



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Quincy Man guilty in 2009 Murder

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A Norfolk Superior Court jury today found Joseph Beatty, 61, guilty of first-degree murder and aggravated rape in the strangling death of Mary Beaton, with whom he had shared a relationship, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey. The verdict was read March 18, 2019.

Beaton, 33 at the time, was strangled in her second-floor apartment on Beach Street in Quincy August 29, 2009. Although Beatty was taken into custody shortly after the murder, the trial was repeatedly delayed by concerns over his competency to stand trial and change of defense attorneys, causing trial dates to be postponed.

"I hope that this verdict provides some small measure of comfort to the family and friends of Mary Beaton," District Attorney Morrissey said after the jury returned its verdict shortly after 2 p.m. "This was absolutely senseless and created such loss."

The jury found Beatty guilty of first-degree murder on three different possible theories: Extreme atrocity, pre-meditation, and felony murder (committed in connection with the rape.)

Sentencing took place the morning of March 19. Beatty was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder and 25 to 30 years, concurrent, for the rape, Morrissey said.

"Assistant District Attorneys Jennifer Blair and Pamela Alford, working with Victim/Witness Advocate Maureen Russell, worked with great commitment on this case over many years," Morrissey said. "I thank them, the Quincy Police and State Police detectives assigned to the Norfolk DA's Office for the hard work that led this jury to a just result."