

Serial Stalker — You never know...

Beatrice, age 38, began dating her perpetrator about three years ago. The abuse began very early in the relationship; jealousy, possessiveness and control were everyday occurrences. Beatrice knew that staying with him increased the likelihood that he would eventually kill her. Compounding her confusion was his threat of murder if she ended the relationship.

With the knowledge of impending danger shadowing every waking moment, Beatrice attempted to leave her perpetrator several times; she was stifled in her attempts. On most occasions, stalking was his method of control and intimidation. He would follow Beatrice in his car, send threatening text messages on her cell phone and show up unexpectedly at places she frequented. His favorite location for stalking was at her work where he knew Beatrice would accommodate his demands. He was right. Out of the fear of being judged or even fired, Beatrice kept her secret that she was, indeed, a victim of abuse.

Finally, after building up the strength from within and denying her fears,

Beatrice once and for all ended the relationship. The result was expected. Like clockwork, her perpetrator began stalking once again. This time, however, it was more intense. Beatrice filed and was granted several temporary protective orders. But due to her perpetrator's shrewdness, the police were never able to locate him to serve him the papers and Beatrice never received a permanent injunction. As a result, she began developing methods to assist the police in identifying her murderer if she were ever found dead. These methods included developing daily itineraries as well as leaving behind notes and letters in case she never returned home. Beatrice also made sure she saved all threatening text messages, e-mails and voice mails.

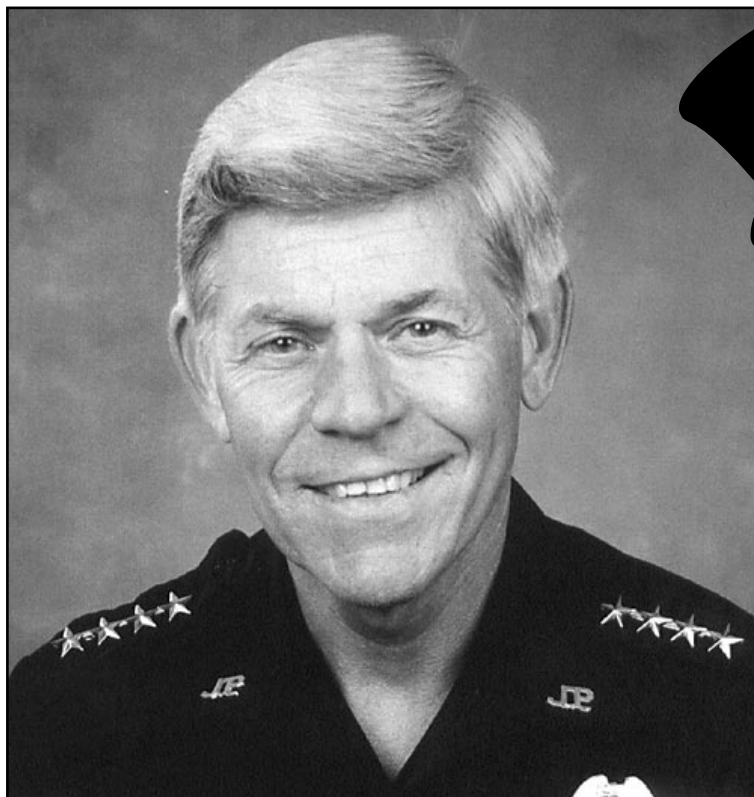
In looking back at the terror that was her life, Beatrice recalls the time when she thought she had seen her last day. On this day, she drove to one of Jacksonville's retail superstores to pick up a few items. As she exited the store and approached her car, she noticed a truck similar to her perpetrator's parked next to hers. Fear grabbed her, and for

good reason. The perpetrator had followed her from her house to the store and was waiting for her. Frightened and with no options, she followed his directions as he forced her into his truck. He drove for about 30 minutes beyond the outskirts of Jacksonville and parked. "This was it", she thought. "He's going to kill me." Images of her two children and her family flashed before her. Strangely enough, however, Beatrice felt a sense of calm because she knew he would not get away with her murder. Instead of killing her, Beatrice was forced to perform sexual acts against her will. After a couple of hours, he drove Beatrice back to her car, still parked in the retailer's parking lot. He told her he would call her later. Later came too soon for Beatrice. His phone calls came almost immediately. Instinctively, she decided not to respond knowing that if she did, in his way, he would believe Beatrice wanted to be with him. However, her avoidance only served to anger him. He needed Beatrice to know who was really in control and he would finally prove it to her. One evening, after a long day at work,

Beatrice walked to her car that was parked in the office garage. She opened the car door. Immediately, a wave of gasoline fumes spewed forth from the inside. Someone had poured gasoline all over the inside of her vehicle. Beatrice knew immediately that it was her perpetrator.

It now became imperative for her survival that she seek once again an injunction for protection, but this time it needed to be done with creativity. The problem in the past had been his cleverness in avoiding the police when they attempted to serve the injunction. Beatrice knew that her perpetrator arrived at work around 4:00 AM every morning. She went to his place of employment and secretly waited for him. Once he arrived, she immediately contacted the police to tell them his location. Armed with this information, police were able to serve him with the protective order. With the help of a Hubbard House Court Advocate, the court system and some creative thinking, Beatrice finally received a permanent

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HATS OFF!

Good for you...

Tribute to John L. Gordon

"John Gordon was a man of tremendous integrity and was a true asset to our agency and this community. His contributions to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office are vast and his leadership and experience will be sorely missed," said Lt. David Stevens, F.O.P. Pres.

Undersheriff Gordon was a Jacksonville native and a graduate of Paxon High School.

He received a Bachelors Degree from Rollins College.

John began his career in Law enforcement with the Jacksonville Police Department in 1967.

He has since risen through

the ranks from patrolman to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Chief, Deputy Director and Undersheriff. It has been said that the city was richer for having him as a part of it, and poorer now that he is gone.

Ted Hires, local businessman and founder of the Justice Coalition, counted John as a friend. Ted's letter of concern to the Florida Times Union stated, "He was as dedicated a public servant as I have ever seen. His honor, integrity and ethics were second to none. It is terrible when a man of John Gordon's stature, giving 35 years to his community and not

one elected official comes to pay him respect. Gordon deserved more." Ted Hires wrote.

John Gordon retired from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office on August 31, 2002, and died of cancer on January 22, 2003. He leaves behind his wife, Christie, and five daughters.

"Undersheriff John Gordon desires the highest honor and tribute to be paid."

We want to say "thank you" to Undersheriff Gordon's family for supporting him while he gave so willingly to this community. This tribute is to a real hero.

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