forget our fallen officers, Deputy Ricky Kinchen (killed by suspect with mini 14 assault rifle), his partner Aldranon English survived but was severely injured. Also Atlanta Police officer Rick Sowa (killed by a suspect with an AR-15 Assault rifle) and Pat "Coach" Cocciolone who survived but also was severely wounded.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chicagoblack/message/73>

### **Atlanta area officer dies after shootout; 1960s militant sought Metro manhunt for ex-Black Panther H. Rap Brown**

March 17, 2000 Web posted at: 4:48 p.m. EST (2148 GMT)

From staff and wire reports

ATLANTA (CNN) -- A Fulton County sheriff's deputy died Friday afternoon of injuries suffered in an Atlanta area shoot-out Thursday night as he and another deputy attempted to serve a warrant on the former H. Rap Brown, Fulton County Sheriff Jacquelyn Barrett said.

The deputy, Ricky Kinchen, 35, died at 3:25 p.m. EST of complications from the gunshot wounds. "His heart stopped," Barrett said.

Kinchen had been hit in the abdomen and hand, said Dr. Jeffrey Solomone of Grady Memorial Hospital. He said Kinchen "almost bled to death" Thursday night and had received more than 50 units of blood and blood products. The deputy was married and had two teenaged children.

Earlier Friday, the other wounded deputy identified the attacker as the 1960s black militant once known as H. Rap Brown. A manhunt was continuing for Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, as Brown is now known.

The shooting, which one official likened to an ambush, occurred Thursday night as the two Fulton County sheriff's deputies tried to serve a warrant accusing Al-Amin of theft and impersonating an officer.

Part of the city of Atlanta is within Fulton County.

Atlanta Police Chief Beverly Harvard said investigators were able to question the less seriously wounded deputy, Aldranon English, and showed him a photo lineup that included a picture of Al-Amin.

English "has positively identified (Al-Amin) as the person who fired upon the two deputies," she said at a news conference.

'Almost bled to death'

English was in serious condition at Grady Hospital in Atlanta.

Both men were wearing protective vests, said Fulton County Sheriff Jacquelyn Barrett.

She said one of the guns used to fire at the deputies was a high-powered assault rifle. One of the surgeons who treated the deputies said they suffered "Vietnam-style wounds," Barrett said.

Investigators believe the shooter fired more than one weapon.

Harvard said 20 shell casings from a .223-caliber assault rifle were found along with four 9 mm shell casings.

Shell casings from the deputies' .40-caliber handguns indicated the officers fired 11 times, police said.

Ambush?

The deputies did not know that Al-Amin was Brown, the former Black Panthers militant, when they tried to serve the warrant at a grocery store he owned in Atlanta's West End neighborhood, Barrett said.

Police Chief Harvard said English and Kinchen found no one at the store, drove around the block and then stopped back near the store when they saw a man in a black Mercedes parked there.

They asked the man to get out, but "one of the deputies was concerned he could not see the person's hands," she said. "The deputy then asked him to show his hands, and the person responded by saying, 'OK, here they are.' At that point in time, the two sheriff's deputies were fired upon."

Harvard said police believe the gunman was wounded in the shoot-out that followed. Police tracked a trail of blood to a vacant house but did not find the gunman, she said.

Barrett said she believes the officers were ambushed. "I think both officers kind of walked into this," she said.

The address of the store was listed on the warrant, which was issued in neighboring Cobb County after Al-Amin failed to appear in court in January.

Court documents in Cobb County showed Al-Amin was wanted for driving a stolen car, driving without insurance and flashing a badge in an attempt to convince the officer who stopped him that he also was a policeman.

'Violence is as American as cherry pie'

Al-Amin was a leader of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and justice minister of the Black Panthers, which rose to prominence in the 1960s. Known then as Brown, he once exhorted blacks to arm themselves, saying "violence is as American as cherry pie."

In 1967, he was charged with inciting a riot in Cambridge, Maryland, where he had told about 400 blacks: "It's time for Cambridge to explode, baby. Black folks built America, and if America don't come around, we're going to burn America down."

After the rally, shots were fired between blacks and whites. Al-Amin was wounded in the forehead by a shotgun pellet, and a white police officer was shot in the neck, face and hand. No one was killed.

The next morning, a fire burned a school and two city blocks.

Converted to Islam

Al-Amin came to Atlanta in 1976 after converting to Islam while imprisoned for his role in a robbery that ended in a shoot-out with New York police.

In recent years, Al-Amin has lived as the Muslim spiritual leader of a community mosque and operated a small grocery in Atlanta's West End. He has worked at trying to clean up drugs and prostitution in the neighborhood.

In 1995, he was accused of aggravated assault, carrying a concealed weapon and possessing an unlicensed pistol after a man claimed he was shot by Al-Amin.

William Miles, then 22, told police he was walking home from a park when one of four shots struck him in the leg. Federal authorities said Al-Amin was carrying an unlicensed pistol and a large knife when he was arrested.

Al-Amin's supporters claimed the charges were trumped up as revenge because of the New York police shoot-out, for which he served five years of a 15-year sentence.

"Some authorities apparently feel it should have been more, and they've continued their persecution of me by targeting me," Al-Amin once told CNN affiliate WXIA-TV in Atlanta.

Miles later recanted and said he was pressured by authorities to identify Al-Amin as the man who shot him. --

<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/330.html>

## **Police Seek Ex-Militant In Slaying**

By Peter Slevin, *Washington Post*,  
Saturday 18 March 2000; A01

[H. Rap Brown] Police were searching Atlanta neighborhoods yesterday for Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin--better known as 1960s black militant H. Rap Brown--after he allegedly shot and killed a sheriff's deputy who tried to arrest him on a theft charge.

Al-Amin, once the angry embodiment of the black power movement, later a famous name on the FBI's Most Wanted List, fled into the night after opening fire late Thursday on two deputies who had ordered him to get out of his black Mercedes Benz, according to Atlanta police.

Police followed a trail of blood to a vacant house, but Al-Amin was not there.

Fulton County Sheriff's Deputy Ricky Kinchen died after being shot twice. In an Atlanta hospital, surviving Deputy Aldranon English pointed yesterday to a photograph of the tall, thin 56-year-old Al-Amin and named him as the man who shot him four times.

The manhunt focused on the neighborhood where Al-Amin has quietly operated a grocery store for more than two decades. Nearby, residents spoke of the onetime firebrand as a peaceable community worker and the imam of the Community Mosque, a house of worship he founded after moving to Atlanta in the 1970s.

Two former colleagues of Al-Amin's in the black radical movement spoke words of praise and caution yesterday, wanting to know more before concluding that Al-Amin could have been the man with the gun.

"I hope he is not tried in the press," said James Forman, the former executive director of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), who lives in Adams-Morgan. "I hope that it's not a frame-up. H. Rap Brown has been chased down and falsely imprisoned on many, many occasions. He was a champion fighter for human rights."

David Hilliard, the former Black Panther chief of staff who recently lost a bid for the City Council in Oakland, Calif., said, "I'm waiting to see what's revealed when Brother Al-

Amin can speak for himself." He called Al-Amin a "very charismatic, very dynamic personality who was an outspoken, powerful orator and one of the best organizers in the movement."

"They were our heroes," Hilliard said of Al-Amin and other SNCC leaders. "They took a very courageous stand organizing and registering people to vote in the South where there were overt racists not just standing in the school house door but still lynching and killing people."

It was the loose ends of a 1999 case that led to Thursday's drama behind Al-Amin's grocery store. The deputies were dispatched to arrest Al-Amin after he failed to appear for trial in Cobb County on a charge that he impersonated a police officer and accepted stolen property.

The deputies knocked on the door of the store but found no one in, Atlanta Police Chief Beverly Harvard told reporters yesterday. They drove through the neighborhood and saw Al-Amin in his Mercedes upon their return. The deputies told him to get out of his car. One asked to see Al-Amin's hands.

"Okay, here they are," Al-Amin said, and opened fire, according to Harvard.

The alleged gunman fled after Kinchen, 35, and English, 28, fell. Police thought they had cornered him inside a nearby house, but when they burst in, they found no one, though they saw what they thought was his blood.

Kinchen, shot in the lower abdomen and left thigh, lived barely 12 more hours, said Atlanta police Sgt. Clarence Huber. English was hit twice in the left arm, once in the right side and once in the left thigh, but was able to talk to investigators. Huber said English, weak and in serious condition, could reveal what he knows only slowly.

Al-Amin rose to prominence in the late 1960s while urging black Americans to use violence, if necessary, to challenge white power. Preaching that justice sometimes requires militancy in a country that won its independence by force, he once said that "violence is as American as cherry pie."

As H. Rap Brown, he was the chairman of SNCC when police said his incendiary speechmaking on Maryland's Eastern Shore led to arson and disorder in Cambridge. What happened that day led Congress to pass what became known as the "Rap Brown Law," which made it a federal felony to cross a state line to trigger a riot. He also once served as minister of justice for the Black Panthers and was a student at Howard University.

"It's time for Cambridge to explode, baby," Brown told a crowd of several hundred on July 24, 1967. "Black folks built America, and if America don't come around, we're going to burn America down."

Charged with inciting a riot, Brown disappeared in March 1970 after two of his friends died in an automobile bomb blast in Bel Air, Md., on the eve of his trial. The FBI put him on its Most Wanted List, where he stayed for 17 months.

Brown surfaced in a violent way, New York police later said, when he joined three men to rob the Red Carpet Lounge, a basement taproom on New York's Upper West Side. He was captured on the roof of a nearby apartment building after a patrol officer chased and shot him. He spent five years in prison, converted to Islam, changed his name and moved to Atlanta after his 1976 release.

Police charged Al-Amin in 1995 with shooting an Atlanta man named William Miles. They said he was carrying an unlicensed pistol when arrested. The 22-year-old Miles later

recanted, telling authorities that detectives had pressured him into naming Al-Amin as his attacker.

*Staff writer Michael A. Fletcher contributed to this report.*

<http://www.parr1.com/ARGU5-2SS2000.html>

## **NRA Fights Back**

(By Bob Manzke)

The National Rifle Association intensified its verbal warfare with the Clinton administration linking the federal government's failure to prosecute a former black militant for a 1995 gun offense to the fatal shooting of a deputy sheriff in Atlanta.

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre refused to apologize for remarks he made a week ago when he said President Clinton exploited gun violence for political gain. He and NRA President Charlton Heston, who was interviewed separately, criticized the Clinton administration for failing to enforce existing gun laws. "This lack of enforcement is killing people," Mr. LaPierre said. Both he and Mr. Heston cited the shooting death of Sheriff's Deputy Ricky Kinchen in Fulton County, Ga. The deputy and another officer were gunned down when they tried to arrest Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, the former Black Panther leader once famous as H. Rap Brown.

In network appearances, the NRA officials said Mr. Al-Amin was carrying an unlicensed handgun when he was arrested in Atlanta five years ago after a man said Mr. Al-Amin shot him. The man later recanted his accusations. Mr. LaPierre said police in the Atlanta area called the Clinton administration at the time to see if federal officials wanted to prosecute Mr. Al-Amin for illegal possession of a firearm. "The Clinton administration refused to prosecute, and he wound up killing someone," Mr. LaPierre said.

At this point, Mr. Al-Amin has only been accused in the shootings, not convicted. He remains at-large. Mr. LaPierre said the federal government could also prosecute these cases, but largely doesn't. "They could have taken [Mr. Al-Amin] off the streets for up to 10 years," he said. "Rap Brown would be in jail and that sheriff would still be alive . . . if the Clinton administration had done its job properly," Mr. Heston said.

White House Domestic Policy Adviser Bruce Reed said federal prosecution of gun crime has risen 16 percent since Mr. Clinton took office in 1993. Mr. LaPierre disputed that figure. He said that increase followed a 50 percent drop in federal gun crime prosecutions since the Bush administration.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A12237-2000Mar24-Found=true>

## **NRA Uses Atlanta Police Killing as Ammunition**

Group Criticizes Law Enforcement Under Clinton

*By Peter Slevin and John Mintz*

Washington Post Staff Writers

Saturday, March 25, 2000; Page A02

In an unusually vitriolic campaign, the National Rifle Association is seizing on the murder of a Georgia lawman--allegedly killed by 1960s militant Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin--to convince Americans that U.S. streets would be safer if the federal government pursued firearms violations more aggressively.

Sheriff's Deputy Ricky Kinchen would be alive today, asserts NRA executive Wayne LaPierre, if federal prosecutors had filed a gun charge in 1995 against Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown. Earlier, LaPierre accused President Clinton of having "blood on his hands" after a basketball coach was killed by a white supremacist who failed a gun background check.

"He can pick them up right now under existing federal law, hold them without bail, send them to the federal pen for up to five to 10 years," LaPierre said Sunday on NBC television. "They're not doing that. They let them roam the street and they let them go to their next killing."

So, is the Al-Amin case an example of the failure to prosecute felons who carry guns? Atlanta police said Al-Amin, convicted of attempted robbery in 1971, was carrying a .45-caliber pistol when they arrested him for assault in 1995. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms recommended prosecution on a felony gun charge punishable by as long as 10 years in prison.

But the victim recanted and the assault case fell apart. Federal prosecutors then declined to pursue the gun felony after weighing the evidence and Al-Amin's reputation for good works. They concluded a prosecution would be ill-advised and quite possibly unwinnable.

"We have a 20-year-old felony conviction. We've got a victim who had recanted his story completely," said Gentry Shelnett, chief of the criminal division of the U.S. attorney's office in Atlanta. "It looked like a troubled case when it came to going to court and getting a conviction."

LaPierre believes the decision is a symptom of larger problems: "Local police all over the country have told us that if they catch a felon or drug dealer with a gun, and call the Justice Department, it falls into a black hole."

### **Justice Department officials dispute LaPierre's contentions.**

Department statistics show a 41 percent increase in the number of federal gun felons sentenced to more than five years in prison since 1993, when Clinton took office. Using the same data, officials also point to a 16 percent increase in gun cases filed.

In the same period, however, the number of federal gun defendants is virtually unchanged--7,059 prosecuted in 1992 compared with 7,057 in 1999.

The Al-Amin case began when police responded to a July 26 shooting outside Al-Amin's neighborhood grocery, the Community Store. Officers and paramedics found 22-year-old William Miles on the ground, bleeding from a gunshot wound to his right leg.

That day, Miles told police that the owner of the Community Store--the officer quoted Miles as calling him "Heman"--had shot him four times with a pistol, according to the police report. A detective reckoned that Miles had said "Imam," as Al-Amin was known for being the spiritual leader of the nearby Community Mosque.

At the time, Shelnett said, Miles was a small-time marijuana dealer. Al-Amin was well-known for saying that he would not tolerate drug dealing near his store or in West End Park across the street.

### **Miles told police he was aware of the warning.**

On Aug. 2, Miles picked a photograph of Al-Amin from a photo spread and named him as the man who shot him. On Aug. 7, Atlanta detective G.L. Landrum--liaison to the FBI's Joint Counterterrorism Task Force in advance of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics--went looking for Al-Amin, accompanied by law officers who included FBI agent Bill Gant.

They stopped Al-Amin's 1978 black Mercedes and arrested him for aggravated assault. "I've got a gun," the detective quoted Al-Amin as saying.

Within two weeks, Al-Amin and other Islamic leaders had visited Miles at home, and Miles had changed his story. Now the young man said he never saw who shot him, asserting that he identified Al-Amin only after police showed him photographs and pressured him.

"In his initial statement, he said Al-Amin had warned people about selling drugs in the park," Shelnuttt said, "and he recants the part about Al-Amin ever saying that."

At a time when attention was focused on Atlanta and the potential for violence at the Olympics, the case drew national scrutiny--and criticism.

Leaders of the Council on American Islamic Relations and the American Muslim Council told a Washington news conference that Al-Amin had been "arrested falsely." Miles spoke on behalf of Al-Amin, who alleged that he and his mosque had been under federal investigation for seven years.

Earlier that year, two gun dealers in a small shop next to Al-Amin's Community Store stood trial on charges that they illegally shipped more than 900 firearms to Detroit, Philadelphia and an Islamic gang linked to Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, convicted of masterminding a plot to bomb buildings in New York.

An Atlanta jury deadlocked on the most serious charges against Amin Abdur Karim and Jibri Abdur Rahman, who owned the Al-Fajr Trading Co. and worshiped at Al-Amin's mosque. A judge sentenced the two men to three years in prison on related charges, said Jack Killorin, chief of the Atlanta ATF office. He said federal authorities found no criminal link between them and Al-Amin.

When the Miles assault case against Al-Amin fell apart, the local ATF office recommended that he be prosecuted for carrying a gun as a felon convicted 24 years earlier. Federal prosecutors in Atlanta decided not to prosecute. They acted without input from Washington, Shelnuttt said.

"U.S. attorneys and investigative agencies make decisions every day," Killorin said, "to go with this one, to go with something else."

Prosecutors noted the problems with the assault case. They noted that Al-Amin attempted to rob a New York club in 1971, had served time in prison, and had gone 24 years without further legal troubles. They deemed it unlikely that another suspect in a similar position would face charges.

And, as a tactical matter, they doubted a jury would convict a man sure to be painted by defense attorneys as a respected community leader battling violence in his neighborhood. End of case.

Al-Amin next surfaced in police files in 1999, when Cobb County, Ga., authorities charged him with theft and impersonating a police officer. Al-Amin did not appear in court when scheduled. Deputies Kinchen and Aldranon English were trying to serve a warrant in that case on March 16 when Al-Amin allegedly opened fire with a .223 Ruger rifle.

GEORGIA:

(source: New York Times)

Prosecutors announced today that they would seek the death penalty for Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, the Muslim cleric formerly known as H. Rap Brown, who is charged in the March 16 killing of a sheriff's deputy.

The decision, announced by the Fulton County district attorney, Paul Howard, at a brief hearing today, sets up what is likely to be one of Atlanta's most politically charged capital murder trials in recent memory. The death penalty, which is usually sought in cases involving the murder of a law enforcement officer, puts in motion a series of pretrial procedures that could put off the trial until late this year or early next.

Mr. Al-Amin's legal team, with the support of many of Atlanta's Muslims, has already contended that there was a broad governmental conspiracy to frame the defendant, stretching back to his days as a radical political activist in the 1960's.

The lawyers have challenged as tainted the physical evidence linking Mr. Al-Amin to the guns that police technicians say were used to kill the deputy, Ricky Kinchen, and say organized crime collaborated with the government to set up Mr. Al-Amin because he tried to end prostitution in his Atlanta neighborhood.

If Mr. Al-Amin's lawyers bring up the 1960's, Mr. Howard's prosecutors may well try to cite Mr. Al-Amin's radical past as evidence of a penchant toward violence, citing his inflammatory statements as an honorary member of the Black Panther party and as a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, as well as his 1971 conviction for armed robbery after a shootout with New York City police. Working against them will be Mr. Al-Amin's 25 years of apparent nonviolence after he moved to Atlanta, founded a mosque and began working to rid his neighborhood of crime.

Today's hearing was Mr. Al-Amin's first appearance in a Fulton County courtroom since he was extradited on April 21 from Alabama, where he was captured on March 20 in the small town of White Hall.

He is held under heavy security at the jail in neighboring Cobb County, which had issued a warrant for his arrest in January on charges of driving a stolen car and impersonating an officer. It was that warrant that Deputy Kinchen and his colleague in the Fulton County sheriff's office, Aldranon English, were trying to serve on Mr. Al-Amin when they were shot at point-blank range a block from his house. Mr. Kinchen died the next day; Mr. English, who was wounded, later identified Mr. Al-Amin as the man who fired an assault rifle at the deputies.

F.B.I. agents said they found an assault rifle and a 9 millimeter handgun near the field where Mr. Al-Amin was captured; police ballistics experts later said the guns matched the bullets found in the 2 deputies.

These kinds of disclosures have infuriated the defense lawyers, who say they reduce Mr. Al-Amin's chances of a fair trial in Atlanta. At their request, and with the consent of the prosecution, Judge Stephanie B. Manis of Fulton County Superior Court entered an order today restricting lawyers, witnesses and experts on either side of the case from speaking publicly about it.

Mr. Al-Amin, 56, wearing a white shirt with a high banded collar and tinted glasses, did not appear surprised when Mr. Howard announced his decision and handed a copy of the request to the defense table. He listened attentively to the proceedings, and before and

after the hearing chatted amiably with several of his Muslim supporters, who packed the courtroom.

<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/JohnJudge/linkscopy/AlAminTrial.html>

## **Al-Amin On Trial**

### **Former radical again faces charges involving police shootout -- But this time, it's a matter of life or death**

by Ernie Suggs and Jill Young Miller, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 10 Sep 2001

In 1973, when a New York judge sentenced 29-year-old civil rights activist H. Rap Brown to prison for armed robbery, which included a shootout with police, he tempered the sentence citing Brown's past.

"Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, I'm taking into account that you have done much to help your people," state Supreme Court Justice Arnold G. Fraiman said at the time.

Brown, known for his fiery rhetoric, huge Afro and black shades, was an outspoken leader in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The group, founded during the sit-in era of the early '60s, was in turmoil. Brown and other militants, including Stokely Carmichael, were pushing out many of the group's more conciliatory founders -- Julian Bond and John Lewis among them.

"You have devoted much of your life to helping your fellow man," the judge told Brown.

Fast forward 28 years, a name change and a major religious conversion later, and Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, 57, again finds himself before a judge. And again because of a shootout with police.

Al-Amin is charged with the March 2000 slaying of Fulton County sheriff's Deputy Ricky Kinchen, 35, and the wounding of his partner, Deputy Aldranon English, then 28. The officers were shot as they tried to serve a warrant on Al-Amin. Jury selection for the death penalty trial will begin Wednesday and is expected to last about one month.

Al-Amin's supporters claim he is being set up by the very government he has always challenged. They point to his civil rights record and what he has done to clean up the once-crime-ridden West End community south of downtown Atlanta.

Others paint a darker picture -- of a longtime thug who once proudly proclaimed, "Violence is as American as cherry pie." A man who cloaked himself in a Muslim imam's robes but wielded power in the West End through violence and intimidation. A man charged with killing a black police officer.

Diverse groups have a stake in the outcome of the case. They are the Muslims in the United States who believe they are victims of religious discrimination; the West End residents who credit Al-Amin with banning drug dealers and hookers from their park and public streets; Kinchen's grieving family members, who plan to attend the trial for its duration; and the police officers who put their lives on the line every day.

"This could be seen as a test case to see that a Muslim can get a fair trial, free of bias," said Ibrahim Hooper, with the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations, an advocacy group.

As far as the deputies, they "pretty much just want to see a sense of justice come about in this trial," said Charles Rambo, a Fulton County sheriff's deputy and president of the officers' union, which established a trust fund for Kinchen's widow and daughters.

"My brother was cut down in the prime of his life," said David Kinchen, Ricky Kinchen's older brother. "He leaves behind his two kids. It's something that I don't think my family will ever get over."

Al-Amin's brother, Ed Brown, said his family also has suffered, but he remains confident that his younger brother will be exonerated. "As far as he's concerned, he's placed his faith and his life in Allah's hands," Brown said.

"This has been a 35-year process of harassment, of attempts to intimidate him, and it just simply seems to be the latest chapter," he said. "People have come forward with [movie deals and] book offers but these are things we're not focused on.

"Our interest is to try to save his life."

### **Strong Muslim support**

The police shootings occurred the night of March 16, 2000, in the West End as the deputies tried to serve Al-Amin with a warrant. The Cobb County warrant stemmed from Al-Amin's failure to appear in court on charges of theft by receiving a stolen car, impersonating an officer and no proof of insurance.

English identified Al-Amin as the shooter, but Al-Amin was not immediately captured, and a massive manhunt ensued. Al-Amin was arrested March 20 in rural White Hall, Ala., after an alleged exchange of gunfire with local and federal authorities.

Before Al-Amin's arrest, a witness in West End claimed to have seen a man hitchhiking in bloody clothing the night of the shooting. Police also said they found a trail of blood leading to a vacant West End house. English, although seriously wounded, told investigators he thought he had wounded his attacker. Al-Amin was not shot.

Alabama is familiar territory for Al-Amin. In the late '60s, he spent time in White Hall and Lowndes County -- the midway point between Selma and Montgomery -- helping set up anti-poverty programs and registering voters. The voting rights efforts in Lowndes adopted a black panther as its symbol, an icon later embraced by the Black Panther Party.

Al-Amin spent four months as the Black Panther Party's honorary minister of justice.

After his parole in 1976 from his 1973 conviction in New York, Al-Amin made a religious pilgrimage to Mecca, a holy city of Islam, then settled into Atlanta's West End. From his tiny storefront and makeshift mosque at West End Avenue and Oak Street, he rose to become spiritual leader of the National Community, one of the biggest Muslim communities in the United States. Tall, rail-thin and charismatic, Al-Amin started neighborhood patrols, organized summer games for Muslim youth, converted drug users to Islam and helped them beat their addictions.

At Friday's ju'mah prayer service, a weekly worship service, nearly 200 Muslims gathered in a new West End mosque. A man read from the Koran in English and Arabic, then told the worshippers that Al-Amin welcomed their letters. "May Allah continue to make him an example of strength to us," he said.

Al-Amin's National Community is a coalition of more than 30 mosques across the country that trace its roots to the now-defunct Dar al-Islam Movement, a mainly black sect that was founded in the '60s but splintered in the '80s. One of those groups formed the National Community and elected Al-Amin as its leader.

Like most American Muslims, Al-Amin belongs to mainstream Islam, not the Nation of Islam with its high-profile leader, Louis Farrakhan. A spokesman for the Community

Mosque of Atlanta said Farrakhan is the only major black leader who has visited Al-Amin in jail.

### **Dreams for White Hall**

Although he spent years in relative obscurity in West End, federal agents have suspected Al-Amin of gunrunning since 1994. That year, several members of his congregation were convicted of smuggling pistols to Muslims in New York. Al-Amin was never charged.

In 1995, he was accused of shooting William Miles, but Miles later claimed that police had forced him to implicate Al-Amin.

Since the 1960s, Al-Amin has kept his ties to White Hall, a poor town of about 1,500, and its first black mayor, John Jackson. The two envisioned building a large Islamic community with turreted spires rising above White Hall's pastures and pine trees, swampy woodlands and fields of red clover. Their plan included a \$47 million rural Islamic complex, protected by guarded gatehouses.

But at the time of Al-Amin's arrest last year, only 11 Muslims in three families had moved to White Hall. Several eked out a living selling goat burgers at the tiny Bismillah Cafe and copies of the Koran from battered vans. Isolated by religious differences from the rural Bible Belt's mainstream community, only one Muslim family remained in White Hall by March of this year.

Lowndes County Sheriff Willie Vaughner, who headed the investigation that led to Al-Amin's arrest, said he isn't sure how many Muslims remain in White Hall but estimates it's only a handful.

Mayor Jackson has declined reporters' requests for interviews. Authorities questioned him after Al-Amin's black Mercedes was found on property owned by Jackson's mother after Al-Amin's capture in White Hall.

Vaughner and two of his deputies have been subpoenaed to testify at the trial.

### **'Justice is not cheap'**

Al-Amin faces a 13-count indictment, including counts of murder, aggravated assault and firearm possession.

Brown, Al-Amin's brother, said a "justice fund" for Muslims, which will help pay for Al-Amin's defense, has amassed about \$100,000.

The contributions "certainly don't match the expenses of the case, even though he has been given indigent status," Brown said. "Justice is not cheap in this country and, unfortunately, indigents end up being underfunded while the state has unlimited resources." While Al-Amin awaits trial, his supporters -- particularly in the African-American community -- have steadfastly proclaimed his innocence. Some say his arrest and charges are a government conspiracy.

Students from the historically black Atlanta University Center have been closely following the case. Karen Fields, 19, a junior at Spelman College, said her father calls from Detroit to find out what's happening with Al-Amin.

"My dad was really into the struggle during the '60s," she said. "He loves this man." Some of Al-Amin's "brothers" gave a lecture at Morehouse College last year, sponsored by the African-American Studies Association, said senior Justin Edmon, 22.

"I think he's being railroaded because of the man he is and was," Edmon said. "They're out to get him because of his political activism." Al-Amin's supporters have held rallies in West End Park, near the site of the shooting. Strung between a tree and a telephone

pole, a large red banner with gold lettering declares: "JUSTICE FOR IMAM JAMIL AL-AMIN."

In cities across the nation, rallies and concerts have been held to raise support and awareness about the case, said Nadim Ali, a spokesman for the Community Mosque of Atlanta. "Stop the Legal Lynching of Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin and other political prisoners," said a flyer advertising a national rally set for noon next Saturday in Woodruff Park. Ricky Kinchen's brother David is troubled by portrayals of Al-Amin as a victim.

"This whole conspiracy thing is just to distract from what actually happened on March 16, 2000," he said.

"If you're asking me if I ever considered him a hero or a valuable contributor to the civil rights movement, my answer is definitely no," Kinchen said.

As many as 30 of Ricky Kinchen's family members plan to show up for the trial's start Wednesday, said his brother, an information technology program manager who lives in Alexandria, Va. After that, a "core group" of 10 to 15 family members -- including Ricky Kinchen's widow, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews -- plans to attend each day.

"We want to be there when justice is served," Kinchen said.

"We want the public to know that Ricky had a loving family, and we're not going to take a passive role in this trial. We're going to speak out where we feel it's necessary. And we're going to keep hammering home the fact that Ricky gave his life so that the citizens of Atlanta could feel safe and sleep at night.

"And they shouldn't forget that."

Staff writers Mae Gentry and Jingle Davis contributed to this article.

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<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/JohnJudge/linkscopy/AIAminMTMOT.html>

## **AL-AMIN ON TRIAL**

More than a man on trial

Ability to ensure justice for all is at stake

by Lateef Mungin, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 6 Jan 2002

Four months ago, the trial of Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin threatened to resurrect the divisiveness of the radical '60s. Now, as 1,500 potential jurors are summoned to the Fulton County Courthouse this week to start the murder trial of the man once known as H. Rap Brown, the case raises a new question: Can a Muslim get a fair trial after Sept. 11?

"This trial is of great concern to Muslims and the Muslim community," said Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Washington-based advocacy group. "We see this trial as a barometer on whether a Muslim can get a fair trial, free of bias, and whether a jury will make decisions based on external factors or look at the facts of the case."

The trial had been scheduled to begin Sept. 12. But after the terrorist attacks, Fulton Superior Court Judge Stephanie Manis delayed the trial.

Defense attorneys and court observers question whether Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, a Muslim imam, can get a fair trial in the atmosphere created by the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Manis said she is taking every step to ensure a fair trial. During a recent pretrial hearing, she even gave attorneys news articles on the negative impact the attacks have had on post-Sept. 11 court cases. Manis is expected to call 1,500 perspective jurors, or more than three times the usual number for a case, to look for 12 unbiased jurors.

"It was obvious that the case could not be tried on Sept. 12," said Jack Martin, one of Al-Amin's defense attorneys. "But we are ready now. We have to try the case sometime. And this could be the case that tests the waters."

Al-Amin is charged with the slaying of Fulton County sheriff's Deputy Ricky Kinchen, 35, and the wounding of his partner, Deputy Aldranon English, then 28. The officers were shot in March 2000 as they tried to serve a Cobb County arrest warrant on Al-Amin.

Jury selection starts Tuesday, when groups of 100 jurors begin filling out questionnaires drawn up by defense and prosecution lawyers.

Some legal experts say the case against Al-Amin could be a gauge of how jurors view Muslims after the terrorist attacks.

Hussein Ibish, spokesman for the Washington-based Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, said his organization has received numerous reports of court delays in cases involving Muslims since Sept. 11.

Ibish said he does not know whether it will help or hurt Al-Amin that he is an African-American convert to Islam, instead of a foreign-born Muslim. Both foreign-born and U.S.-born Muslims have complained about discrimination since Sept. 11, Ibish said.

"We have seen a widespread fear that juries will be more prejudiced toward Muslims and Arab-Americans who are defendants in criminal cases," said Ibish, whose organization has 80 national field offices and gives legal work and referrals for Arab-Americans and Muslims. "We've also heard from many Arab-American defense attorneys who have told clients to find other attorneys because of this fear. It is a major concern."

Members of the Community Mosque of Atlanta, Al-Amin's mosque in the West End, say they don't know how Sept. 11 will affect the trial of their prayer leader. But members say they are leaving nothing to chance and they have passed out hundreds of fliers on the upcoming trial throughout Atlanta.

"We are putting on an all-out effort to get the facts of the case in front of people. We would do this whether Sept. 11 happened or not," said Bilal Sunni-Ali, a member of Al-Amin's mosque. Relatives of the slain deputy say they want justice.

"If [Al-Amin] did it, he should be a man and `fess up to it," said Steve Kinchen, 26, nephew of Ricky Kinchen. "But if he did not do it, we want to find the man that did. This has caused a lot of grief with the family. ... I can't describe the pain."

Al-Amin is no stranger to the courtroom or to controversy. His well-publicized civil rights activism in the 1960s with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and a four-month stint with the Black Panthers Party placed him in front of several judges.

After appealing a weapons charge in the late 1960s, Al-Amin was accused of inciting a riot because of statements he made in a 1967 speech in Maryland. In 1973, he was convicted of armed robbery after a shootout with police outside a New York bar.

Al-Amin converted to Islam in prison. After his parole in 1976, he made a pilgrimage to Mecca, a holy city of Islam, then settled into Atlanta's West End, a mostly African-

American neighborhood where a small Muslim community grew up around the mosque he founded.

Al-Amin opened a small store and saw the mosque grow to more than 200 followers. He became the spiritual leader of the National Community, one of the biggest Muslim communities in the United States, and was known for starting neighborhood patrols in the West End and converting drug users to Islam.

All this ended March 16, 2000, as English and Kitchen tried to serve Al-Amin with a warrant. The Cobb County warrant stemmed from Al-Amin's failure to appear in court on charges of theft by receiving a stolen car, impersonating an officer and having no proof of insurance.

English identified Al-Amin as the man who shot him and his partner. But Al-Amin was not immediately captured, and a massive manhunt ensued. Al-Amin was arrested four days later in rural White Hall, Ala., a place where much of his civil rights activism originated.

English told investigators he thought he had wounded his attacker. But when he was arrested, Al-Amin showed no wounds. Before Al-Amin's arrest, a witness claimed to have seen a man in bloody clothing hitchhiking from the West End the night of the shooting. Police also said they found a trail of blood leading to a vacant house nearby.

Many of Al-Amin's supporters, including his older brother, Ed Brown, said the charges -- both old and new -- are part of a government conspiracy to destroy Al-Amin. Though his brother has changed his name and changed his religion, law enforcement officials remain suspicious, Ed Brown said.

"It's business as usual. I've seen this all before," said Brown, who said he has collected more than 200 pages of government surveillance documents on his brother. "Given the fact that he is a Muslim, black and has been designated as a militant, it seems improbable that he would get a fair trial. But still a part of me hopes that there are 12 good people who vote on the evidence and the facts, and not their prejudice."

[http://lists.village.virginia.edu/lists\\_archive/sixties-l/4113.html](http://lists.village.virginia.edu/lists_archive/sixties-l/4113.html)

## **Defense rests in Al-Amin (Rap) trial**

[The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: 3.7.2002]

Updates in the Al-Amin trial

UPDATED: 3:17 PM

By STEVE VISSER and LATEEF MUNGIN

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Staff Writer

Defense rests, case could go to jury Friday

In a surprise move, the defense team in the murder case of Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin rested its case minutes ago.

Prosecutor Robert McBurney said he had no rebuttal witnesses.

The jury is expected to start deliberating Friday after closing arguments in the death-penalty case.

"That completes the testimony and the defense in the case of Jamil Abudllah Al-Amin," said Fulton County Judge Stephanie Manis.

Lead defense lawyer Jack Martin asked that closing arguments be postponed until Monday.

Manis refused, saying it would be unfair to a sequestered jury.

Al-Amin, who has said he is the victim of a government conspiracy, never testified. Martin said the defense advised Al-Amin to stay silent.

Al-Amin, 58, is accused of murdering Fulton County Sheriff's Deputy Ricky Kinchen and wounding Deputy Aldranon English on March 16, 2000.

The deputies had a warrant for Al-Amin's arrest on relatively minor felony charges in Cobb County.

### **Witness says man firing handgun was not Al-Amin**

A West End man testified today that the person he saw firing a handgun at the location where two deputies were shot was not Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, the Muslim cleric on trial for a cop-killing.

Imhotep Shaka, a British citizen, testified in Fulton County Superior Court that he could tell from the gunman's size that he was not Al-Amin, the former H. Rap Brown. Shaka said after hearing gunfire he looked out his window and could see the man at the intersection of Oak Street and West End Place. While he could not make out the man's race, Shaka said he was "absolutely positive" that the shooter was not Al-Amin, whom he spoke with regularly in the neighborhood.

"It was not same stature," he said. "Jamil is tall and slender."

Shaka said he then checked on his children and about a minute later saw a black car speed away from the shooting scene outside Al-Amin's grocery. He said he didn't see anyone else, including Fulton County Sheriff's Deputy Ricky Kinchen, lying in the intersection, where law officers discovered him a few minutes after the shooting around 10 p.m. on March 16, 2000. Shaka said the gunman fired about three rounds toward West End Park. He said he could see the muzzle flashes.

Shaka said he didn't report what he had seen to the swarm of police outside because he was afraid of "harassment" because he is black. He said no officers knocked on his door looking for witnesses to the shooting.

Kinchen and his partner, Aldranon English, who recovered from his wounds and identified Al-Amin as the shooter, also are black.

Robert McBurney, the lead prosecutor, questioned Shaka why he had never reported that he saw a shooter other than Al-Amin since Al-Amin has been in jail for nearly two years.

Shaka said his "experience in life as a black man" made him fear harassment.

Several other witnesses who lived on or near West End Place seemed to contradict English's previous testimony that Al-Amin opened fire first with the Ruger. Witnesses said that they heard what appeared to be pistol fire before hearing the louder reports of the Ruger assault rifle. Two witnesses also testified that they saw a white van backing away from the crime scene almost immediately after the shooting.

Fareed Abdul Haqq Jihad, who worships at the West End mosque where Al-Amin is the imam -- or prayer leader -- said he saw a man shorter than the 6-foot-5-inch Al-Amin get into the van. "I didn't see anybody else out there but me," he said.

The unidentified man, who had been walking up West End Place, was wearing a light brown jacket or shirt, Jihad said. That matches English's testimony describing his assailant, whom he identified as Al-Amin garments. But English said Al-Amin sped away in his black Mercedes.

Al-Amin was arrested in Alabama four days after the shooting where his bullet-riddled black 1978 Mercedes-Benz was recovered. Forensic experts said they linked bullets recovered from the Mercedes to English's and Kinchen's handguns. Ballistic tests also linked a 9mm bullet recovered from Kinchen's body and .223-caliber shell casings found at the West End shooting scene to a Browning semi-automatic pistol and a Ruger semi-automatic assault rifle.

Federal agents said they recovered the pistol and rifle in Alabama along a trail where they said Al-Amin fled after firing at U.S. Marshals before he was captured.

### **Witness says he heard pistol shots before rifle fire**

A West End resident testified he heard pistol fire ring out in his neighborhood before he heard the louder sounds of an assault rifle during the shootout that killed a Fulton County Sheriff's deputy nearly two years ago.

Frank Thomas, a truck driver, testified today in the murder trial of Muslim cleric Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, who once was known as H. Rap Brown. Thomas' version of events contradicted earlier police accounts.

Deputy Aldranon English, who was wounded in the shootout, said Al-Amin fired at him and his partner, Deputy Ricky Kinchen, with an assault rifle before they returned fire with handguns.

Thomas said the first shots sounded like firecrackers, but the second barrage of shots was louder and sounded like a rifle.

Prosecuter Ron Dixon argued that when Thomas was interviewed by a representative of the district attorneys office prior to the trial, Thomas said he was working in South Carolina at the time of the shootout. Thomas denied saying that.

### **Witness mentions another suspect: 'Mustapha'**

An ex-convit defended a cleric in court Wednesday by offering up another possible suspect in the killing of a Fulton County sheriff's deputy: the mysterious "Mustapha."

George Wilson, a heavy equipment operator, testified in the murder trial of Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin in Fulton County Superior Court that a man he called "Mustapha" was packing a gun at the mosque in West End during the fifth -- and final -- prayer of the day, about an hour before the shooting on the street outside. Deputy Ricky Kinchen died from wounds received in the shootout and Deputy Aldranon English was wounded.

Al-Amin, the imam or prayer leader, missed the last prayer, said Wilson, who was living in the mosque rent-free at the time and heard the shooting.

Prosecutor Robert McBurney reminded Wilson he had interviewed him at his house, in which the West End man had "Free Imam Jamil" posters. "You didn't say anything that night about a 'Mustapha' did you?" McBurney said.

"You didn't ask," said Wilson, arching his eyebrows and flicking a small smile.

Wilson acknowledged several felony convictions in New York, including a charge of attempted murder in 1972, which was plea-bargained to aggravated assault; possession of stolen property in 1992; and a guilty plea in 1997, in which he said he couldn't recall the offense.

He also testified Amin was dressed in a thobe, the traditional long shirt many Muslims wear, when he conducted the fourth prayer service, contradicting another witness who said Al-Amin wore bib overalls for the session.

English has testified Al-Amin was wearing clothing similar to the thobe on March 16, 2000, when, he said, Al-Amin fired on him and Kinchen, who died from his wounds, with

an assault rifle. He was arrested in overalls four days later in Alabama after federal agents said they spotted him in thobe-like clothing often worn over trousers.

Four witnesses, who journeyed from White Hall, Ala., where Al-Amin was arrested, contradicted previous testimony from FBI agents. Three of the witnesses, who said they didn't know Al-Amin, testified they saw the federal agents firing automatic weapons toward the woods. The agents said Al-Amin had fired at them and they didn't return fire.

Kourtney Davis said he saw FBI agents firing several shots at an unarmed man wearing a white shirt who was running through the woods. Another witness, Julia Mae Brazil, who didn't see the shooting, said she later saw "someone dressed up in white" emerge from the woods.

English said he had shot the gunman he later identified as Al-Amin, but the imam was arrested uninjured.

Defense lawyers tried to have a Atlanta police 911 operator testify Wednesday about three emergency calls she said were related to a wounded gunman who might have been involved.

Superior Court Judge Stephanie Manis barred most of the testimony as "unreliable" hearsay, pointing out the callers all were unidentified.

She permitted the operator, Helen Lane, to testify about one call in which the caller said a wounded man was begging for a ride several blocks from the West End mosque 90 minutes after the attack.

Also Wednesday, pharmacologist David Benjamin testified the four milligrams of morphine and other drugs given English after the shooting raised questions about his identification of Al-Amin.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/03/13/national/main503687.shtml>

## **Life For '60s Radical H. Rap Brown**

ATLANTA, March 13, 2002

"This is just a starting point for us to heal and go on."

Lisa Francis

slain deputy's sister-in-law

**(AP)** Rejecting the prosecution's call for a death sentence, a jury sentenced the former '60s radical known as H. Rap Brown to life in prison for killing a sheriff's deputy in a shootout two years ago.

The jury deliberated for about five hours before deciding Wednesday to spare the life of the Muslim cleric now called Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin. He will not have a chance at parole.

The 58-year-old Al-Amin, wearing the robes and hat of a cleric, showed no emotion when the sentence was read.

"He's alive — and that creates another day for us to fight," said Al-Amin's brother, Ed Brown.

Al-Amin was convicted Saturday of killing Deputy Ricky Kinchen as the officer tried to serve him with an arrest warrant. Another deputy was wounded, but survived and identified Al-Amin as the gunman.

The judge, who was bound by the jury's decision Wednesday, formally sentenced Al-Amin to life without parole plus 35 years for the other charges in the 13-count indictment.

"This is just a starting point for us to heal and go on," said the slain deputy's sister-in-law, Lisa Francis.

Al-Amin leads one of the nation's largest black Muslim groups, the National Ummah. The movement, which has formed 36 mosques around the nation, is credited with revitalizing poverty-stricken pockets such as Atlanta's West End, where he owned a grocery store.

Many Americans are familiar with Al-Amin as H. Rap Brown, a 1960s militant who served as a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In 1967, he characterized violence as a vital tool for blacks, "as American as cherry pie."

Brown changed his name when he converted to the Dar-ul Islam movement in the 1970s while serving a five-year sentence for his role in a robbery that ended in a shootout with New York police.

His trial here had been postponed after the Sept. 11 attacks because the judge feared anti-Muslim sentiment would taint the jury pool.

Defense attorneys had pleaded with the jury to spare Al-Amin, who was described by character witnesses as a peaceful religious leader.

Prosecutors portrayed Al-Amin as a deliberate killer who deprived a family of a husband, son and father. Members of Kinchen's family testified about their difficulty recovering from his death.

The surviving deputy, Aldranon English, testified that Al-Amin pulled an assault rifle and opened fire when he and Kinchen tried to serve him with a warrant on minor charges.

Al-Amin, according to testimony, then produced a 9 mm handgun and shot Kinchen three times as he lay bleeding in the street. English picked Al-Amin out of a photo lineup from his hospital bed the next day.

Defense attorneys said English was mistaken and someone else had shot the deputies. They also suggested that Al-Amin was framed as part of a government conspiracy that has dogged him since his days as a radical civil rights activist.

Al-Amin was arrested four days after the shootings in White Hall, Ala. The .223-caliber Ruger assault rifle and Browning handgun were recovered in the woods nearby. The defense suggested the weapons had been planted by federal authorities.

<http://atlanta.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2002/03/18/editorial1.html>

## **The real story of H. Rap Brown, cop killer, remains to be told**

Dick Williams

In the aftermath of the murder trial of H. Rap Brown, rough justice has been obtained.

We can argue that the death penalty was preferable. After all, Brown killed a law enforcement officer -- the highest sort of murder. But even proponents of execution can understand that his execution risked creating a martyr and a cottage industry in conspiracy theory.

Brown should not be a martyr to anyone. He's a convicted cop killer, a brutal man who fired three shots into the testicles of his victim and told him he was going to take his manhood.

The jury's third option -- life with possibility of parole -- was even dicier, however close some jury members came to it. That verdict would have created decades of protests. Life without parole defines a jury that acted with conviction. Sure, we will still have "Free Jamil" rallies, just as the radical fringe still cries to "Free Mumia," a Philadelphia murderer. But this Fulton County jury left few avenues of doubt.

The trial really wasn't about Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, the peaceful Muslim cleric, despite the defense's efforts to make it so. It wasn't about a "civil rights leader" who came to faith, peace and love.

No, the trial was about H. Rap Brown, violent sociopath. Whatever one thought about that man in the late 1960s -- proponent of violence and demagogue or righteously angry fighter against racial oppression -- the later Rap Brown should leave no differences of opinion.

Rap Brown tried to rob a New York City restaurant and bar and shot it out with police. Shooting at a cop is surely an intent to kill. Brown was found hiding on a fire escape, cowering in fear, begging police not to kill him. That he served only a few years after shooting at police makes a mockery of the criminal justice system. Did that slap on the wrist embolden him in his later years?

Rap Brown, not Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, was on trial for the brutal killing of Deputy Ricky Kinchen. Two juries now have found that he has the propensity to kill policemen. With that in mind, nothing he did in his mosques or his West End neighborhood matters. He's a cop shooter and a cop killer.

The real story of Rap Brown remains to be told. What was he up to? Why did he open fire when confronted with two deputies serving minor warrants? Could they have caught him in the midst of something else?

Associates of Brown, not Al-Amin, have been nailed for gun-running. Suggestions of a drug cabal have followed his activities in West End. Could his life as Al-Amin simply been cover for illegal acts?

Al-Amin did want to build a Muslim haven in rural Alabama and a lot of money was required. Was it to be raised legally?

The FBI, GBI and Atlanta police would greatly aid public understanding if a fuller picture of Rap Brown vs. Jamil Al-Amin could be shown to the public. The press could help as well. Trial coverage in print was frustrating for its lack of detail. Where did the peaceful imam acquire an assault weapon? What of fingerprint evidence and the scientific assessments of whether Brown fired the weapon or weapons?

We know more about the defense theories of misidentification and an allegedly wounded shooter than about the hard facts of the prosecution. Let us hope time provides a broader picture of the crime, the trial and H. Rap Brown, the man once known as Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin.

*Williams is publisher of the Crier Newspaper and host of "The Georgia Gang" on WAGA-TV (Channel 5). Contact him at (770) 849-2425; or e-mail (thecrier@mindspring.com).*

## **Daryle Wayne Black**

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/00leoka.pdf>

### **Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2000**

A detective with the Long Beach Police Department died April 30 as the result of a gunshot wound he received on a gang assignment the previous day. At about 11 p.m. on April 29, the 33-year-old detective, who had more than 10 years of law enforcement experience, and another detective stopped their unmarked police car behind a double-parked vehicle belonging to reported gang members. Several gang members had left the vehicle, one of whom was allegedly armed with a .45-caliber pistol and was walking to the residence of a rival gang member. Apparently seeing the detectives stop their car and realizing they had either seen, or would soon see, the armed gang member, another gang member fired more than 30 shots with a .223-caliber semiautomatic rifle at the unsuspecting detectives, who were both wearing body armor. The detectives never exited their vehicle and were unable to return fire. The victim detective was shot in the front of the head. He was taken to a local hospital and died soon after. The other detective was critically wounded. Several shots passed by the detectives' vehicle, one of which entered a residence across the street and critically wounded a pregnant woman sleeping inside. A 21-year-old was arrested April 30 and charged with Revoke Parole. He cooperated with authorities and informed them of other suspects leading to several arrests. An 18-year-old was arrested May 2 and charged with Murder and Attempted Murder. In addition, on May 2, a 22-year-old was charged with Murder, and a 27-year-old was charged with False Imprisonment with Violence, Attempted Murder, and Assault with Firearm on Person. However, both men were released pending further investigation. On May 3, a 21-year-old male was arrested and charged with First-Degree Murder. Both the injured detective and the woman recovered from their injuries.

<http://www.odmp.org/year.php?year=2000&Submit=Go>

<http://www.odmp.org/officer.php?oid=15386>

Police Officer Daryle Wayne Black

Long Beach Police Department, CA

End of Watch: Sunday, April 30, 2000

Weapon Used: Gun; Unknown type

Suspect Info: Sentenced to death

Officer Black was shot and killed when he and his partner were ambushed. The two officers, members of their department's anti-gang unit, were driving an unmarked patrol vehicle at approximately 2300 hours when they were struck by gunfire in an ambush style attack. After both officers were struck by the gunfire, one officer was able to call for assistance and both were taken to a local hospital where Officer Black died approximately one hour later. Neither officer was able to return fire.

The suspect was arrested two days later after being identified through an investigation. The suspect was found guilty and sentenced to death during his second trial.

Officer Black had been with the agency for six years and had been in law enforcement for ten years.

<http://lbreport.com/news/may03/copkillr.htm>

## **Compton Gang Member Sentenced To Death For Murdering LBPB Officer Daryle Black**

(May 10, 2003) -- A gang member from Compton who murdered LBPB Officer Daryle Black in April 2000 has been sentenced to death for his crime.

In a May 9 court proceeding, LB Superior Court Judge Joan Comparet-Cassani imposed the sentence on Ramon Sandoval Jr., who mortally wounded Officer Black and severely wounded his partner, Officer Rick Delfin, who still suffers the effects of those injuries.

The murderer's blizzard of bullets fired at the officers in the 1900 block of Lime Ave. also struck a pregnant woman asleep in a nearby apartment. She and her unborn child survived.

Under CA law, an appeal of the conviction and sentence is now automatic.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stop-polabuse/message/3269>

**Subject:** Suspect charged in suspected retaliatory shooting of Long Beach cop

Original press reports on this killing of a cop said police were investigating whether it was a revenge killing for the killing of a man by the police the week before.--MN

### **Suspect Charged in Calif. Shooting**

Associated Press Last Updated: May 5, 2000 at 9:00:23 p.m.

LONG BEACH, Calif. - As thousands mourned an anti-gang police officer who was killed while on patrol, the alleged gunman was charged with murder.

Authorities say Raymond ``Gumby'' Sandoval, 18, was one of two gunmen who opened fire last weekend, killing Officer Daryle Black and wounding his partner and a pregnant woman in a nearby house.

Sandoval also was charged Thursday with attempted murder and two counts of assault with a weapon.

Police said Black, 33, and Officer Rick Delfin, 41, were shot after they came across a confrontation between rival gang members.

Black, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich., was eulogized at a memorial service Thursday as a strong but gentle man devoted to young people.

``Daryle was determined to make a difference with the youth of our community,'' Police Chief Jerome Lance said. ``He was a mountain of a man with a gentle heart.''

The criminal complaint against Sandoval also alleges so-called special circumstances - intentional murder of a police officer in the performance of his duties, murder to avoid arrest and lying in wait.

If Sandoval is convicted and the special circumstances are found to be true, he could face the death penalty. Arraignment was set for May 18.

Charges against four other people arrested in the case have not been decided.

<http://www.apbweb.com/officer-down-page-4.htm>

Officer Daryle Black

Long Beach Police Department

One of the two Long Beach anti-gang police officers shot while on patrol at a Long Beach hospital, Long Beach Police Chief Jerome E. Lance said. Choking back tears, Lance said that Daryle Black, 33, a former Marine and a six-year veteran of the Long Beach Police Department, passed away at 12:25 a.m. at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. The other officer, 41-year-old Rick Delfin, who has been with the department more than nine years, is in good condition in the hospital's intensive care unit, where he was treated for wounds to the leg and hip. A 45-year-old woman who is seven months pregnant and was in her house -- across the street from the shooting scene -- was also hit by gunfire. She is in good condition at another hospital, as is her unborn child, the chief said.

The shooting occurred in the 1900 block of North Lime Avenue about 11 p.m. said Long Beach police Sgt. Steve Filippini. "While driving their police vehicle, (a gunman or gunmen) fired numerous gunshots into their vehicle," according to a police statement. "Although both officers were hit by gunfire, one of the officers was able to request emergency assistance. Additional officers immediately responded to the scene, rescued the wounded officers from their vehicle and transported them (to the hospital). The officers did not fire their weapons, Lance said, and were not involved in making an arrest or serving a warrant at the time they were shot. "They were just driving down the street," said the chief. He said the officers were in a marked patrol car when they were shot. They were not in uniform, but were wearing "raid" jackets, indicating they were police officers. Lance said he could not confirm earlier reports that the officers were ambushed and possibly were the victims of a retaliatory attack by gang members. "We don't know at this time if (the attack) was an ambush," he said. "... It's difficult to call it an ambush because there were some other factors in this case that I can't reveal at this time that may cause it not to have been specifically an ambush of those officers."

Asked if he thought the shooting was in retaliation for an earlier police activity, Lance said, "It's possible, but I wouldn't want to say that's what happened, because we just don't know." Anyone with information about the attack was urged to call police at (562) 570-7244.

<http://venus.soci.niu.edu/~archives/ABOLISH/rick-halperin/july03/0009.html>

CALIFORNIA:

### **Jury recommends death for gang member who killed Long Beach cop.**

In Long Beach, Superior Court jury unanimously recommended the death penalty for a gang member who used an assault rifle to fire 28 rounds into an unmarked police car, killing a Long Beach officer. The 6-woman, 6-man panel deliberated for two hours before issuing its recommendation Monday in the case of 21-year-old Compton gang member Ramon Sandoval Jr.

"He's a predator," said Robert Luna, chief of staff for Police Chief Anthony Batts. "The citizens of this community are a lot safer. He'll never have the opportunity to be out on the street again."

Another jury convicted Sandoval of first degree murder on Oct. 21, also finding true special circumstance allegations of murder of a police officer performing his duties, murder to avoid arrest, lying in wait and street gang murder. The first jury, however,

deadlocked 7-5 in favor of execution, so a second jury was sworn in to consider only the penalty.

Defense attorneys were expected to request that Judge Joan Comparet-Cassani reduce the punishment to life in prison without possibility of parole when she sentences Sandoval on May 9.

Officer Daryle Black, 33, was the 1st Long Beach police officer shot to death in the line of duty in nearly a quarter century. His partner, Officer Rick Delfin, was wounded in the head and leg.

Authorities said Sandoval was searching for a rival gang member on April 29, 2000, when he came upon a vehicle he recognized as an undercover police car and opened fire.

He also was convicted of attempted murder and assault for Delfin's shooting and assault with a deadly weapon in the wounding of a pregnant woman struck by bullets that penetrated the walls of her home.

City Councilwoman Laura Richardson said outside court that a park about a block from the site of the shooting will be named in Black's honor. "We're praying that this is kind of a close to everything that's happened," said the officer's brother Howard Black. "It's still barely sinking in."

(source: Modesto Bee)

<http://www.bannister.dk/news3.html>

CALIFORNIA---new death sentence

## **Cop Killer Gets Death Sentence**

Calling him a "cold-blooded, heartless killer," a judge today sentenced a man to death for murdering a Long Beach officer who had stumbled on to a revenge attack attempt on a gang member.

Ramon Sandoval Jr. was convicted last October of 1st-degree murder for the April 29, 2000, slaying of Officer Daryle Black -- the 1st Long Beach police officer to die in the line of duty in almost 25 years.

The ex-Marine and Michigan native was killed as he and his anti-gang unit partner, Rick Delfin, arrived in the 1900 block of Lime Avenue in Long Beach.

Sandoval fired 28 rounds from an assault rifle into the unmarked patrol car. He had gone to the area to kill a rival.

Sandoval emerged from behind a parked car and fired at the officers, knowing it was a gang detective vehicle, a prosecutor said earlier.

"Defendant Ramon Sandoval is a cold-blooded, heartless killer," Long Beach Superior Court Judge Joan Comparet-Cassani said this morning. "If there is a case where death is appropriate, this is one of those cases."

She refused a defense request for a new trial, and to lower the punishment to life in prison without parole.

The 1st jury that convicted Sandoval of the killing and the attempted murder of Delfin deadlocked on what kind of punishment was appropriate.

The case was turned over to a 2nd jury, which was asked to recommend the death penalty or life in prison without parole for Sandoval, who is now 21.

That jury deliberated slightly under 2 hours last month before recommending that he be put to death.

Along with 1st-degree murder, the 1st jury found true the special circumstance allegations of murder of a police officer in performance of his duties, murder to avoid arrest, lying in wait and street gang murder.

Along with Black's slaying, Sandoval was convicted of attempted murder and assault for Delfin's shooting, and assault for wounding a pregnant woman hit by gunfire that went through the walls of her home.

Neither Sandoval, whose hair was neatly combed as he sat at the defense table in an orange jail jumpsuit, nor his family had any comment.

(source: KABC News)

<http://venus.soci.niu.edu/~archives/ABOLISH/rick-halperin/feb03/0464.html>

CALIFORNIA:

### **Gang member could face death penalty for officer's slaying.**

In Long Beach, with a dozen sheriff's deputies standing watch, a jury on Monday convicted a 21-year-old Compton gang member of capital murder in the shooting of Daryle Black the 1st Long Beach police officer to die in the line of duty in 25 years.

Ramon Sandoval Jr. also was found guilty of attempted murder, assault and several special circumstances that make him eligible for the death penalty. Among other things, the jury found that Sandoval lay in wait, murdered a police officer, belonged to a gang and committed the crime to prevent a lawful arrest when he opened fire on Black's unmarked police car in April 2000.

Outside the courtroom, prosecutor Kevin McCormick said he was gearing up for the penalty phase of the trial, during which he'll try to persuade the jury to recommend execution over life imprisonment for Sandoval. That phase begins Wednesday.

The courtroom was packed but quiet Monday as a clerk read the verdicts one by one. Family members of both Sandoval and Black sat in the audience, as did a handful of Long Beach police officers, who seemed to guard the Black family in stony-faced silence in the hallway afterward.

A few of Black's relatives cried as the verdicts were read, but Sandoval who shaved his head over the weekend, exposing a gang tattoo behind his left ear had no noticeable reaction.

Sandoval's head was shaved at the time of his arrest, but he had since grown it out and combed it back for the 3-week trial. Going back to his old look was seen largely as an act of defiance.

Black's relatives declined to comment Monday, but McCormick said the family was satisfied so far.

"They're relieved that up to this point the jury is doing the right thing," he said.

One of the most emotional points in the trial came when Officer Rick Delfin took the stand and described how Black was fatally shot April 29, 2000. He said he and Black, both assigned to the gang detail, had spotted a known gang member, Miguel Angel Camacho, walking in a suspicious manner on Lime Avenue near 20th Street.

As they pulled over to watch Camacho from the driver's side window of their car, they were blind-sided by rapid gunfire, which came into the passenger's side. Delfin was struck several times, but lived. Black suffered one fatal shot to his head.

McCormick said Sandoval had opened fire pumping out 28 shots from an assault rifle to prevent the police from arresting Camacho, who was armed. He also hit a pregnant woman with stray gunfire, but she also lived.

Prosecutors said the pair had been in the area to shoot a rival gang member.

The assault rifle was found in Sandoval's home, and he later confessed to police. His attorney had argued the crime amounted to a 2nd-degree murder because it was not premeditated. Jurors disagreed.

They deliberated for 2 1/2 days before returning their verdict.

During the penalty phase, Mc Cormick said he plans to introduce evidence that Black was not Sandoval's 1st murder victim. He said Sandoval was suspected, though never convicted, of being involved in another murder. The prosecutor did not elaborate.

Defense attorney William Ringgold will call Sandoval's family members and 2 priests.

(source: Long Beach Press Telegram)

<http://da.co.la.ca.us/mr/102102c.htm>

### **Gang Member Convicted of Murdering Long Beach Police Officer**

October 21, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: [Joe Scott](#), Director of Communications

[Sandi Gibbons](#), Public Information Officer

[Jane Robison](#), News Secretary

(213) 974-3525

**LONG BEACH** – A Long Beach jury convicted a 21-year-old Compton gang member today of the capital murder of Long Beach Police Officer Daryle Black, who was gunned down two years ago, the District Attorney's office announced.

Besides convicting Raymond Sandoval Jr. of first-degree murder and the attempted murder of Black's partner, the jury found true the special circumstances of murder of a police officer in performance of his duties, murder to avoid arrest, lying in wait and street gang murder. Deputy District Attorney Kevin McCormick, the prosecutor from the Major Crimes Division, will seek a jury recommendation of death when the penalty phase of the trial gets underway on Wednesday.

The jury deliberated a day before convicting Sandoval of murder with special circumstances, attempted murder, assault with an assault weapon on a peace officer and assault with an assault weapon. The latter count named as the victim a woman who was hit by stray gunfire. The jury also found true all special allegations, including those that Sandoval fired the fatal and near-fatal shots from a CAR-15 assault rifle.

Black, 33, was shot and killed on April 29, 2000, when he and his partner, Officer Rick Delfin, then 41, were fired upon while they were on routine parole. Black was mortally wounded in the attack and Delfin hit in the head and leg. The officers were with the Long Beach Police Department's anti-gang under and were in an unmarked car when attacked.

The woman victim, who was pregnant, lives in the area in the 1900 block of Lime Avenue in north Long Beach. She was struck by bullets that went through the walls of her home. She survived, as did Officer Delfin, who underwent treatment during a lengthy hospital stay.

Sandoval and two others were arrested, charged and eventually indicted in connection with the attack. The other defendants, Adolfo Ramon Bojorquez and Miguel Angel Camacho, both 24, will be tried separately. Bojorquez and Camacho, also Compton gang members, are due in court on Oct. 28 for trial setting.

<http://da.co.la.ca.us/mr/050803c.htm>

ATTN: Assignment & News Editors

RE: **Long Beach Cop Killer Ramon Sandoval, Jr.**

May 8, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Joe Scott, Director of Communications

Sandi Gibbons, Public Information Officer

Jane Robison, News Secretary (213) 974-3525

Sentencing of Ramon Sandoval Jr., a 21-year-old gang member convicted of killing Long Beach Police Officer Daryle Black, is set for 9 a.m. Friday, May 9, in Long Beach Superior Court, Dept. 10, 415 West Ocean Boulevard.

Family members of the slain police officer are scheduled to give statements before Judge Joan Comparet-Cassani sentences Sandoval to the death penalty. He was convicted May 4 of murder with special circumstances, including murder of a police officer. Deputy District Attorney Kevin McCormick prosecuted the case.

Officer Black was the first officer killed in the line of duty in Long Beach in 25 years. The 33-year-old officer and former Marine was gunned down with an AR-15 assault rifle on April 29, 2000 while on patrol in an area known for gang activity. His death shocked the community and more than 4,000 mourners filled downtown Long Beach at a memorial service May 4, 2000.

<http://da.co.la.ca.us/34sheriff.htm>

It is this spirit last month that resulted in a death penalty verdict for a gang member who killed Long Beach Police Officer Daryle Black; severely wounded his partner Rick Delfin; and shot a pregnant woman -- using a semi-automatic weapon and firing 28 rounds.

## **Randall Wade Vetter**

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/00leoka.pdf>

### **Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2000**

A 28-year-old trooper with the Department of Public Safety, San Marcos, was shot at approximately 10:30 a.m. on August 3 when he initiated a traffic stop near Kyle for a driver who was not using a seatbelt. While the trooper was still in his vehicle, the suspect exited his vehicle and displayed a .223-caliber semiautomatic rifle. The victim officer, with nearly 6 years of law enforcement experience, ordered the suspect to drop his weapon and then fired at the subject twice when the subject refused to relinquish his rifle. The suspect fired two rounds, one of which penetrated the trooper's windshield and struck the victim officer, who was wearing body armor, under his left eye. The trooper was transported to a local hospital where he died on August 7. Responding officers arrested a 72-year-old male within minutes of the shooting and charged him with Capital Murder of a Peace Officer.

<http://www.odmp.org/year.php?year=2000&Submit=Go>

<http://www.odmp.org/officer.php?oid=15433>

Trooper Randall Wade Vetter

Texas Department of Public Safety, TX

End of Watch: Monday, August 7, 2000

Date of Incident: Thursday, August 3, 2000

Weapon Used: Rifle

Suspect Info: Convicted of murder

Trooper Vetter died from a gunshot wound he received four days earlier while conducting a traffic stop. Trooper Vetter had stopped the 72-year-old suspect for not wearing a seatbelt. While he was sitting in his patrol car, the suspect exited his vehicle and opened fire with a rifle, striking Trooper Vetter in the head. Trooper Vetter was able to return fire but did not strike the suspect.

The suspect then used the patrol car's radio to say he shot the officer and then attempted to flee the scene. An off duty officer who happened to be passing by witnessed the shooting and alerted other officers who then took the suspect into the custody after a brief standoff on the roadway. The suspect was known to local officers for claiming he would shoot any officer who tried to write him a ticket for not wearing a seatbelt. The suspect was convicted of murder.

Trooper Vetter had been with the Texas Department of Public Safety for six years and is survived by his wife and eight-month-old son.

<http://www.vpc.org/studies/000803.htm>

### **Assault Weapons and the War on Law Enforcement**

#### **Section Three: Selected Incidents of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty by Assault Weapons, 1998 Through 2001**

**Date:** August 3, 2000

**Location:** San Marcos, Texas

**Assault Weapon:** Ruger Mini-14 .223 rifle

On August 3, 2000, State Trooper Randall Vetter was killed with a Ruger Mini-14 .223 rifle. Trooper Vetter stopped 72-year-old Melvin Hale for not wearing his seat belt. Hale got out of his car and aimed his rifle at Vetter because he believed the traffic stop violated his constitutional rights. Vetter raised his pistol and ordered him to put down his gun. Hale fired at least twice, hitting Vetter in the head as he sat in his patrol car. Six months earlier, another San Marcos trooper had written a letter warning Hays County law enforcement officers to exercise caution around Hale. The trooper said Hale had threatened him with a rifle when he stopped at Hale's ranch to ask about deer hunting on the 125-acre property. Hale pleaded guilty to the shooting and was sentenced to life in prison.

Jason Spencer, "A Somber Salute for a Fallen Officer," *Austin American-Statesman*, August 9, 2000; "Trooper's Shooter Gets Life Sentence; 74-year-old Accepted Surprise Plea Agreement as Jury Selection Began," *Austin American-Statesman*, January 24, 2002.

[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director\\_staff/public\\_information/pr081100.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/public_information/pr081100.htm)

[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director\\_staff/public\\_information/pr080300.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/public_information/pr080300.htm)

## **DPS Trooper Shooting**

### **DPS Trooper Shooting Update**

A Department of Public Safety Trooper was shot and critically wounded Thursday morning after making a traffic stop in Hays County.

DPS officers have not yet been able to contact the trooper's family and his name will be withheld until that time.

The shooting occurred on the west frontage road of IH 35 on Yarrington Road, which is near Kyle.

A suspect in the shooting was arrested moments later by License & Weight Trooper Jeff Sones.

The suspect was taken to Hays County jail where charges are pending.

Additional details will be released as they are available. The DPS PIO office has a Public Information officer at the scene for questions.

[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director\\_staff/public\\_information/pr080300b.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/public_information/pr080300b.htm)

August 3, 2000

### **Trooper Shooting Update**

A suspect in the shooting of a Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol Trooper was expected to be arraigned before a Hays County Justice of the Peace this afternoon.

A HP trooper was shot once in the head by a high powered rifle shortly after stopping a vehicle on the west frontage road of I-35 south of Kyle at 10:30 a.m. DPS investigators said the Trooper had stopped the driver for not wearing a safety belt.

Shortly after the trooper was shot Hays County sheriff's deputies arrived at the scene and fired two shots to flatten the tires on the suspect's vehicle. There was a brief standoff with the suspect who eventually placed the rifle on the hood of a Kyle Police Department vehicle.

DPS License & Weight trooper Jeff Sones then made a flying tackle, taking the suspect to the ground. The suspect was handcuffed and arrested.

The trooper's name is being withheld at this time.

[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director\\_staff/public\\_information/pr080400.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/public_information/pr080400.htm)

### **UPDATE ON DPS TROOPER SHOOTING**

DPS investigators have determined that Highway Patrol Trooper Randall W. Vetter was able to fire two shots at his assailant after a traffic stop turned violent Thursday morning.

The investigation is continuing, but it is now believed that the driver of the vehicle Vetter stopped possibly fired more than once at the Trooper. The shooting began only moments after the Trooper stopped the vehicle on the west frontage road of Interstate 35 at Yarrington Road in Hays County near Kyle.

The man was armed with a semi-automatic, high-powered rifle. One shot struck the Trooper in the head.

Late Friday afternoon, Trooper Vetter remained in critical condition in the intensive care unit of Austin's Brackenridge Hospital.

[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director\\_staff/public\\_information/pr080700.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/public_information/pr080700.htm)

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The man was armed with a semi-automatic, high-powered rifle. One shot struck the Trooper in the head.

As of noon Monday, Trooper Vetter remained in critical condition in the intensive care unit of Austin's Brackenridge Hospital.

The suspect has been identified as 72-year-old Melvin Edison Hale of Kyle.

<http://www.copsite.com/lwf/lwf00aug.html>

August 7, 2000

DPS Trooper Randall W. Vetter, 28, died at 10:25 p.m. Monday from wounds he suffered during a traffic stop near Kyle, Texas on Thursday, Aug. 3. Trooper Vetter is the 75th DPS officer to die in the line of duty.

Trooper Vetter is survived by his wife, Cynthia; their eight-month-old son Robert; and his father, Kermit Vetter.

"This is a sad day for the Texas Department of Public Safety, the state of Texas and the United States of America," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS. "We ask that the people of Texas continue to uplift Trooper Vetter's immediate family, and his

law enforcement family with your thoughts and prayers, as we grieve the loss of our friend and family member."

Trooper Vetter was a six-year veteran of the DPS. He joined the DPS on December 6, 1994 and became a commissioned Trooper on June 2, 1995. He was stationed in Brownsville until Aug. 1996 when he transferred to New Braunfels. He then transferred to San Marcos on July 1, 2000. He had four letters of appreciation from the public for his assistance with various educational and law enforcement related issues. Trooper Vetter died from a gunshot wound he received four days earlier while conducting a traffic stop. Trooper Vetter had stopped the 72-year-old suspect for not wearing a seatbelt. While he was sitting in his cruiser the suspect exited his vehicle and opened fire with a rifle, striking Trooper Vetter in the head. Trooper Vetter was able to return fire but did not strike the suspect. The suspect then used the cruiser's radio to say he shot the officer and then attempted to flee the scene. An off duty officer who happened to be passing by witnessed the shooting and alerted other officers, who took the suspect into the custody after a brief standoff on the roadway. The suspect was known to local officers for claiming he would shoot any officer who tried to write him a ticket for not wearing a seatbelt, however, Trooper Vetter was new to the area and was never notified of the risk.

[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director\\_staff/public\\_information/publications/chaparral/chap1001.pdf](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/public_information/publications/chaparral/chap1001.pdf)

The Texas Department of Public Safety awards the Medal of Valor rarely. Trooper **Jeffrey Dale Sones**, L&W San Marcos, received this great distinction for his courage and bravery. One unforgettable morning in August 2000, Sones risked his life in the line of duty. Aware of the great risk to himself, Sones approached and apprehended Melvin Hale, a capital murder suspect. By doing so, he brought to a close a lethal situation that had already claimed the life of Highway Patrol Trooper **Randall W. Vetter**, and prevented Hale from harming Hays County Deputy John Dees, Deputy Cindy Winn and Kyle Police Department Chief J. B. Pantermuehl. Hale, who held a mini- 14 rifle, had trapped the three behind a Kyle PD unit. Sgt. **Michael Holmes**, L&W San Marcos, nominated Sones.

[http://www.santegidio.org/pdm/news2002/16\\_01\\_02\\_d.htm](http://www.santegidio.org/pdm/news2002/16_01_02_d.htm)

## **USA - Amnesty International Urges Texas Prosecutors to Drop Pursuit of the Death Penalty**

**Cites American Convention on Human Rights Treaty that Prohibits Execution of the Elderly**

(WASHINGTON) -- Amnesty International today expressed concern over the Hays County prosecution's attempt to seek the death penalty for Melvin Hale, 74, accused of murdering State Trooper Randall Vetter in 2000. The United States, as a signatory to the American Convention on Human Rights that explicitly prohibits the execution of anyone over the age of 70, would circumvent this agreement by sentencing an elderly man to death.

"If the state of Texas sentences Mr. Hale to death, he will become the oldest person to be executed in the United States since 1977," said Sue Gunawardena-Vaughn, director of the Program to Abolish the Death Penalty for Amnesty International USA (AIUSA.) "While Amnesty International has the utmost sympathy for the family and friends of

State Trooper Vetter, the state of Texas must not perpetuate the cycle of violence by executing an elderly man."

Vetter was shot on a highway near San Marcos in Hays County in August 2000, and died two days later. Hale, then a 72-year-old rancher, was charged with the murder.

Hale is currently undergoing a hearing to establish his competency to stand trial, to determine whether he understands his situation and can assist in his defense. If the jury finds him competent to stand trial, the selection of another jury to try him for the murder is due to begin on January 22, 2002. In the event that the case goes to trial, Hale will offer an insanity defense, according to his lawyer.

Amnesty International opposes executions unconditionally and has mobilized its activists worldwide to appeal to the District Attorney of Hays County, Texas, to end the pursuit of the death penalty in this case.

<http://www.deathrow.at/polunsky/news/news34.html>

(source: Associated Press)

### **TEXAS: Trooper slaying suspect said actions were 'God's will'**

In San Marcos, an elderly rancher may believe that God directed him to kill state trooper Randall Vetter during a traffic stop in August 2000, mental health experts have testified. But the experts disagreed Monday on whether Melvin Edison Hale is delusional or just trying to rationalize his actions.

Hale, 74, is charged with capital murder in the slaying of the Texas Department of Public Safety trooper. Hale believes himself to be the Antichrist, according to testimony in his competency trial.

The trial continues Tuesday. Hale is accused of shooting Vetter during a traffic stop for a seat belt violation.

"God appointed me the Antichrist," Hale said, according to Hays County Jail psychiatrist Michael Moore.

Ed Bullock, Hale's neighbor, and another psychiatrist, also reported that Hale said he was the Antichrist.

In a telephone conversation from his jail cell, Hale told Bullock not to worry because it was God's will that he return home.

"At the time I thought he said he was the Antichrist," Bullock said. "Then afterward I thought he must have meant Christ. But after hearing his conversations today, I realize he did say Antichrist."

Hale apparently believes "the Antichrist takes orders from God" and "does God's will," said court-appointed psychiatrist Mary Anderson.

She disagreed with 2 other experts who testified Monday that Hale is delusional.

She said Hale understands the role of the jury, the attorneys and the judge and understands the charge against him and the consequences of a conviction.

"Many people believe insanity is a medical issue, but in fact it's a legal issue," said Ron Becker, a professor of criminal justice at Southwest Texas State University.

<http://venus.soci.niu.edu/~archives/ABOLISH/rick-halperin/jun00/0385.html>

A 72-year-old rancher with a history of conflict with authorities was charged with capital murder Tuesday in the shooting death of a state trooper.

Hays County District Attorney Michael Wenk said he will consider seeking the death penalty.

Department of Public Safety Trooper Randall Vetter, 28, died late Monday after clinging to life for five days with a gunshot wound to the head. Suspect Melvin Edison Hale, who was already being held on attempted capital murder charges, was charged with capital murder Tuesday morning. Justice of the Peace Macell Sullivan ordered Hale held without bond.

"I am prepared to seek the death penalty in this case if it's appropriate," Hays County District Attorney Michael Wenk said. "Justice will only be served in this case if the defendant is held fully responsible and accountable for the crime he has committed. Trooper Vetter earned the right to see that justice is served." Hale, a Kyle resident, did not have an attorney as of Tuesday afternoon.

Vetter, a 6-year Department of Public Safety veteran, is the 75th DPS officer to die in the line of duty and the first since Trooper Terry Miller, 37, was ambushed by a gunman in October 1999. Atascosa County deputies Mark Stephenson, 32, and Thomas Monse, 31, also died in that attack.

"I am deeply saddened by this terrible tragedy," said Gov. George W. Bush. "Randall Vetter was a brave man who risked his life to keep the rest of us safe. We should all be grateful for his dedicated service. My prayers are with Randall's family." According to police, Vetter was shot Thursday after pulling over Hale for not wearing a seat belt. Investigators believed Hale used the radio in Vetter's patrol car to call police and tell them of the shooting. Hale then got into his car and drove off.

Hale was stopped about 100 yards from the shooting scene after Hays County Sheriff's deputies shot out his front tires. Hale then got out of his car, placed a rifle on a patrol car and surrendered, police said.

Authorities had previous difficulties with Hale. According to Hays County officials and a law enforcement memo, Hale was so embittered by delinquent taxes and a ticket for not wearing a seat belt, he swore he would kill to keep his land and avoid jail. Another state trooper said Hale once threatened him with a rifle.

Hale also had a history of threatening the county's tax assessor-collector office over a protracted dispute that resulted in a \$20,000 lawsuit for delinquent taxes.

A DPS memo dated Feb. 10 warned all Hays County law officers that Hale, who was single and routinely drove to a nursing home to visit his 94-year-old mother, should be "considered armed and dangerous to officers due to his anti-government opinions." Vetter is survived by his wife, Cynthia; 8-month-old son Robert; and his father, Kermit Vetter. Funeral services are pending.

"We have lost a dedicated trooper, a devoted husband and father and a dear friend," said DPS spokesman Tom Vinger. "Randy Vetter will be deeply missed but will never be forgotten." (source: Associated Press)

**Laredo Morning Times**

Wednesday, August 9, 2000

page 8A

**Trooper dies of gunshot wound**

BY JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — A 72-year-old rancher with a history of conflict with authorities was charged with capital murder Tuesday in the shooting death of a state trooper.

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"I am deeply saddened by this terrible tragedy," said Gov.

George W. Bush. "Randall Vetter was a brave man who risked his life to keep the rest of us safe.

We should all be grateful for his dedicated service. My prayers are with Randall's family." According to police, Vetter was shot Thursday after pulling over Hale for not wearing a seat belt.

Police said Vetter was sitting in his patrol car finishing paperwork when he was attacked. Hale walked up to the trooper's car carrying an assault-style rifle and fired a single shot through the windshield.

Investigators believed Hale used the radio in Vetter's patrol car to call police and tell them of the shooting. Hale then got into his car and drove off.

Hale was stopped about 100 yards from the shooting scene after Hays County Sheriff's deputies shot out his front tires.

Hale then got out of his car, placed a rifle on a patrol car and surrendered, police said.

Authorities had previous difficulties with Hale. According to Hays County officials and a law enforcement memo, Hale was so embittered by delinquent taxes and a ticket for not wearing a seat belt, he swore he would kill to keep his land and avoid jail. Another state trooper said Hale once threatened him with a rifle.

Hale also had a history of threatening the county's tax assessor-collector office over a protracted dispute that resulted in a \$20,000 lawsuit for delinquent taxes.

## **Carlton Daniel Jenkins**

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/00leoka.pdf>

### **Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2000**

On August 28, at approximately 12:30 a.m., a 36-year-old sergeant with the Camden County Sheriff's Office stopped a vehicle in Woodbine that matched the description of a car possibly used in two armed robberies in Florida. After the sergeant pulled the vehicle over, the driver of the vehicle exited, and the officer, who had 11 years of law enforcement experience, asked to see his driver's license. The individual reached into his vehicle. The officer ordered him to stop and then reached for his service weapon when the man did not comply. Before the sergeant could draw his weapon, however, the man allegedly pulled a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun from the vehicle and shot the officer in the neck, then fired two more shots. One of the bullets entered the officer's bulletproof vest, but the fatal shot circumvented the vest through the armhole area. The traffic stop and the initial shooting of the officer were captured on his patrol car's video unit. The suspect then apparently took the sergeant's 9 mm semiautomatic service weapon and fired a fourth shot into the rear of the victim officer's skull. Neither of the weapons used in the assault have been recovered. A 33-year-old male, who had an extensive criminal history and was on probation for a previous charge, was captured about 4 hours after the shooting and charged with Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer, Armed Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, and Possession of a Firearm/Knife During a Crime.

<http://www.odmp.org/year.php?year=2000&Submit=Go>

Sergeant Carlton Daniel Jenkins

Camden County Sheriff's Department, GA

End of Watch: Monday, August 28, 2000

Weapon Used: Handgun

Suspect Info: Sentenced to life

Sergeant Jenkins was shot and killed after making a traffic stop of a robbery suspect on I-95 shortly after midnight. Sergeant Jenkins had stopped an older model vehicle in response to a bulletin put out by a neighboring jurisdiction in Florida which was looking for the suspect in several armed robberies which had happened earlier in the evening.

During the stop Sergeant Jenkins ordered the suspect to exit and approach the rear of the vehicle. However, the suspect stood in doorway of the vehicle. Sergeant Jenkins again ordered the suspect to approach the rear of the vehicle as the suspect reached inside saying he was retrieving his license. He immediately turned and fired the first of four shots only several seconds after Sergeant Jenkins first ordered him out of the vehicle. As Sergeant Jenkins was laying on the ground the suspect took his handgun and shot him in the head, killing him. The entire incident occurred in less than 20 seconds, 13 of which Sergeant Jenkins was being fired upon.

A passing truck driver witnessed part of the incident and called for help using Sergeant Jenkins' radio. The trucker was able to give a description of the vehicle and the suspect was arrested approximately four hours later. The man was sentenced to two life sentences, plus 35 years, without the possibility of parole.

Sergeant Jenkins had been with the agency for 7 years and had been in law enforcement for 11 years. His agency awarded him Officer of the Year in 1999. He is survived by his wife and five children.

<http://www.savannahnow.com/stories/090200/LOCdeputy.shtml>

## **Family, friends and others mourn slain deputy**

*Camden County Deputy Carlton Jenkins' funeral attended by law enforcement officials from as far away as New York and Texas.*

**By Teresa Stepzinski**

Morris News Service

ST MARYS -- Sgt. Carlton Daniel "Dan" Jenkins was laid to rest Friday -- leaving behind tears, warm memories shared by family and friends and a promise from colleagues that his devotion to upholding the law will live on through them.

Jenkins, 36, was fatally shot Monday during on Interstate 95 near Woodbine by a man police say was fleeing after robbing two motels in northeast Florida. Jason O'Neal Bryant, 33, of Savannah has been charged with the slaying and prosecutors say they will seek the death penalty.

The brutality of Jenkins' death was replaced with a celebration of his life as family and friends came together with law enforcement officers from across the nation to say goodbye.

His widow, Jeanie, leaned heavily on her brother-in-law Joseph "Joe" Jenkins, who is an identical twin to his slain brother. Joe Jenkins wore his late brother's Camden County sheriff's office uniform as a tribute to him during the services.

"Dan would tell you: Don't take your frustration out on this community ... Don't forget that the position you hold as law enforcement officers is to protect and serve the community and uphold the law. Do your job right, because if anything happened to you, it would just kill me," said Joe Jenkins, using his brother's gruff style of speaking and gestures.

Jeanie Jenkins cradled their daughter, Kalynn, in her arms and rocked back and forth in the church pew. She stroked her daughter's hair and leaned over to whisper comfort to her throughout the service for her husband, a seven-year veteran with the Camden County sheriff's office and the department's 1999 Officer of the Year.

An estimated 1,500 police officers from throughout Georgia, Florida and as far away as New York, Texas, North Carolina and Maryland attended the funeral at First Baptist Church in St. Marys.

They marched in formation two blocks to Oak Grove Cemetery where Jenkins was buried as a light drizzle fell, causing steam to rise off the hoods of the escorting patrol cars.

Residents watched from front porches as the procession -- lead by a hearse bearing Jenkins' flag-draped casket -- slowly passed down the street. Several people placed their hands over their hearts in a gesture of respect for the slain officer.

An estimated 500 mourners packed the church, while about 1,000 more stood outside listening to services that were broadcast live by a local radio station. Among those attending were Senior U.S. District Judge Anthony A. Alaimo, U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Savannah, and District Attorney Stephen Kelley. Kingston promised to do everything

possible to obtain federal funding to establish a Camden County law enforcement student scholarship in Jenkins' memory.

Camden County Sheriff Bill Smith eulogized Jenkins as "one of our best officers" who was "a friend to everyone." Smith described Jenkins as a true professional law enforcement officer, who as a field training officer, "always wanted to make sure his fellow officers stayed safe and alive."

Smith said he contacted the office of U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno who has indicated a willingness to help establish a college scholarship fund for Camden County students thinking about a police career.

That scholarship would be a tribute to Jenkins, Smith said.

The sheriff also called on Jenkins' friends and family not to let his death make them bitter about law enforcement.

"We are Dan's legacy: the officers he taught, the family he loved and the people he served selflessly in the community," Smith said. "Through his loss, we must rededicate ourselves to upholding the law."

Janna Milburn drove down from Macon after reading about the killing in the newspaper. The retired 63-year-old cleaning woman did not know Jenkins.

"He was so young, and to die like that. I just felt that I had to come say goodbye. I feel so badly for his wife and children," said Milburn, who watched the mourners gather at the grave site.

Nearby, a lone bagpiper played "Amazing Grace" before a seven-officer police honor guard fired a 21-gun salute that echoed through the quiet tree-lined residential neighborhood.

Police and rescue helicopters from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Georgia State Patrol, Trauma One, and U.S. Customs Service did a fly-over in the missing man formation.

Jenkins then was laid to rest with a final radio call.

A Camden County sheriff's dispatcher in a solemn voice broadcast his patrol call sign and the message: "Camden S.O. all cars. Camden S.O. 1111 is 10-7 and 10-42. He has ended his tour of duty."

Jenkins' badge number was 1111, which also was his radio call sign. That number is being retired as a tribute to him. The police radio code 10-7 means off-duty, and 10-42 means out of service.

Glynn County sheriff's deputies and corrections officers manned the Camden County Public Safety Complex and jail in Woodbine so those officers could attend the funeral. Police officers from St. Marys and Kingsland went on patrol and responded to calls for service in the unincorporated areas of the county while sheriff's deputies paid their last respects to their colleague.

Georgia police and sheriff's deputies came from across the state. They include members of the St. Marys, Kingsland, Brunswick, Savannah, Lyons, Marietta, LaGrange, Roswell, Villa Rica, Douglas and Waycross police departments. Sheriff's deputies came from Brantley, Laurens, Charlton, McIntosh, Chatham, Ware, Coffee and Glynn counties.

Officer Scott Lewis of the LaGrange Police Department and his wife, Tricia Lewis, voiced concern for Jenkins' widow and children.

"I can't imagine what they are going through. I'm proud that my husband is a police officer but when something like this happens, I wish he had a safe desk job," Tricia Lewis said.

<http://venus.soci.niu.edu/~archives/ABOLISH/rick-halperin/jun00/0717.html>

GEORGIA:

2 Columbus lawyers have been appointed to defend Jason O'Neal Bryant, a Savannah man accused in the Aug. 28 shooting death of a Camden County sheriff's deputy.

They were appointed, according to court documents, because of a contract with the Georgia Indigent Defense Council, which prohibits public defenders from representing indigent defendants facing the death penalty.

Deputy Dan Jenkins was shot while making a traffic stop on Interstate 95 near Woodbine during a search for an armed robbery suspect. Bryant was arrested about 4 hours later near Savannah and charged with the shooting.

A Camden County grand jury later indicted Bryant on malice murder plus 4 related charges in the shooting, and prosecutors have indicated they will seek the death penalty.

Woodbine lawyer Clyde Urquhart, who contracts with Camden County as a public defender, said the defense council, which gives grants to counties throughout Georgia to help pay for indigent defendants, made the rule because death penalty cases are too time consuming.

A death penalty case would make it difficult for him to handle the caseload of other indigent defendants accused of lesser crimes, Urquhart said.

But even if a judge would have tried to give Urquhart the case, he said he would have refused. And it's unlikely another attorney in the judicial circuit would have taken the case because of the local outrage expressed over the death of the popular deputy, Urquhart said.

"I wouldn't take it on a matter of principle," Urquhart said. "I have regular contact with the family and fellow officers." The 2 lawyers assigned to the case, M. Stephen Hyles and Richard C. Hagler, were each paid retainers of \$10,000, according to court records.

They will also be paid \$95 an hour to represent Bryant, according to the court order. Leslie J. Cardin of the Public Defender's Office in Glynn County was appointed to provide legal assistance to the 2 lawyers. Cardin will be paid \$20 an hour, according to the court order.

Bryant is being held without bond in the Glynn County jail, authorities said.

(source: The Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union)

[http://www.mugshots.com/Criminal/Killers/Jason\\_Bryant.htm](http://www.mugshots.com/Criminal/Killers/Jason_Bryant.htm)

**Jason Bryant** Jason Bryant is a cop-killer. A career criminal – he's been jailed two other times on rape and theft charges – Bryant was out on parole when he robbed two motels in Yulee, Florida and was driving north when stopped by Camden County Sheriff's Sergeant Dan Jenkins. Attempting to arrest Bryant, Jenkins and the suspect scuffled, and Bryant shot the officer four times, including a final time in the back of the head with his own gun. A Florida jury convicted him of the murder, but a single juror held out against giving this punk the death penalty. He's currently serving two life sentences without the possibility of parole. Jenkins widow is raising their five kids.

## John W. Stem

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/00leoka.pdf> (page 48)

### Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2000

On July 6, 1977, at approximately 2:30 p.m., a 27-year-old officer with the Baltimore County Police Department responded, along with several other officers, to a request for additional assistance involving a domestic complaint. Upon their arrival at the residence, the officers were advised by police already at the scene that an armed man had barricaded himself in his father's house. Shortly after the backup officers arrived, one of the initially responding police officers was fatally wounded by a shot from within the house. The 27-year-old officer referred to above was attempting to assist his fallen comrade when he, too, was shot. The victim officer was wearing a front panel protective vest, but a bullet from a .30-caliber semi-automatic rifle entered his right upper back. He was immediately taken to an area hospital. Members of a SWAT team were able to gain control of the situation by fatally wounding the 19-year-old shooter. The wounded officer was left paralyzed from the waist down. He continued to work for the police department until his retirement in 1990 after 21 years of service. On October 19, more than 23 years after his injury, the 51-year-old man died due to complications connected to his disability. An autopsy confirmed that his was a line-of-duty death.

<http://www.odmp.org/year.php?year=2000&Submit=Go>

<http://www.odmp.org/officer.php?oid=15464>

Police Officer John W. Stem Sr.

Baltimore County Police Department, MD

End of Watch: Thursday, October 19, 2000

#### Biographical Info

Age: 51

Tour of Duty: 20 yr

Badge Number: Not available

#### Incident Details

Cause of Death: Gunfire

Date of Incident: Wednesday, July 6, 1977

Weapon Used: Rifle; M-1

Suspect Info: Killed during standoff

Officer Stem died from complications of a gunshot wound received in 1977 after being shot at a domestic dispute call. Officer Stem and Patrolman Charles Huckeba had responded to the scene and were approaching the house when the suspect opened fire on them. Patrolman Huckeba was shot in the face and later died of the injuries. During the incident Officer Stem was moving behind some houses across from where the suspect was shooting in an effort to assist Officer Huckeba. While maneuvering he was shot in the back and paralyzed from the waist down. He remained paralyzed and continued to go in and out of the hospital until he succumbed to his injuries. The suspect, who was high on PCP at the time, was shot and killed by the department's tactical unit later in the day.

Officer Stem was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on the day he was shot. He retired from the police department in 1990. He is survived by his wife and son.

## Related Line of Duty Deaths

Patrolman Charles Alan Huckeba  
Baltimore County Police Department, MD  
End of Watch: Wednesday, July 6, 1977  
Cause of Death: Gunfire

<http://www.odmp.org/officer.php?oid=6789>

Patrolman Charles Alan Huckeba  
Baltimore County Police Department, MD  
End of Watch: Wednesday, July 6, 1977

[http://www.thebackup.com/archives\\_newsdetail.asp?id=1484595713](http://www.thebackup.com/archives_newsdetail.asp?id=1484595713)

## **Officer Succumbs 23 Years Later to Gunshot Wound**

10/24/00

BALTIMORE – An officer who was shot in the back and paralyzed in 1977 died Thursday from complications of the gunshot wound.

Former Baltimore County Police Officer John W. Stem, 51, was shot while responding to a domestic violence call in 1977. During that incident, Stem's partner, Charles Huckeba, was shot in the face and later died.

A suspect, who was high on PCP, shot Stem in the back as he attempted to summon help. The gunman was later shot and killed by the department's tactical unit.

The wound paralyzed Stem, who made intermittent trips to the hospital for years as he suffered from physical complications due to the gunshot.

Stem retired from the department in 1990. He is survived by his wife and son.

Backup news staff writer Richard Rogers

## **Slain officer called hero at funeral Hundreds gather to honor veteran of Balto. Co. force**

**Published on:** October 24, 2000

**Edition:** FINAL

**Section:** LOCAL

**Page:** 1B

**Byline:** SUN STAFF Nancy A. Youssef

Hundreds gathered yesterday to remember John W. Stem Sr., the former Baltimore County Police officer who died last week, 23 years after he was critically injured trying to help a fallen comrade. At a noontime funeral at Friendship Baptist Church in Howard County, friends and family said Stem's commitment to the community was unstoppable, despite the gunshot wound in July 1977 that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Stem, who received the department's Medal of Honor for

<http://www.mcrkba.org/OfficerStem.html>

## **The Shooting of Officer John Stem**

Officer John W. Stem died on October 24, 2000 from complications of a gunshot wound received in 1977. Officer Stem and Patrolman Charles Huckeba had responded to the scene when the suspect, Albert S. Fessenden, 19, opened fire on them.

Patrolman Huckeba was shot in the face and later died of the injuries. During the incident Officer Stem was shot in the back and paralyzed from the waist down. He remained paralyzed and until he died from his injuries 23 years later.

The suspect, who was high on PCP at the time, was shot and killed by the department's tactical unit later in the day.

Despite his injuries, Officer Stem returned to duty with the Baltimore County Police until he retired in 1990.

According to "Officer Critical After Shootout," (Baltimore Evening Sun, July 7, 1977, pages C1 and C3), the suspect engaged the police in a gun battle from his home in the 7400 block of Brunswick Road. After that battle the police recovered nine weapons including a M-1 Carbine, two .30-06 military rifles, three 12-gauge shotguns, one 20-gauge shotgun, two .22-caliber rifles and assorted ammunition. These firearms were owned by the suspect's father.

The suspect was due to appear in Court on several drug charges and drug paraphernalia, including PCP was found in his home.

[collected from various sources including Baltimore Evening Sun, July 7, 1977]