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Happy Mother's Day

VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

JUSTICE COALITION'S

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Two Murderers Face Justice



Helen Walker

From the moment his wife, Helen, was ruthlessly murdered, Harold Walker lived to see the day when her killer would be brought to justice. Their three

children repeatedly asked their dad, "When will that man be caught?" Finally, on April 7, Harold Walker could tell his children that the person responsible for their mother's death, John Casey, had been arrested.

Walker recently wrote the following memo:

After bringing my wife and children back to the U.S., Helen saw on the news about an Amber Alert. I explained it to her and we made steps to protect our kids and teach them to be safe. I never thought anything would happen to my family, because we are good people; why would anyone want to hurt us?

On Oct. 5, 2004, my wife of 13 years was murdered while she was working. My brain shut down and I just could not register what happened. A horrible dream was happening and I could not wake up. All I was worried about were my children; I did not want to talk to anyone about anything. All I wanted was for everyone to leave me alone, stay away.

However, there were these people that I did not know even existed and they would not leave me alone. They are the Justice Coalition. They were not intrusive or overbearing; they were just worried about my family and me. They kept calling and were very helpful and kind, so I gave in and let them help. Through their help in keeping the community informed and keeping my precious wife's story in the forefront of everyone's mind, the JSO was able to make an arrest.

We still have a long road to go in the case and in the healing of my family, and I know the Justice Coalition will be by my side. If it wasn't for their genuine care in victims' rights and just being there to talk to, I'm sure I would be lost.



Travis Pittman

On Jan. 1, 2003, when Travis Pittman got into a car with friends and drove away from his home, his family never saw him again. Long

frustrating searches, repeated inquiries of friends he was with that day, and exhaustive interviews of suspects by Nassau and south Georgia law enforcement officers failed to determine his fate.

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Different Faces of Domestic Violence

"If he ordered me, I had to do it."

By Shirley Shaw

Anjuli's introduction to her new life in America came when she stepped off the plane in San Francisco.

"You carry your own luggage; I don't want my parents to pick it up," her new husband, Sanjay, instructed. Although she could barely lift the heavy suitcases containing her dowry, all her clothes, gifts for her new family, toiletries and other items, she dutifully obeyed.

"If he ordered me, I had to do it," she explains.

When they reached their home, Anjuli's mother-in-law told her that, beginning the next day, she would work from morning to evening, preparing all their meals, fixing lunches, cleaning house, doing laundry – in short, she was their new domestic servant. "You don't need much sleep," her husband told her.

For the educated, privileged daughter of an upper middle class family in New Delhi, India, herself accustomed to being attended by servants, this was a shocking turn of events. But she was a submissive young woman, reared in her culture to be an obedient wife, and she accepted her new role without question.

Anjuli* is a beautiful, shy young woman in her mid-20s who earned her MBA just before she came to the States.

* Names have been changed



Since she had not married and there were no immediate prospects, her father, Ajay Dube, placed her "resume" on a "data bio" website, hoping to attract a suitable husband from Australia, India or the United States. When Sanjay's father, Anoop Shah, responded from California, the two

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The smallest tips may solve a case



From the Sheriff's Desk

Sheriff John Rutherford

At a press conference on April 7, joined by John Guy of the State Attorney's Office (representing Harry Shorstein) and Paul Perez, the U.S. Attorney, I announced the arrest of convicted robber John Casey, charged with shooting and killing Helen Walker, a wife and mother of three.

Thanks to the efforts of the Justice Coalition and America's Most Wanted, this case was kept in the public eye long after the tragedy occurred. Our detectives worked diligently, and all the tips and information resulting from the publicity helped us build our case against Casey, who was already in jail awaiting trial for another robbery.

This case reinforces the importance of citizens calling police and/or other organizations with information they

know about crimes. Maybe a caller says, "I know someone who may know something," or "I heard about a fellow who may know something about this guy who shot someone."

We take all tips seriously; we will follow up on them. They do help investigations and can ultimately lead to arrests. The smallest tip, the slightest "kernel" of information, can lead to something big and substantial and help us build a case the prosecution can use.

Also at this press conference we asked for help in communicating a very simple message: gun crime is not going to be tolerated in this community. The challenge I find law enforcement dealing with is how to reach those who choose to live outside the law and have no problem brandishing or using a gun for criminal purposes.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the criminal justice system are united in their efforts to arrest criminals and vigorously prosecute them, recommending the stiffest penalties for those convicted of

heinous, violent crimes. But the intention to commit a crime is what I want to impact. Somehow these people must know that when they include a gun as part of their wardrobe and go out with the intention of using it illegally, we're going to find them, we're going to arrest them, we're going to prosecute them, and we are going to punish them to the fullest extent of the law.

We are not going to be shy about asking the community – including the friends and loved ones of these criminals – to come forward anonymously and give us information. This is the best way we can all demonstrate our intolerance of crime.

We're grateful to the *Victims' Advocate* and organizations like First Coast Crime Stoppers for carrying that message to the public. The outraged voices of victims' loved ones are voices that we honor - but we also need to hear the outraged voices of those who know people who commit violent crimes. Those loved ones' voices are very important to us, also.