



FBI Special Agent in Charge Stanley Meador and Northumberland County Sheriff Johnny Beauchamp announced a \$10,000 reward in hopes it will generate new leads in the cold case. The Robinson family also announced a \$5,000 reward for information. Photo by Lisa-Hinton Valdrighi



Friends and family have added to a memorial put up by Edward Robinson near where his son's car was found engulfed in flames shortly after his disappearance in March 2013. Photo by Lisa-Hinton Valdrighi

FBI offers reward in cold case murder investigation

by Jackie Nunnery

CRAWFORDS CORNER—Edward Robinson vividly remembers saying “see you later” as his son, Marcus Robinson, left their Heathsville home on March 9, 2013. But later never came. After more than eight years, his family and law enforcement are still looking for answers in his disappearance and suspected death.

Members of the investigative team, Northumberland County Sheriff Johnny Beauchamp, FBI Special Agent in Charge Stanley Meador, and Lancaster County Sheriff Patrick McCranie, on November 3 held a press conference near the spot where the investigation began.

Behind them, a memorial—a simple cross adorned with balloons, a teddy bear and a t-shirt detailing M. Robinson's disappearance—marked the intersection of Crawfords Corner Road and Butter Road, where just down the narrow dirt road his 2006 white Lincoln Town Car was found engulfed in flames on March 10, 2013, a day after he was last seen.

“Information and evidence gathered there made that disappearance very suspicious,” said Sheriff Beauchamp. It included “evidence of a gun discharge inside the vehicle” and a belief that the fire “was intentionally set.”

Meador announced that the FBI Richmond office is offering a \$10,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those involved in the disappearance and presumed murder of Robinson, “a long-time member of the Northumberland community, a son and friend to many.” Robinson also was an Iraq War veteran and father of three daughters, Nay, now 18, Jazzman, 17, and Kyra, 13.

“We don't do this job alone,” Meador said. “When we work a case, we partner with local law enforcement and we



Edward and Pamela Robinson speak to a news outlet about the struggle to find answers and closure to their son's death. Photo by Lisa-Hinton Valdrighi

also partner with the community. We need the community's help in this case to help bring answers to the community, but most importantly to the friends and family of Marcus. If you have information on this case, do not think that it's too insignificant that it might not help us in this matter.”

“Our commitment to solving this case is ongoing,” said Sheriff Beauchamp. “We know one or more people know what happened to Marcus and we're hoping that with today's announcement those people are going to come forward so we can move ahead and solve this case.”

E. Robinson announced the family is offering an additional \$5,000 reward. M. Robinson's cousin, Travis Harcum, emphasized that information had to be out there. “You can't tell me in an area this size that someone doesn't know

something,” he said.

“We're never going to take this down until we find answers,” E. Robinson said, pointing to the memorial. “If it stays 20, 30 years. Every week, every month, I'll be here to keep it up just like it is.” A solar powered light has been mounted on the memorial, shining a light in the dark, a constant reminder of Marcus's disappearance and the hope that some day answers will be found.

The FBI Richmond Field Office, the Northumberland County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) urge anyone with information about the crime, or the location of M. Robinson's remains, to contact law enforcement. Tips may be provided to the FBI at 804-261-1044 or <https://tips.fbi.gov/>, to the NCSO at 804-580-5221, or the LCSO at 804-462-7463.

Chapman found guilty of second-degree murder

by Jackie Nunnery

LANCASTER—After just over two hours of deliberation, a jury on Friday, November 19, found Matthew Scott Chapman guilty of second-degree murder in the March 18, 2020, shooting death of John Carter Gordon. Chapman, who was originally charged with first degree-murder, also was found guilty of a felony for using a firearm while committing a murder or malicious wounding, and a felony for shooting in the commission of a felony.

The week-long trial in Lancaster County Circuit Court, with Judge R. Michael McKenney presiding, began on Monday, November 15, with opening statements in which Commonwealth's Attorney Anthony Spencer alleged that Chapman started to "hunt" for Gordon after he found out that Gordon was seeing his now-ex wife, Kerrie, shortly after they separated in January 2020.

Spencer said Gordon made multiple visits to K. Chapman's White Stone home on March 18 to retrieve belongings when finally confronted by M. Chapman, who was under a certified order not to be at the home and had ignored pleas by K. Chapman to "let her handle it."

Within 35 seconds of his last arrival, marked at 5:12:01 p.m. by a home security camera, Gordon

"There is never closure for those who have lost a loved one to murder, but a conviction can provide some sense of justice."

—Commonwealth's Attorney Anthony Spencer

"was on the ground dying" from a gunshot wound to the abdomen, Spencer said.

Chapman's defense team, James Breeden and Jeffrey Matthews, painted Gordon as the aggressor in the situation with Chapman acting in self-defense.

Gordon was someone who "injected himself into the marriage between Matthew and Kerrie Chapman with tragic results," Breeden said, adding that it was K. Chapman who asked M. Chapman to come to the home, and it was Gordon who threatened M. Chapman when he arrived, yelling "Get out here! I'm going to f— you up." Breeden added that Gordon was legally impaired at that time, with a blood alcohol content over the legal limit of .08%.

Day 2: The prosecution builds a timeline for murder

The prosecution continued its case from the previous day, when three witnesses testified about

Chapman asking them for information on Gordon.

Using footage from a security camera mounted at the front of the house and 911 calls, Spencer pieced together the short but deadly confrontation outside the Beach Road home. The motion-activated camera recorded six-seconds of video and audio each time it was triggered. K. Chapman was seen arriving at the home at 4:43 p.m. March 18, 2020, with Gordon pulling into the driveway a minute later. Gordon left eight minutes later according to the video time stamp, having exchanged belongings after breaking up two days prior according to K. Chapman's sworn testimony at a preliminary hearing in General District Court on June 24, 2020. Due to health issues, K. Chapman, who now lives out of state, was unable to travel and testify in court, so the prosecution relied on transcripts from

CHAPMAN, continued on page A4

Chapman found guilty of second-degree murder

continued from page A1

that hearing.

Gordon made an additional brief visit to the house at 4:57 p.m., leaving just four minutes before M. Chapman pulled into the driveway at 5:03 p.m. Gordon arrived for the final time at 5:12 p.m. and honked the horn. M. Chapman can be heard off-camera saying, "You better call 'em" before the recording ends at 5:12:07 p.m. The first call to 911 comes at 5:12:42 p.m. by K. Chapman, who said, "I don't even know what to say" and hung up. Neighbor James Schmidt called 911 at almost the same time, 5:12:50 p.m., to report "2 shots fired" at the home.

The camera is activated again at 5:15:37 p.m., this time by neighbor Alfred Davis as he is seen returning to his home to make his own call to 911. K. Chapman can be heard off-camera screaming, "What the f—?" and M. Chapman saying, "We've got to move the truck" to make way for paramedics, he would later testify.

A similar camera was mounted at the back of the house, but Amazon, who owns and operates the Blink home security system was unable to retrieve any footage because the camera was not operating properly at the time.

The prosecution also read aloud K. Chapman's testimony regarding what happened in the few minutes between Gordon's final arrival and the shooting. According to her, M. Chapman was with her in the front living room when Gordon pulled into the driveway and honked. When she told him it was Gordon he responded, "He's not going to come up in here." K. Chapman said she "told him 'don't do this here, don't go outside'" but instead he "grabbed my gun and went outside." M. Chapman would later testify he had his own gun as well. K. Chapman said she "immediately got her phone because I knew there was going to be an altercation."

Of the actual confrontation between the two men, K. Chapman could only say that she heard the words "warning shot after the first shot I believe." By the time she got outside after the second shot, she saw M. Chapman "standing at the end of the ramp" with a gun in his hand. Gordon, she said, "was on the sidewalk 10 feet away" sitting then laying on the ground. K. Chapman, a nurse, said that shortly after Gordon laid back "he started gurgling and then vomited," so she moved him onto his side.

Next-door neighbor Davis also testified that he "knew there was going to be a fight" when Gordon's truck pulled into the driveway "because Matt was there." Davis began walking to the rear of his house, hearing the first shot as he opened the back door. Through the slats of the privacy fence that separates the properties, he could see the back of Gordon "with Matt standing in front of him." As he walked to the edge of the fence he heard "back away" and the second shot. Like K. Chapman, he testified that he saw M. Chapman at the bottom of the ramp and Gordon on the sidewalk "falling." When Lan-

caster County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) investigators later recreated the positions as directed by Davis, the two men were 11 feet, 7 inches apart.

Davis said he then went around to the Chapman house and saw M. Chapman with a gun in his hands and told him to set it down by a tree. He also said that K. Chapman was standing behind M. Chapman yelling, "What the f— did you do?"

Another neighbor, Maria George, arrived and Davis said she, along with K. Chapman, performed CPR on Gordon, while he went to his home and called 911. Paramedics arrived and continued to work on Gordon, but he was declared dead at the scene at 5:45 p.m. Spencer also called three investigators from the LCSO regarding the processing of the scene and evidence as well as Crystal Van Dusen, MD, assistant chief medical examiner who stated that Gordon died from a single gunshot wound to the abdomen, with the bullet piercing the small intestine and left iliac artery before becoming lodged in the left pelvis. "It traveled front to back, left to right, and slightly downward."

Day 3: The defendant takes the stand with claims of self-defense

According to M. Chapman, although he and his wife separated in January, they were in the process of reconciling. K. Chapman had called it off with Gordon and they spent much of March 16 and 17 together. He was on his way to pick up dinner while K. Chapman picked up some items from her home, with the intention of meeting back at his home in Irvington. Before he could do that, M. Chapman said she texted him "can you come get me," so he went to her home instead.

Chapman said that he was outside when Gordon pulled up, jumping out of the truck yelling, "Where you at, Matt Chapman?"

"He charged at me, saying, 'I got you now b— boy. I'm gonna f— you up.' I told him you need to leave. You're not wanted here," M. Chapman said, adding that as he was standing in the driveway he pulled his gun (K. Chapman's gun was on the railing of the back deck at this point) and fired into the ground as Gordon charged at him. "I was petrified, scared to death. It was a warning shot but he didn't stop. I was backing up toward the house and ramp handrail and he threw me into the trashcan, flat on my back. He had his hands around my neck reaching behind his back and I pulled the trigger."

During the Commonwealth's cross examination, Spencer focused on discrepancies in M. Chapman's story when he talked to investigators, the deputy on duty at the jail, a fellow inmate at the Lancaster County Jail, and in recorded phone calls from the jail.

"When you talked to Deputy Paula Smith at the jail, you said you were scared and needed to stop him before he got to the house and your wife. There was no mention of being strangled, no mention of being thrown

to the ground, and no mention of reaching for something. When you talked to Detective Steve Sorensen, according to his notes, there was no mention of being strangled or being thrown into the trashcans. So he would not be telling the truth?"

M. Chapman said, "No."

The official record of that interview between Sorensen and Chapman is lost because in yet another technical malfunction, the recording equipment in the LCSO's interview room was not working. Sorensen attempted to use his phone to record, but found out after the interview that it had not captured anything.

Spencer played a series of phone calls from the jail in which M. Chapman told friends and family what happened, with some varying details. Breeden countered that M. Chapman was "not working off of a checklist or notes" so it would be natural for the story to not be identical each time it was told. Breeden also asked M. Chapman about earlier testimony that he drove past the Harding residence looking for Gordon. Chapman said he was looking to price a job for his landscaping business.

Later, when Spencer asked M. Chapman if he had ever been involved in a similar altercation, he replied, "No, never." Spencer then asked him about a November 12, 2019, incident involving Jason Verlander. Spencer said Verlander was ready to testify that M. Chapman had texted him to fight and that the "loser buys beer." Verlander would also testify that when he arrived at the Beach Road home, M. Chapman greeted him with a gun, pointed it at his head and cocked it. While Verlander would manage to get the gun out of M. Chapman's hands and toss it away, as the fight ensued, M. Chapman yelled to K. Chapman to "get the gun and shoot him." When she didn't, M. Chapman replied, "I would have."

Spencer further attacked M. Chapman's credibility and claims of reconciliation at the time, pointing to a January 3, 2020, court order to stay away from K. Chapman's home as a result of an assault on her. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court conviction of misdemeanor assault and battery of a family member is currently under appeal and will go to trial December 10.

Spencer also pointed to K. Chapman's previous testimony of the time spent together, saying "We talked about it. It wasn't us reconciling, it wasn't us getting back together."

The defense closed their presentation with a series of Facebook Messenger messages to and from Gordon, as he drove from his Richmond area home to White Stone. Just over an hour before he arrives at K. Chapman's house, he tells friend Kevin Kent to "keep his phone on" because "I might go to jail." Despite Kent and others' attempts over the next hour to talk Gordon out of going there, he is insistent.

Day 4: The Commonwealth disputes claims of self-defense

During rebuttal arguments, Spencer spent a significant amount of time on testimony questioning M. Chapman's claim of being choked. Deputy Jim Peace with the LCSO took a picture of M. Chapman's neck shortly after transporting him to the jail, which was approximately 30 minutes after the confrontation between him and Gordon. There were no visible marks.

During his cross examination of Deputy Peace, Matthews noted that no additional follow up pictures were ever taken to show if any marks developed.

While Peace agreed with Matthews that "just because there are no marks, it doesn't mean he wasn't choked," Peace also said that as an officer with 27 years of experience with the city of Richmond and two years of medical school, he "knew a lot about violent attacks." When Spencer asked if it is typical in his experience that choking would cause marks, Peace answered yes. Two other LCSO officers would provide similar testimony about "typical wounds" on the neck from choking.

Deputy Anthony Gray testified that there were no marks on Chapman nor blood on his clothing when he arrived at the Lancaster jail.

Fellow county jail inmate William Ailsworth testified that Chapman told him Gordon had "pulled a knife." The defense pointed to the fact that Ailsworth expected to get credit for testifying and would say anything. Spencer said the phone call was recorded well before any credit was considered for his testimony in the trial.

Spencer brought in Stephen Rogers, a forensic scientist with the Virginia Department of Forensic Science, who had tested the fingernail clippings taken from Gordon as evidence. According to Rogers, only Gordon's DNA profile showed up in the analysis.

The last bit of testimony came from Detective Brian O'Bier who testified that it was 9 feet, 3 inches from the trashcans where Chapman said he was thrown to the end of the ramp handrail where M. Chapman had earlier testified he had backed up to. Gordon's body was found another 10 feet away.

A third technical problem occurred when investigators attempted to retrieve data from M. Chapman's cell phone. Sgt. Robert Brown of the Virginia State Police High Tech Crimes Division testified they were not able to retrieve any data because the phone was in a "secure start-up mode with no known bypasses to the encryption." This occurred, according to Brown, because too many unsuccessful attempts to unlock the phone had been previously made.

Day 5: Instructions to the jury, closing arguments and a verdict

Jurors were given 17 different instructions of law prior to hearing closing arguments. McKenney told the jurors that in order

to find the defendant guilty of first degree murder, they must find the Commonwealth proved beyond a reasonable doubt three things: that Chapman killed Gordon; that the killing was malicious; and that the killing was willful, deliberate and premeditated. He added that if only the first two elements were proven, they should find him guilty of second degree murder. If they found the killing was the result of an intentional act and committed while in the sudden heat of passion upon reasonable provocation, the jury then had the option of finding him guilty of manslaughter.

They were also instructed regarding a self-defense claim. McKenney said in order to find the killing was done in self-defense, jurors would need to believe that: Chapman had retreated in an attempt to get out of the situation; had made known his desire for peace by word or act; and had a reasonable fear that he was in imminent danger of being killed or of great bodily harm; and used no more force that was reasonable necessary.

In his closing arguments, Spencer reminded jurors that M. Chapman was on a property despite an order prohibiting it; had ignored K. Chapman's request to not go outside; and had two guns with him when he "charged out in a jealous rage, shooting a man he had been hunting for two weeks." He also reminded them that any threats to M. Chapman were based on his testimony alone, and M. Chapman had given false testimony when asked about a previous fight that had occurred. He also questioned the defense's previous assertion that Gordon had come between Chapman and his wife, wrecking the marriage. "He did that," Spencer said, pointing at M. Chapman. "He beat his wife and as a result they were living separately."

He also reminded jurors of M. Chapman's conflicting testimony and a "story that is contradicted by testimony and physical evidence."

Spencer addressed Gordon's texts saying he was "deeply in love" and still reeling from the break-up. M. Chapman was someone who had "beaten the woman (Gordon) loved and under an order to stay away" from. These statements, Spencer said, were "hyperbole. John had no weapons with him."

During the defense's closing arguments, Matthews reminded the jurors of Gordon's text saying, "I didn't start it. But I will f—ing finish it," and asked them, "Who was stalking who?" Matthews portrayed Gordon as "drunk, angry and looking for a way to finish Matt Chapman," and pointed out another of Gordon's texts in which he had taken a picture of himself and said "This is me angry and pissed the f— off."

"Yes, there was stalking, but they're pointing the finger at the wrong man," Matthews said. "Matt Chapman was not the hunter, he was the hunted."

Matthews reinforced the anger of Gordon through the multiple texts sent as he drove towards White Stone. "I want to know if he's over there," "I just gotta know," "Keep your phone on," "I might go to jail," "Let

me handle my business first," and "I didn't start it. But I will f—ing finish it."

"Gordon was doing the stalking, coming to White Stone angry and pissed off at the man who had taken away the love of his life," Matthews said. "He was having an affair with a married woman who had just broken up with him. He was the jilted lover that was enraged that the love of his life was getting back together with her husband. He bull rushed him with bloodlust. He was a man who refused to leave when asked to do so and it didn't end the way anyone had planned."

Matthews also pointed to the lack of motive on Chapman's part. "He had what he wanted, which was to spend the lockdown with his wife."

Again, Matthews asked, "Who is stalking who?" Referring to video showing Gordon pulling into K. Chapman's driveway just a minute after she did. "Mr. Gordon came looking for trouble and unfortunately for all in the courtroom and for the families, he got it," Matthews said.

The jury, which the judge and all attorneys involved agreed were "diligent" and "conscientious" in their duties, started their deliberations at 2:30 p.m. Friday and announced a verdict was reached to the bailiffs at 4:45 p.m.

The guilty verdicts may have brought this trial to a close, but friends and family on either side of this case will be dealing with the repercussions of those deadly 35 seconds for a lifetime.

"There is never closure for those who have lost a loved one to murder, but a conviction can provide some sense of justice," said Spencer after the verdict. While Spencer was front and center in the prosecution of the case, he wanted to make sure that everyone knew the work was not done alone. "Our success in prosecuting this case is attributable to the great work done by the deputies and detectives of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and to the quick actions taken by the neighbor, Alfred Davis, at the time of the murder. The victim's best friend, Matt Harding, was present throughout the trial and he helped in framing the Commonwealth's arguments to the jury."

A pre-sentencing hearing is scheduled for March 25, 2022. According to Spencer, second-degree murder carries a sentence of up to 40 years. The use of a firearm in the commission of murder carries a mandatory three-year sentence and shooting in the commission of a felony carries a penalty of up to five years.

The trial was so much about John Carter Gordon and at the same time it was not. His 43-year life was reduced to a handful of text messages, seconds of video, and a stack of forensics reports. Matt Harding, who spent a week in the courtroom for his friend of 25 years, wanted to remind people that he was so much more than a set of facts surrounding his last days.

"John was the best friend anyone could ask for and would do anything for anyone at any time. It's why he was well-liked by so many people."

What's also missing in all that evidence? "A smile that would light up a room," Harding said.

Jacob Monday sentenced in the shooting death of David LaForge

by Jackie Nunnery

LANCASTER—After a nearly full day of hearing evidence and related testimony in Lancaster County Circuit Court, Judge R. Michael McKenney on Friday, December 10, sentenced Jacob Michael Monday to an active sentence of 22 years for the August 23, 2019 shooting death of David LaForge.

As part of the sentencing, Monday was given an additional 12 months, with six months suspended for misdemeanor destruction of property from a separate incident.

Monday pleaded guilty on July 30, 2021 to second-degree murder, using a firearm in the commission of a felony and concealment of a

dead body. Monday was originally charged with first degree murder and in exchange for the guilty plea, an additional felony charge for shooting in the commission of a felony was dismissed. As part of the plea agreement, Monday also pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for destruction of property resulting from an October 24, 2019 incident at the Lancaster County Jail where Monday was being held.

Prior to sentencing, Commonwealth's Attorney Anthony Spencer presented evidence that Monday, just 20 years-old at the time of the murder, repeatedly initiated communication, sometimes of a sexual nature, with the 51-year-old LaForge via Facebook

MONDAY, *continued on page A3*

Monday sentenced

continued from page A1

Messenger, “luring his prey for months,” he said.

Spencer also noted that Monday’s statements to investigators changed repeatedly. “First, he denies seeing him that night, saying they only talked on the phone, then he claims it was an accident.” Monday later admitted that he had invited LaForge over to his Lively home where they talked for a couple of hours “about church, homosexuality and being transgender” before LaForge “grabbed his crotch,” leaving him “surprised and a little scared.” Monday said he went into his home, texted LaForge to leave because “I’m not gay” and grabbed a gun. He said he was waving the gun at LaForge to get him to leave, when it accidentally went off.

Monday told other versions where he retrieved a second gun and “emptied it” into LaForge’s body, either before or after LaForge had died from his previous gunshot wounds. The medical examiner’s report would note 15 gunshot wounds, but given the state of decomposition, it was impossible to determine if they were each from separate shots.

Asking for the toughest sentencing of 48 years plus 12 months, Spencer said Monday “lured this kind, gentle soul” to his house, where he “emptied a gun” into LaForge, “went in, grabbed another gun and emptied it into the body of the kind and gentle David LaForge.” Spencer also noted that Monday went to great lengths to cover up the crime, removing the plates off of LaForge’s truck, burying the guns, and disposing of LaForge’s body in the marshes of Gloucester County, where he would be found a week later. “He denied the family and friends of David LaForge a body to say goodbye to,” he said. A lesser sentence meant that Monday would “be 40 when he gets out. Younger than David LaForge” was at the time of his murder.

“We cannot give back to the loved ones what was lost, but we can give them a sense that justice has been served,” Spencer said.

Defense attorney Anna Lindemann objected to the Commonwealth’s portrayal of her client. “There’s no evidence to support the ‘lured’ claim,” she said.

Seeking a reduction in Monday’s sentence, Lindemann indicated Monday had taken responsibility for his crime by confessing, leading investigators to the body and pleading guilty. “Is that someone covering up a crime? He was drunk and reacted violently to something he was uncomfortable with,” she said.

Spencer disagreed saying that Monday first denied any part, then claimed it was an accident before finally blaming the victim. “That’s hardly taking responsibility.” As to leading investigators to LaForge’s body, Spencer also indicated extensive law enforcement resources were used, from Newport News to Gloucester County, because Monday had yet to give an exact location, even as they were driving there.

Lindemann sought testimony from Delores Flessner, Monday’s foster mother and adoptive mother of Jacob’s younger brother. Flessner said that Jacob was a “positive influence” on his younger brother once they reconnected at Thanksgiving when Jacob was 15, which is why she “invited him the following summer to join the family.”

Despite a “murky” family history—“he may have had two or three foster placements, I’m not sure”—Flessner found Monday to be a “serious young man, eager to be helpful,” and

“never threatening.” She added that he “intervened in an incident between his younger brother and Mark,” referring to her husband. Flessner said Monday graduated early from Rappahannock High School and was elected to speak on behalf of the class and that he sought employment immediately afterwards. Flessner said that during his incarceration, he took the initiative to enroll in online college courses in addition to undertaking sacramental visits with a Catholic priest.

When Lindemann asked about her opinion of him now given the severity of his crime, Flessner replied that it was “heartbreaking for everyone involved. I still saw the good in him and the great sorrow.”

When asked by Spencer, Flessner said she was unaware that Monday had said that his “absolute favorite thing to do” was to shoot guns and that he had “50-60 human shaped targets on top of the refrigerator.”

In a short statement prior to sentencing, Monday apologized to the “friends and family of David LaForge and to the community for the violence I brought into it.”

McKenney said he appreciated the comments and remorse and said cases like this are “difficult because there are so many issues that hang on both sides.” For him, it was “not just covering up the crime, it was the desecration by placing his body in a marshy area,” an environment McKenney noted that was “guaranteed” to inflict damage on the body. “That’s the piece the court struggles with the most. It’s disrespect of Mr. LaForge; disrespect for the vessel that constituted the soul of Mr. LaForge.”

McKenney also took issue with using LaForge’s sexuality “to justify what you did. He had no history of unwanted advances.” McKenney added that the story of LaForge as the aggressor “doesn’t ring true. It’s a story to yourself to justify your actions. What transpired between you and Mr. LaForge, only you know. I’m not confident that you lured him there, but I am confident that something happened and this is how you purged yourself.”

McKenney then held up the license plates off of LaForge’s truck, which were found in the ceiling of Monday’s home: ULRS 816. LaForge, a volunteer with the Upper Lancaster Rescue Squad, “was proud of his community and he wore it on his license plate,” he said. “I despise the abundance of guns and the willingness of people to use them to solve their problems. In doing so, you took away the potential of someone so good to the community.”

Second-degree murder can carry a sentence of 5-40 years; concealment of a body, up to five years; and the firearm charge carries a mandatory three years. Monday was sentenced to 40 years with 21 years suspended on the murder charge; a mandatory three years on the firearm charge, to be served consecutively; and five years, all of which were suspended, for the concealment of a body charge.

Testimony indicated that both Monday and LaForge were victims of horrible childhoods, but where one chose violence to lash out, the other chose kindness to heal. Shannon LaForge Vannetti described her brother as the “kindest, most gentle person I’ve known” and someone who would “give you the shirt off his back.” Vannetti said his loss is “monumental” since their father is now in hospice. “David’s the person my dad would want to see. It’s like losing him all over again,” she said.