

Victim Impact Statement:

For: Officer William McGowen

Good Morning,

Thank you, your Honor, and Tulare County District Attorney for allowing our family to participate in this court proceeding today.

My Name is Lori Mendonca, I am the daughter of William McGowen, former Detective with Visalia Police Department. I am speaking today for my dad, who passed away 15 years ago, and the rest of the McGowen family.

First, we would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the other victims and their families who suffered unspeakable loss, pain and violence at the hand of defendant.

Of all the victims of Mr. DeAngelo, we are probably one of the least affected, but that does not mean that his crimes did not have a lasting impact on my father and family.

In reference to the shooting that occurred Dec. 10, 1975

As the evidence of the crimes committed by the defendant were released, it became apparent that the defendant fully intended to kill my father the night of Dec. 10, 1975. My dad had always held his flashlight up and out to the side of his head, the night of the shooting was a dark winter night, when approached by my dad, the defendant fired at the light and the bullet hit the flashlight instead of his intended target. By the grace of God, dad was only slightly injured, by metal chards spraying his eye and face. Had the shot been mere inches to the left it could have been a far different outcome resulting in severe injury or even death.

Because he is unable to speak for himself, I would like for the defendant and court to know that my dad's investigation and police work was correct on several issues:

- He had seen the defendant before, he was certain of this.
- The defendant was military.
- That the Visalia Ransacker and the East Area Rapist, were the same person.
- The crimes would escalate, from prowling and burglary to assaults that are more violent.

How did the defendant's crimes affect my father?

- My father felt personal responsibility to solving the case for the Snelling family, he knew Mr. Snelling from COS.
- He believed that the case, could be solved if agencies worked together and shared information.
- There were negative comments and newspaper articles written questioning the Visalia Police Departments and my father's motives for trying to share information with other agencies.
- He never stopped looking for the Ransacker, every person he saw that resembled the composite he would check out. It was always in the back of his mind.

- After dad retired officers continued to contact him for information about the case, again it was something he wanted to solve.

### How did the crime affect my family?

Dad was obsessive about safety:

- He placed dead bolts on all of our doors,
- Wooden dowels in our windows, he detested sliding glass doors
- We were never allowed to sleep with our windows open
- He built wooden barriers and put them up in front of my brothers and my bedroom windows
- We got a big dog.
- He never traveled without his weapon
- He was always on guard and suspicious of people
- He meticulously checked doors and windows every night.

In closing:

The day the defendant was arrested, will forever be etched in our mind; this is something we never thought would happen. Justice, will now be served for his numerous victims and their families, but it does not replace the anguish, fear and enormous pain caused by his actions and crimes, he lived a full life, that he denied to so many.

I want to thank my dad, for always protecting me and keeping me safe. My dad was an excellent Police Officer.

Thank you to the Tulare County District Attorney for including our family in these proceedings and thank you all of the Law Enforcement Officers and other agencies that worked together to solve these horrific crimes.