

WOMEN and CHILDREN MURDERED IN ANOKA COUNTY 1989 – 2019

Women murdered in cases where the convicted, alleged or suspected perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, intimate partner, household or family member or acquaintance of the woman.

Barbara (Larson) Provost, Age 22

On December 29, 1989, Barbara (Larson) Provost, 22, was murdered by her husband, 23 year-old Robert Charles Provost, Jr. During the fall of 1989, their relationship, never a happy one, worsened; Robert became increasingly violent, assaulting Barbara, destroying her possessions, and threatening to kill her. On December 29, Robert walked into the Blaine City Police Station and told officers he had burned his wife. Officers found Barbara's badly burned body and a dented gas can in the middle of a dirt road in the Carlos Avery Wildlife Refuge. He was convicted of murder in the 2nd degree on September 12, 1990 and is currently serving a life sentence.

Melinda Neuman, Age 18

On February 24, 1992, in Coon Rapids, Melinda's body was found between two dumpsters with an electrical cord wrapped around her neck. She also had numerous injuries on her face and head. Melinda's friend and former schoolmate, Gary Goehring, 18 told police he killed her. He was arrested and plead guilty to second-degree murder charges. He was sentenced to 22 years and 9 months in prison.

Dawn Rung, Age 25

Dawn was reported missing on January 4, 1993. Police who had been investigating her disappearance and came to suspect foul play found her body on March 12, 1993, in Coon Rapids. Her estranged husband, Scott Rung, told police he killed Dawn and hid her body in a wall of their home. He reported he had been angered over an argument they had over a pending divorce. Scott Rung plead guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 26 years in prison.

Patricia Mae Freitag, Age 29

On February 10, 1993, in Coon Rapids, Patricia was found in an apartment complex parking lot and taken inside by a neighbor. Patricia died in the hospital an hour later. Kevin Frank, 35, was arrested and released pending further investigation. He told authorities that he and Patricia argued outside her apartment and that when he was about to drive off, she approached his vehicle and banged on it. He said Patricia could have slipped or fallen and that he might have run over her. Former neighbors reported that Patricia had been badly beaten by him in the past and that she had called police numerous times for help. Kevin Frank plead guilty to 2 counts of leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident Involving a Death. He was sentenced to serve 53 months in prison, but served only 17. The remaining 36 months were stayed.

Tulin Schreiber, Age 39
Shyla Mujwid, Age 17

On November 23, 1994, Tulin was found upstairs in her Coon Rapids home, dead from a high-powered rifle bullet to the chest. Shyla was found dead, downstairs, with a gunshot wound to the hip and a second fatal shot to the head. After calling 911, Steven Schreiber confessed to police that he had shot and killed Tulin and Shyla in their home. Schreiber also shot and wounded their son, Mathew, as he was being held in his mother's arms. Steven Schreiber was charged and convicted on four counts of first-degree murder and one count of felony child endangerment and bodily harm. He was sentenced to 2 consecutive life sentences and to 1 year and 1 day to be served concurrently.

Pamela Curry, Age 45

On January 14, 1995, Pamela was found dead as a result of stab wounds to her chest, in St. Francis. Police found Pamela after receiving a call from a man saying he was having trouble breathing. The caller was Gary Curry, who was discovered with a self-inflicted stab wound to his chest. Two weeks earlier he had been arrested and charged with 5th Degree Domestic Assault on Pamela. Gary Curry plead guilty to second-degree unintentional murder. He was sentenced to 240 months (20 years) in prison.

Christa Marie Moman, Age 30

On May 4, 1995, Christa was found dead in Blaine, of 148 stab wounds, one in the open eye, after a relative asked police to check on her. A witness told police of an early morning argument in front of the Moman home. Christa fell and was dragged into the garage by her husband Billy in front of their five year old daughter. A grand jury indicted Billy Glen Moman on first and second-degree murder charges. He plead guilty to second-degree murder. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison and 13 years probation.

Anna Davidiuk, Age 64

On July 20, 1995, Blaine Police found Anna face down on the floor of her living room. According to the criminal complaint, Anna's grandson, Andrew John Rozko, 19, allegedly brutally assaulted her with a screwdriver and hammer. Rozko was indicted by an Anoka County Grand Jury for first-degree premeditated murder. A competency hearing found him mentally ill and incompetent to stand trial. Rozko was committed.

Susan Eardley, Age 42
Michelle Eardley, Age 16

On November 2, 1995, Blaine Police found the bodies of Susan and Michelle Eardley after someone called 911 from the residence and then hung up without talking. Michelle was shot in the head and Susan was shot in the neck. There were signs of forced entry. Less than an hour later, Minneapolis police took Dallas Lee Thompson, Michelle's former boyfriend, into custody for outstanding warrants in Anoka County. Thompson was transferred to the Hennepin County jail. While waiting for verification of the warrants, a dispatcher alerted the officer that Thompson was being sought in connection with the double murder. Friends reported Michelle was afraid of Thompson and that he kicked, slapped, and hit her. Thompson was convicted on 2 counts of first degree and 2 counts of second-degree murder. He was sentenced to 2 consecutive terms of life imprisonment.

Loretta Jean Strand, Age 62

On June 4, 1996, Loretta Jean Strand was discovered by her roommate, dead in a closet of her Ramsey home. According to the report, Loretta told her roommate that she was in a relationship with Dexter Perez Anderson. Autopsy reports indicate that Loretta died of asphyxiation due to strangulation, a plastic bag surrounding her head and tied tightly around her neck. Anderson was arrested and charged with one count of murder in the first degree, two counts of murder in the second degree, theft of a motor vehicle and gross misdemeanor theft. He was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and sentenced to 108 months (9 years) in prison.

Deborah Lynn Swigerd, Age 32

On June 13, 1998, in Coon Rapids, Deborah's husband Rick Swigerd killed her by shooting her in the head with a shotgun. He called 911 to report the murder and made another call to his neighbor asking her to pick up their 3-year-old son, Jordan. Rick then shot himself to death. Jordan was found uninjured by police waiting in the garage. Police ruled the incident as a murder-suicide.

LeAnniatia Thomas, Age 21

On August 11, 2001, in Fridley, LeAnniatia Thomas was found on the floor of an apartment complex hallway, covered in blood. Doctors pronounced LeAnniatia dead at Unity Hospital. Her brother was stabbed in the abdomen and chest area. Dery Mitchell was arrested. The defendant told authorities that he and the victim had gotten into an argument and that he had grabbed a steak knife and stabbed LeAnniatia, he thought twice. Dery Mitchell plead guilty to second-degree murder, second-degree attempted murder and first-degree attempted aggravated robbery. In January, 2003 Mitchell was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Cha'Nar Kennedy, Age 21

On May 11, 2002, Coon Rapids Police found the body of Cha'nar DaVon Kennedy in upstairs bedroom shot to death while her 2-year old daughter lay asleep. Anthony Lavelle Edwards, Cha'nar's former boyfriend, turned himself in to authorities saying he had "shot his girl". Edwards was convicted at a jury trial of second-degree murder and was sentenced on August 27th, 2003 to 35.5 years in prison.

Cindi Rinkenberger, Age 35

On November 26, 2006, Cindy Rinkenberger was stabbed to death by her boyfriend Scott Le May. Police were called to the couple's apartment after Le May's father alerted authorities after a call from his son. The alleged murder weapon, a steak knife, was found under Cindi's body. According to the criminal complaint, Le May stated that the couple got into an argument and he stabbed Cindi to death in a rage. The complaint quotes Le May as saying that he intended to kill Cindi but he "did not plan it...it just happened." Lemay plead guilty to second-degree murder and is currently serving 40 years.

Sharon D. Chouinard, Age 35

On the morning of January 26, 2008, Sharon's body was discovered in her East Bethel home. Sharon had been stabbed twice in the neck and had defensive wounds on her hands. Later that day police arrested Raymond Robideau, Sharon's boyfriend, after he attempted suicide by slitting his wrists and setting himself and the home he was staying at on fire. Further investigation revealed that Robideau had threatened Sharon in the past and was planning to break up with him. Robideau was convicted of second-degree intentional murder and was sentenced to 38 years, 4 months in prison.

Sherill R. Harnden, Age 59

On July 18, 2008, in Columbia Heights, Sherill Harnden was stabbed to death by her husband Arthur Torgesen. Torgesen had a troubled past and suffered from post traumatic stress disorder following the Vietnam War. Torgesen had a previous history of violence and anger and had threatened to kill himself in the past. After killing Sherill, Torgesen doused Sherill's body and himself with a fire accelerant and lit it on fire in an attempt to kill himself. Torgesen was treated for burns and charged with second degree murder. Torgesen plead guilty and was sentenced to St. Peter's Hospital.

Natasha Waalen, Age 28

On September 19, 2008, Natasha's body was found next to a crashed motorcycle in Andover. Ryan Boland, Natasha's boyfriend, and his brother, Timothy Boland, were charged with her murder and with staging her death as a motorcycle accident. Further investigation revealed that Natasha died of blunt force trauma as a result of multiple blows to the head. Natasha had been seeking a protective order against Boland at the time of her death and had been previously abused by Boland. In 2010, Timothy Boland confessed and was sentenced to 11 years for first-degree manslaughter. His brother Ryan was sentenced to more than 8 years as an accomplice after the fact.

Pamela Taschuk, Age 48

On the evening of October 1, 2009, Pam was found shot to death in her Lino Lakes home. Authorities believe her husband of 22 years, Allen Taschuk, fatally shot Pam and then took his own life. Pam had recently reported the abuse to law enforcement, obtained an Order for Protection, and filed for divorce days before the shooting. In the Order for Protection affidavit, Pam reported that she was scared and that Allen had threatened to kill her at least four or five times in the past.

Natalia Tomasovic, Age 55

On April 18, 2010, police officers were called to a parking lot of a restaurant in Columbia Heights and found Natalia Tomasovic dead. Her husband, Jozef Tomasovic, shot Natalia before turning the gun on himself. Near his body the police found a handgun. Near Natalia's body was a pet carrier with a cat inside. The cat was unharmed. Neighbors had seen her walking with the pet carrier earlier being followed by her husband in the couple's car.

Nicole Meier, Age 26

On February 2, 2011, police were dispatched to a Circle Pines townhome to check on the welfare of Nicole Meier, 26, after her coworkers called 911 fearing for her safety. When police arrived, they found the bodies of Nicole and her ex-boyfriend, Jesse Oakley, both with gun shot wounds to the head. Authorities believe that the day before, Oakley ambushed and fatally shot Nicole, who was attempting to collect rent money owed by Oakley, before turning the gun on himself. Prior to her murder, Nicole had expressed fear of Oakley, requesting a police escort in June 2010 while retrieving her belongings from their previously shared home, and telling her coworkers that they should call for help if she didn't show up for work.

Susan Marie Courteau, Age 44

On October 13, 2011, Susan Marie Courteau was found dead in her Coon Rapids home by a family member; earlier that day she reported to police saying her boyfriend, Patrick Benton, had been drinking and was scaring her. Officers escorted him off the property and cited him for trespass. However, Benton returned later and stabbed Susan to death. Patrick had a criminal record that included domestic assault and protective order violations. He was originally charged with 2nd degree murder, but was convicted of 1st degree murder in May of 2013 due to past patterns of abuse.

Courtney Monson, Age 30

On April 22, 2016, Courtney Monson, 30, was shot and killed by her husband, 41 year-old Bryce Monson, with a semi-automatic weapon. Bryce subsequently committed suicide in their Ramsey home. Law enforcement responded to an open call to 911 in which dispatchers could hear screaming and crying. Officials say that a "violent confrontation" took place during which Courtney sought safety in a room in the home's basement with three of her four minor children before Bryce shot and killed her.

Mary Jo (Loons) Jansen, Age 46

On the evening of February 8, 2019, 911 operators received a phone call from 46 year-old Matthew Lynn Jansen stating that he had shot his wife. Upon arrival officers found Mary Jo Jansen, 46, in the upstairs bedroom. She was pronounced deceased at the scene after suffering a gunshot wound to the neck and chest. Mary Jo had served Matthew with divorce paperwork around Thanksgiving and was moving out of the home the next day. Matthew Jansen is facing first-degree murder charges and his trial is pending.

Unknown

In honor of Anoka County women and children who have died or will die as a result of domestic violence - they leave to us a legacy of courage and love, and their hopes that we will find a solution. Let us all work together to regain peace in our communities and let us begin NOW!