

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

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Man sentenced to life in prison after jury finds him guilty of murder

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, a jury found Michael Dortch Washington guilty of the 2013 murder of 48-year-old Marine Corps veteran Oren Lamont Reed. As a result, Washington will spend the rest of his life in prison. The trial began May 13, 2019, in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable David A. Phillips, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Washington, 25, for 1) first-degree murder and 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Phillips sentenced him to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*, as well as an additional 17-30 months in prison.

In November 2013, a relative went to Mr. Reed's Charlotte home and discovered his body. He had been shot multiple times. Police determined that someone had broken into the home through the back door. Within days, Washington was arrested while attempting to break into another home. In his pocket was the gun that firearms testing showed killed Mr. Reed. Further analysis showed that DNA discovered on Mr. Reed's back door matched Washington.

The case originally went to trial in 2016. That jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. The Homicide Team retried the case to seek justice for Mr. Reed and his family.

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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