



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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JURY FINDS FOURTH MAN GUILTY OF 2008 MURDERS OF MARINE CORPS SERGEANT AND HIS WIFE IN THEIR HOME

RIVERSIDE – Today, Aug. 5, 2014, a Riverside County Superior Court jury found a Fallbrook man guilty of the 2008 murders of a United States Marine Corps sergeant and his wife in their home near Murrieta.

Jurors found Kesaun Kedron Sykes, DOB: 4-27-87, guilty of two counts of first-degree murder and also found true the special circumstances of murder during the commission of a robbery, during the commission of a burglary, rape by instrument, and multiple murders.

Jurors deliberated less than two hours before reaching verdicts.

With these verdicts and findings, the trial now moves to the penalty phase during which the same jurors will hear testimony and then decide if Sykes should be sentenced to death or to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The penalty phase of the trial will begin Monday, Aug. 11, 2014, before Judge Christian Thierbach in Dept. 43 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.

Sykes is the fourth man to be tried for the brutal October 2008 murders of United States Marine Corps Sgt. Jan Pietrzak, 24, and his wife, Quiana Jenkins-Pietrzak, 26, who were found murdered in their home in the unincorporated area of Winchester/French Valley, near Murrieta.

In June 2013, two separate Riverside County juries found Kevin Cox, DOB: 1-16-88; Emrys John, DOB: 12-27-89; and Tyrone Miller, DOB: 12-13-87, guilty of two counts of first-degree murder and also found true the special circumstances of murder during the commission of a robbery, during the commission of a burglary and multiple murders. John and Miller had one jury and Cox had a separate jury. Those same jurors decided during the penalty phase of the trial that John and Miller should be put to death and that Cox should receive life in prison without the possibility of parole. All three were sentenced in 2013 by Judge Thierbach, who also has overseen the Sykes trial.

Pietrzak and Jenkins-Pietrzak were found bound and had been shot in the head. Cox, John, and Miller all worked with Sgt. Pietrzak at one time as Marines while stationed at Camp Pendleton. Cox, John, Miller and Sykes went to the Pietrzak home to rob the victims and then forced their way inside. Pietrzak was physically assaulted and his wife was sexually assaulted before both were murdered.

The case, SWF026784, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Daniel DeLimon.