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ASHLAND COUNTY PROSECUTOR SAYS JUSTICE WAS DONE AFTER SERIAL KILLER SENTENCED TO DEATH

Prosecutor Christopher Tunnell Thanks Those Who Helped Bring Shawn Grate to Justice

ASHLAND, OH (6/1/18) – Ashland County Prosecuting Attorney Christopher Tunnell announced that justice was done after convicted serial killer Shawn Grate was formally sentenced to death today. Ashland County Common Pleas Judge Ronald Forsthoefel, following the recommendation of the jury, announced his decision at a morning hearing.

“Nothing will ever fully erase the pain and heartbreak caused by the unspeakable crimes committed by this depraved killer,” Tunnell said. “Thanks to the hard work of so many, we delivered some measure of justice to the victims and their families and we ensured that Shawn Grate will be held fully accountable for his acts of evil.”

Tunnell pointed out that the case was successfully investigated and prosecuted by a dedicated team of investigators and prosecutors who collectively spent thousands of hours preparing and litigating the case.

“A case this complex takes an outstanding team and I’m so thankful that we had some of the best professionals in Ohio working on this,” Tunnell said. “I want to thank the Ashland Police Department and BCI agents from Attorney General Mike DeWine’s office for quickly and thoroughly investigating these crimes and providing additional litigation guidance. I also want to thank the two special assistant prosecutors appointed to this case, Michael McNamara of office of Medina County Prosecuting Attorney Forrest Thompson and Mark Weaver of the Columbus law firm Isaac Wiles, for their skilled court presentations that helped ensure a conviction and a recommendation of the death penalty.”

Tunnell concluded by honoring the jurors who put their lives on hold to do their civic duty in a gruesome and emotionally difficult case. “I also want to thank the Ashland County citizens who served on this jury,” Tunnell continued. “These good people took time away from their work and families to do their solemn duty and hold Shawn Grate to account for these heinous crimes.”

Tunnell concluded by reminding the public that his county is typically a safe place to live and work. “We’re mostly law-abiding, peaceful folks here in Ashland County,” Tunnell said. “Shawn Grate is the rare exception of a black-hearted person who wandered into our community from elsewhere and took advantage of the kindness and good will of people who tried to help him. He’s now learned that Ashland County takes serious crime seriously.”

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