

**District Attorney's
Office**

State of North Carolina
26th Prosecutorial District
Mecklenburg County

**Spencer B. Merriweather
III**
District Attorney

www.charmeckda.com

NEWS RELEASE

November 24, 2025

Two men sentenced to life in prison for murder of Charlotte restaurant co-owner

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, Terry Connor Jr. and Steven Staples were found guilty of the December 2019 murder of 61-year-old Scott Brooks. The trial, which began on October 27, 2025, and concluded with today's verdict, was held in courtroom 5370 before the Honorable Louis A. Trosch Jr., Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Terry Connor Jr., 39, for 1) first-degree murder, 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 3) first-degree kidnapping, 4) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, and 5) two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Steven Staples, 36, was tried for 1) first-degree murder, 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 3) first-degree kidnapping, 4) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, and 5) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Connor was found *guilty* of all charges except one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon for which he was found *not guilty*. Staples was found *guilty as charged*.

For the first-degree murder charges, Judge Trosch sentenced both defendants to life without the possibility of parole. Connor was sentenced to consecutive sentences of 35-54 months in prison for the conspiracy charge and 17-30 months in prison for the possession of a firearm by a convicted felon charge. Staples was sentenced to consecutive sentences of 40-60 months in prison for the conspiracy charge and 20-33 months in prison for the possession of a firearm by a convicted felon charge.

Around 4:40 a.m. on December 9, 2019, Scott Brooks, the victim, arrived at Brooks' Sandwich House to open it for the day. As he walked toward the restaurant, he was ambushed by Terry Connor Jr. and Steven Staples, both of whom were wearing masks, hoods, and gloves to conceal their identities. They forced him to the back door of the restaurant, out of public view, and one of the defendants rifled through the victim's pockets and removed his wallet and took his cash. Brooks spoke with them for about ten seconds before he pulled a small firearm out of his pocket and fired at them. At the same time, the other defendant returned fire, striking Brooks three times before fleeing on foot. Brooks succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

Investigators with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department recovered four .45 caliber discharged cartridge casings at the scene. DNA analysis done on the casings showed the presence of Connor's girlfriend's DNA. Detectives were able to rule her out as a suspect, and during an interview with detectives in 2020, she said that Connor admitted to her that he committed the murder.

Cellphone data showed phones belonging to both Connor and Staples traveled to and from Brooks' Sandwich House shortly before and immediately after the murder. They also called each other minutes before the shooting. The data also showed they traveled to that location three days prior to the shooting at approximately the same time.

Both defendants have multiple pending charges related to other crimes.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, follow@CharMeckDA on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).

// End //

