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HALIFAX COUNTY
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PRESS RELEASE

January 25, 2006

In Halifax County Circuit Court on Wednesday, Calvin Eugene Watkins entered Alford pleas of guilty to charges of aggravated malicious wounding and murder in the second degree relating to the wounding of Tremaine Walker and to the death of Herman L. Loudon. Watkins faces a maximum sentence of life plus 40 years for the offenses, which date back to March 15, 2004.

At the hearing, Commonwealth's Attorney Kim Slayton White and Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Mike Freshour proffered the evidence gathered by the Halifax County Sheriff's Office, the Virginia State Police, the Division of Forensic Science and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Had the matter been tried, the Commonwealth was prepared to introduce into evidence more than 100 photographs. In addition, the Commonwealth had subpoenaed a number of forensic scientists with specialties in DNA analysis and bloodstain pattern analysis.

According to the proffer, Watkins was at the residence of Walker and Loudon, located off of Dryburg Road in northern Halifax County in the early morning hours of March 15, 2004 when he became angered at the two and hit each in the head with a blunt instrument. Loudon immediately was incapacitated and killed by the blows. Walker, however, survived but is left with debilitating injuries.

"This case presents a perfect example of the team work needed to prepare for the prosecution of a violent crime," said White. "Good investigative work, effective forensic science and thorough trial preparation led to this guilty plea."

The sentencing of Watkins was scheduled to be held at a later date in Halifax County Circuit Court. It is anticipated that the Commonwealth will present testimony from family members of Loudon and Walker at the sentencing. In addition, medical and forensic testimony is expected. Watkins was remanded to jail to await his sentencing.