



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Rooney Guilty on all counts in 2010 Stoughton murder

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John M. Rooney, 52, of Randolph has been found guilty of murder in the first degree and all other indictments against him for the stabbing death of Georgios Kotsas, 78, in Kotsas's Stoughton home in February of 2010, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

The Norfolk Superior Court jury deliberated just under three days before delivering its unanimous verdict shortly after 3 p.m. Monday, May 16, 2016, Morrissey said. The jury heard nine weeks of testimony.

Rooney was also convicted of eight other charges for bursting into the Kotsas home attacking first Dorothea Kotsas, demanding money, then killing Georgios. Kotsas when he came to defend his wife.

At formal sentencing Tuesday morning, May 17, Judge Raymond J. Brassard sentenced Rooney to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of Mr. Kotsas. He sentenced him to an additional 40 to 50 years in state prison, consecutive to the murder sentence, for the assault and home invasion charges on which Dorothea Kotsas was the named victim, according to Morrissey.

The jury found the murder to be in the first degree both because of deliberate pre-meditation and under the felony murder theory, as it was part of a home invasion and armed robbery.

The other convictions are for two counts of home invasion, two counts of armed assault in a dwelling with intent to murder, one count of armed assault with intent to murder a person over 60, one count of armed assault with intent to rob a person over sixty, one count of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury and one count of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon against a person over 60.

The matter was tried to a hung jury in 2014. This re-trial began ten weeks ago.

"I cannot say enough about the courage and strength of Dorothea Kotsas, taking the stand in not one but two trials to see that justice was done and that her husband's murderer and her assailant is held to account," District Attorney Morrissey said. "While this homicide occurred prior to my taking office, it is clear from my review of the facts that the Stoughton Police and Massachusetts State Police detectives and crime lab deserve great credit for a thorough and professional investigation. Assistant District Attorneys Michele Armour and Jennifer Blair and their team of victim/witness advocates Lynne Cipullo and Pam Friedman, and Multimedia Director, Coleen Crawford did an exceptional job in a long and difficult trial."