

Commonwealth of Virginia

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

4110 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, ROOM 114

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-4047

STEVE DESCANO
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

Nov. 2, 2022
For Immediate Release
Contact: Becky Campbell, PIO
571-246-4557

STATEMENT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ON CONVICTION FOR EXECUTION-STYLE MURDERS OF TWO ARMY COLONELS

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA – Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano today announced the conviction of a Lorton man after a week-long trial on murder and weapons charges in connection with the May 26, 2021 execution-style homicides of a husband and wife, both Army colonels.

A jury of Fairfax County residents found Ronnie Marshal, 21, guilty of aggravated murder and two counts of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony for the shooting deaths of Edward and Brenda McDaniel. Aggravated murder applies when two or more people are killed in the same incident.

"This was a highly emotional and tragic case that ended the lives of two respected members of the Army and our community," CA Steve Descano said. "Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel were killed in their own driveway while taking their dog for a walk."

Marshal faces up to life in prison for the murder convictions.

Evidence submitted at trial showed that two days prior to the murders, Marshal broke into the McDaniel home where Edward McDaniel met him with a shotgun and ordered him to leave. Marshal returned two days later and murdered Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel.

"We in Fairfax County have no tolerance for such disregard for human life and I'm pleased the jury saw this shooting for what it was — cold blooded murder," Descano said. "While there are no winners in a case like this, I'm glad Mr. Marshal is being held accountable for his crimes, and I hope this conviction brings some level of closure to the McDaniel family."

Marshal remains in custody without bond. His sentencing hearing was scheduled for Feb 24, 2023.

"I want to thank Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Ashleigh Landers Sutton and Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Paul Vitale for their hard work on this case," Descano said.

###