

`* NEWS RELEASE *
NPGS PROFESSOR SENTENCED
FOR KILLING EX-WIFE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on May 18, 2016, Judge Julie R. Culver sentenced Laurence Jones to a term of fifty years to life in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for the brutal first degree murder of his ex-wife in the City of Monterey which occurred between August 31, 2012 and September 7, 2012.

On September 7, 2012, San Benito Sheriff Deputies were alerted to a dismembered body along the side of Cannon Road. The body was identified days later as Norife "Janie" Herrera Jones, age 29, the ex-wife of Jones. At the time Laurence Jones was a Naval Post Graduate Professor. On September 13, 2012, the Monterey Police Department, assisted by the FBI, served a search warrant on the Jones home on Spray Avenue in Monterey and determined the home was the scene of the shooting and dismemberment.

The brother of the victim, who traveled from the Philippines to attend the sentencing hearing, read a letter composed by all eight of the victim's siblings and with great emotion described his sister as a scholar who believed education was the key to success and encouraged her twenty-one nieces and nephews to obtain a good education. Friends from the victim's workplace also spoke at the hearing calling Janie "an angel" and stated "her death served to remind us that evil is real and sometimes monsters are people very close to you."

The fifty year to life term will be stayed until the California Department of Hospitals evaluates the current sanity of the defendant, age 74. Judge Culver committed Jones to the State Hospital for the Mentally Disordered. Upon a finding of restoration of sanity, Jones would be transported to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to serve the 50 years to life term.

The victim's family extended their thanks to law enforcement for the investigation and the immediate arrest of Jones, and to the Monterey County District Attorney's office for pursuing justice for their family.

The case was investigated by the San Benito Sheriff's Office, the Santa Clara Sheriff's Office, the San Jose Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Justice and Detectives Bryan Kruse and Jason Newby from the Monterey Police Department.

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