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## **AG Steve Marshall Announces Court of Criminal Appeals Upholds Henry County Capital Murder Convictions and Death Sentence**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday upheld the capital murder convictions and sentence of death of Justice Jerrell Knight. Knight, 27, of Dothan, was convicted in Henry County Circuit Court in September 2016 for three counts of capital murder for killing Jarvis Daffin.

Evidence presented at trial established that the victim and his killer had been friends, and that in February 2012, they were planning to use anticipated tax refunds to buy cars. However, Knight learned that he would not be receiving a refund because of an IRS audit, whereas Daffin would be getting more than \$6,500. Knight then arranged with another man, Antwain “Duke” Wingard, to drive Daffin to pick up and cash his tax return and then rob him. Under the guise of taking him to an auto shop to purchase the car, Knight and Wingard kidnapped, robbed and murdered Daffin. Knight sat in the back seat and Daffin was in the front passenger seat, and Knight shot Daffin once in the back of the head. Knight and Wingard stopped near a dirt road in a rural and remote area of farmland in Henry County, dragged Daffin’s body to a wooded area near a cotton field and covered him with debris. Knight and Wingard tried to conceal their crimes, attempting to clean the car and get rid of the gun. However, members of the Wingard family contacted law enforcement. Knight had fled to Miami but was later apprehended.

The Henry County District Attorney’s Office prosecuted the case. A Henry County jury convicted Knight of three counts of capital murder. The jury recommended that Knight be sentenced to death for his capital murder convictions. The trial judge accepted the jury’s recommendations and sentenced Knight to death. Knight sought to have his convictions and sentence reversed on appeal.

The co-defendant, Antwain Wingard, also was indicted on capital murder charges and is awaiting trial.

The Attorney General's Capital Litigation Division represented the State during Knight’s appeal, urging the Court of Criminal Appeals to reject Knight’s arguments and for the Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the convictions. On Friday, August 10, 2018, that court affirmed Knight’s convictions and sentence.

Attorney General Marshall commended Assistant Attorney General John Selden of the Attorney General's Capital Litigation Division for his successful work in this case.

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