



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**Press Release**

## **Murder Indictment in September beating**

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A Norfolk County Grand Jury today (December 21, 2017) indicted 58-year-old Walter Rice, Jr., in the beating death of his elderly roommate at a Randolph nursing facility, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Rice was indicted for a single count of murder in the first degree in the death of James Schappell, who was 86 at the time of his death. The alleged attack was September 5, 2017 and Mr. Schappell succumbed to his injuries the following day.

Following a court-order competency evaluation, Rice pled not guilty to murder at his bedside arraignment October 13, 2017 at Morton Hospital in Taunton.

Assistant District Attorney Craig Kowalski is representing the Commonwealth in the prosecution. The defendant is being represented by Attorney James Murphy of Brockton. No superior court arraignment date has yet been set.