

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury's verdict sends murderer to prison for life

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – James M. Hunter was sent to prison for the rest of his life after a jury found him guilty of the February 2013 killing of Ronny Eugene Steele, 57, in Charlotte. The trial of Hunter and his codefendant Ryan K. Andrews began on February 23, 2015, in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Linwood O. Foust, Superior Court Judge. As the defendants were both charged in the murder of Mr. Steele, the State sought to join the defendants' cases for trial. A judge previously granted the State's request, allowing the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team to simultaneously try Hunter and Andrews.

Hunter, 34, and Andrews, 26, were each tried for first-degree murder. On March 13, 2015, the jury found Hunter *guilty* as charged. Today, Judge Foust sentenced him to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*. On March 16, 2015, the jury found Andrews *not guilty*.

Two other defendants are also charged in the case. Charles Edward Snowden previously pled guilty in connection with Mr. Steele's murder and is awaiting sentencing. Charges against Reuben Timothy Curry are still pending.



James M. Hunter

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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