



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

45 SHAWMUT ROAD | CANTON, MA 02021 | 781.830.4800 | F: 781.830.4801 | www.norfolkda.com

MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY
NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Press Release

Arrest made in 1981 Braintree Murder

Defendant, now 57, arrested in Florida

Contact: D. Traub, 781-830-4917

Keith Butler, 57, of 1449 Queen Anne Blvd, Palm Harbor, FL, was arraigned on a single count of murder in Norfolk Superior Court in Dedham just before 11 a.m. June 2, 2015, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Assistant District Attorney Greg Connor requested that Butler be held without bail during the pendency of the murder case, citing both his history of 10 defaults and the seriousness of the charges.

Defense Attorney Larry Tipton cited the defendant's family in the area and his history of not failing to appear during his previous 1983 murder trials while free on \$2,500 cash bail and asked that the defendant be free on personal recognizance as a non-flight risk.

Norfolk Superior Court Judge Douglas H. Wilkins ordered \$2,500 cash bail with conditions that Butler not be released until he is fitted with a GPS device, that he be subject to GPS monitoring, have a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew, abstain from alcohol and submit to random testing, surrender his passport, reside in Eastern Massachusetts (initially with his mother in Quincy) and report to probation as ordered. He is due back in the Norfolk Superior Court for pre-trial conference at 2 p.m. on July 20, 2015.

Butler was arrested Friday afternoon, May 8, 2015, by Florida authorities on a Norfolk Superior Court warrant, according to DA Morrissey. State Police assigned to the District Attorney's Office worked with Florida law enforcement to arrange his return beginning at that time. He arrived in Massachusetts in custody late in the day on Friday, May 29.

Butler was indicted May 6, 2015 by a Norfolk County grand jury for the murder of Francis X. Hussey, who was 41 at the time of his death. Hussey resided at 1208 Liberty Street in Braintree at the time and was found dead at his residence on January 17, 1981.

Butler, who resided in Braintree at the time, was tried twice for the murder – both trials resulting in hung juries in April and December of 1983. The case was withdrawn from the trial list by a Nolle Prosequi in January of 1984.

"We are continually looking at older cases in the hope of bringing new techniques and new light to those cases," District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said. "In this instance, State Police Sgt. Brian Brooks, from the detective unit attached to the Norfolk District Attorney's Office, believed that there was surviving physical evidence that might benefit from modern forensic testing. His efforts, and the initial investigation by State and Braintree detectives at the time of the murder, have led to this new indictment."

The case was presented to the Norfolk County Grand Jury by Assistant District Attorney Greg Connor.

State Police have located several witnesses from the original investigation and trials who are still available and cooperating with the current proceedings.

Mr. Hussey was found in his locked house, on the floor of his kitchen, with obvious signs of head trauma. No murder weapon was ever recovered. Hussey and Butler lived two doors apart for several years and were well known to each other. Six expensive oriental rugs were missing from the residence when authorities came to the scene. Those items were never recovered.

Current Braintree Police Chief Russ Jenkins said: "I applaud the District Attorney and the State Police detectives assigned to his office for continuing to pursue this and other older cases. The message should be clear that unsolved crimes committed in Norfolk County will not get a pass due to the passage of time."