




**Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney**

**THE RUSSELL REPORT**



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**Mesac Damas Sentenced to Death**

Mesac Damas, 41, was sentenced to six death sentences by the Honorable Judge Christine Greider for the gruesome 2009 murder of his wife and five children.

He killed his wife Guerline Dieu, 32, and his children: Meshach, 9, Maven, 6, Marven, 5, Megan, 3, and Morgan, 19 months, by slitting their throats.

In September 2009 law enforcement responded to the Damas home in Naples for a welfare check when Guerline’s family had not heard from her. That is when the murders were discovered.

Mesac Damas fled to Port au Prince, Haiti and was soon extradited back to the United States.

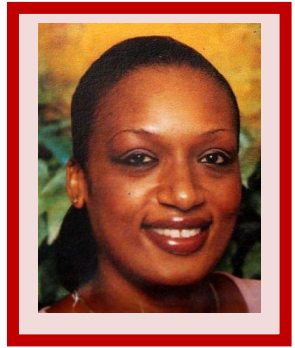
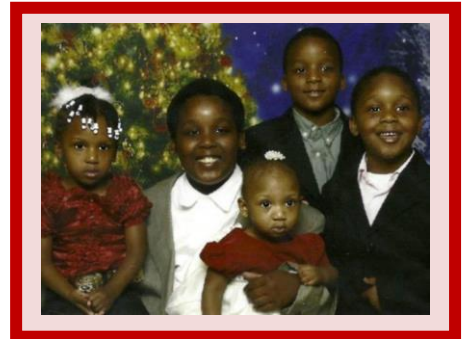
Damas was indicted by a Grand Jury on October 4, 2009 for 6 counts of First Degree Premeditated Murder. The State Attorney’s Office Death Penalty Review Committee then reviewed the case and recommended the death penalty to State Attorney Steve Russell. Mr. Russell then approved filing of the intent to seek the death penalty.

Over the years the case has met with several things that delayed resolution. Damas had various issues of competency raised, but was ultimately found to be competent. There have been four judges on the case and multiple changes of counsel for the defense. Each time this required a fresh start for the defense to go through the case.

In September of this year, Damas waived his right to a jury trial and pled guilty to all charges. Last week, there were two days of sentencing hearings prior to the judge making her sentencing ruling. The State Attorney’s Office always sought the death penalty in this case due to the heinous nature of the crimes committed.

Deputy Chief Assistant State Attorney Richard Montecalvo, Chief Assistant State Attorney Amira Fox, and Assistant State Attorney Dave Scuderi handled the case.

We want to thank the family of the victims for staying strong as this case progressed through the different layers of the justice system process.





**Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney**

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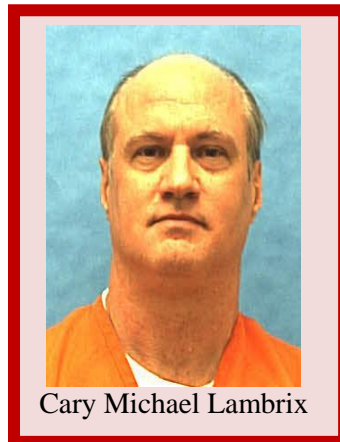
### Execution

Cary Michael Lambrix, 57, was executed on October 5th for the 1983 murder of two people in Glades County. His execution stems from his February 1984 conviction of 2 counts of First Degree Murder.

Lambrix, an escapee from the Lakeland Community Correctional Center, moved to LaBelle with his girlfriend where they rented a trailer. One night in February 1983, the couple went to a local bar where they met the two victims: Aleisha Bryant, 19, and Clarence Moore, 35. Lambrix invited the couple back to his trailer for dinner.

A short while after arriving at the trailer, Lambrix asked Moore to step outside so he could show him some plants. The two were gone about 20 minutes when Lambrix came back in the trailer alone. He then told Bryant that Moore wanted to see her. She walked outside with Lambrix. Lambrix returned to the trailer alone carrying a tire iron with blood covering his arms, face, and front of his shirt.

Lambrix had brutally murdered Moore by beating him in the head with the metal tool. He killed Bryant by choking her and kicking her in the face. He later dragged the victims farther back onto the property and buried them in shallow graves. Former Chief Assistant State Attorney Randall McGruther prosecuted the case.

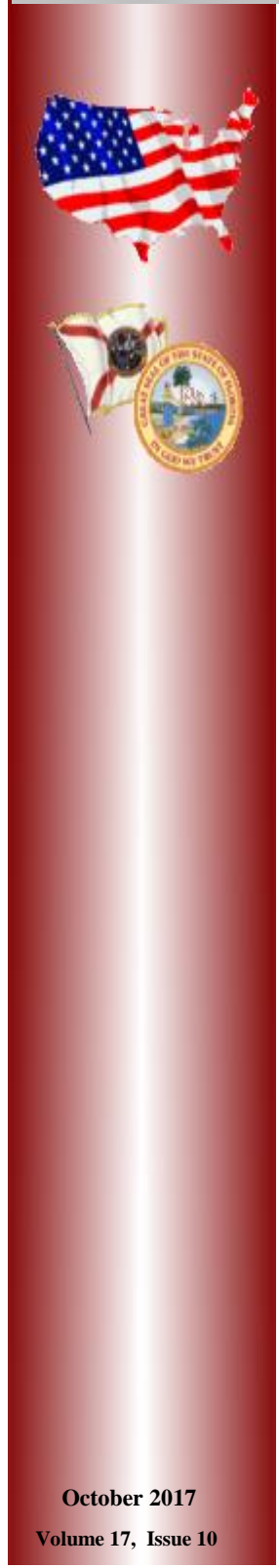


Cary Michael Lambrix



**Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney**

# THE RUSSELL REPORT



## Cold Case Murder Conviction

Keith Wilson, 46, was found guilty of Second Degree Murder for the February 1999 death of 4 year old Pilar Rodriguez following an 8 day trial in Charlotte County. Wilson faces life in prison when he is sentenced on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Pilar died several days after Wilson punched her in the head and she fell into a wall according to the testimony of Wilson's girlfriend, Melissa Harding-Jones, formerly Cooper who was Pilar's babysitter.

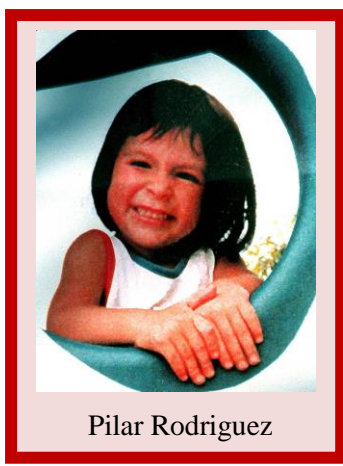
Harding-Jones testified that Wilson put Pilar's body in a garbage bag and she never saw her again. Pilar's body has never been found.

In 2009, a new witness came forward with information which helped lead the cold case to being solved. This witness, a relative of Wilson's, testified that he saw the foot of a small child sticking out from within the trunk of the defendant's car.

Other witnesses testified that Wilson made comments about the State not being able to prove murder without a body and that alligators will eat anything.

Melissa Harding-Jones faces up to 30 years in prison when she is sentenced for one count of Accessory after the Fact.

Assistant State Attorney Dan Feinberg of our Homicide Unit and Assistant State Attorney Cynthia Rebholz-Rubin prosecuted the case.



Pilar Rodriguez

## Murderer and Rapist Remains in Prison

Assistant State Attorney Dan Feinberg of our Homicide Unit appeared before the full panel of the Florida Parole Commission in Tallahassee to speak in opposition to the parole of inmate James Curtis McCrae.

McCrae was sentenced to death for the 1973 rape and murder of Margaret Mears in Fort Myers. In 1991 the death penalty sentence was overturned on appeal and he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for 25 years.

The Commission voted to extend his Presumptive Parole Release Date (PPRD) to October 4, 2022. He will remain incarcerated and be ineligible for parole until that date.





## **THE RUSSELL REPORT**

### **GUILTY VERDICTS**

ASAs Dan Feinberg and Cynthia Rebholz-Rubin: Second Degree Murder

ASAs Michael Colombo and Jessica Horowitz: Sexual Battery by Threatening to Use Force or Violence, Kidnapping, Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon

ASA Clark Cary: Cruelty to Animals, Failure to Deliver Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

ASAs Deborah Cunningham and Katherine Rumley: Lewd or Lascivious Molestation (3 counts)

ASAs Francine Donnorummo and Mary Anderson: Sexual Battery

ASA Heather Searcy: First Degree Burglary with Assault or Battery, Battery (Second or More)

ASA Erin Hughes: Resisting or Obstructing an Officer Without Violence, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of a Controlled Substance

ASA Alyssa Wolf: Improper Exhibition of a Firearm (2 counts)

ASA Erin Hughes: Disorderly Intoxication

ASA Michael Colombo: Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Tampering With a Witness, Victim, or Informant

ASA Clark Cary: Cruelty to Animals

ASA Ashley Adams: Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon

ASAs Deanna Vella and Andrew Riordan: Battery

ASA Ashley Adams: Grand Theft

ASA Leena Marcos: Aggravated Assault, Shooting At, Into, or Within a Building, Improper Exhibition of a Firearm (2 counts)



# Office of the State Attorney

*Twentieth Judicial Circuit, State of Florida*

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*Charlotte - Collier - Glades - Hendry - Lee*

## Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties

### THE RUSSELL REPORT

#### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:

In recognition of service to the citizens of Southwest Florida, and dedication to their jobs with the State Attorney's Office, a heartfelt thank you goes to the following people on their October employment anniversary dates:

Nicholas Alberto '15	Ashley Hossack '10	Cynthia Rebholz-Rubin '09
Mary Anderson '14	Ann Kelly '15	Jeannine Reed '11
Brian Ashby '16	Morten Laigaard '15	Hanna Renna '10
JoAnn Biddle '09	Hortencia Martinez '15	Andrew Riordan '16
Sharon Brown '16	Laura Mason '14	Oneyda Rodriguez '09
Danielle Butler '10	Jacqueline Maurer '95	Melissa Rosario '11
Clark Cary '14	Jean Mazzola '14	Jennifer Royal '09
Hope Darda '10	Sharon McKart '01	Karen Steiner '15
William Dorman III '10	Richard Montecalvo '95	Susan Summey '09
Susan Fundermark '06	Sabsina Nunez '12	Deanna Vella '16
Jessica Hamernik '12	Patti Pekar '04	Erin Velotti '09

#### Learning About the State Attorney's Office

Staff members of the State Attorney's Office are available to speak to local students or groups. Throughout the year we visit classrooms and organizations to teach people about what our office does and how the law works in Florida.

We also invite local college students to volunteer at one of our offices throughout Southwest Florida. We have many volunteers who get to work closely with our prosecutors and get an education about the criminal justice system.

If you would like to learn more about our programs, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Cruz at [ncruz@sao.cjis20.org](mailto:ncruz@sao.cjis20.org) or call her at 533-1000.