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The Justice Coalition's
Victims' Advocate

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Inspirational

Thought...

*And whatsoever we
ask, we receive of Him,
because we keep His
commandments,
and do those things
that are pleasing in his
sight.*

1 John 3:22

Innocent Victim...

Continued from front page

McCaulie.

Melissa Williamson, the Assistant State Attorney for the prosecution, delivered a powerful closing statement:

"While the court is well aware that the state has negotiated this case and in doing so accepted a plea agreement of 40 years to life on Second-degree murder, it is my position that LIFE IN PRISON is the only appropriate penalty. The defendant while he has entered his plea of guilty has acknowledged responsibility for his actions.

He has suggested the possibility that his first time prescription drug use of klonopin, along with his use of alcohol, caused a rage reaction that resulted in murder. However, this defendant was faced with Bobby and Lisa together and made a decision acting out of uncontrollable anger. He did so based on choices that he made.

When they asked for you to show mercy by limiting his sentence to a term of years, I ask that you recall the brutality of the audiotape that you heard and to remember that no mercy was shown to Bobby Rippie.

I am not standing up here advocating a life sentence simply because I am a prosecutor and a mouthpiece for whatever sentence is the highest, nor am I advocating it because I think that it is what Bobby's family wants to hear. I am making this request of the court because I believe it to be the right sentence.

I visited the homicide scene. I put my booties on to walk through it. I saw Bobby Rippie lying on the floor dead, and the thought that bothered me the very most was that somewhere in the world Bobby Rippie had a mother that was waking up on Saturday morning fixing a cup of coffee, and reading the morning paper, with no idea that on a floor in an apartment in Jacksonville laid slain her son.

Bobby was reduced to a subject referred to as a "victim", a subject of investigative photography, and a subject of a grand jury indictment. This is truly a tragic case.

Life without the possibility of parole is the appropriate sentence. It is just and recognizes the brutality of the crime. It respects the worth of Robert Rippie's life, and values the loss to Bobby's family."

On August 13, 2002, Judge Gregg McCaulie sentenced Victor Depriest to LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE.

TUNE IN! CALL IN!

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