

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
Aug. 26, 2009
2 Page(s)

For further information contact:
Madelaine Vitale 609-909 -7855
or 609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County jury convicted a man of murder and several other offenses this morning for his role in the savage 2006 killing of an Atlantic City man, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced today.

Victor Marrero, 23, faces up to life in prison for the May 9, 2006 murder of 46-year-old Roberto Feliciano. In addition to murder, the defendant was convicted of multiple other counts, including conspiracy to commit murder, two counts of possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, two counts of unlawful possession of a weapon, tampering with physical evidence and hindering apprehension. Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury presided over the trial and will sentence the defendant on Oct. 30. Marrero must serve 85 percent of the prison term imposed before parole eligibility, according to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Cary Shill.

Marrero and his co-conspirator Robin Perez went to the victim's Chelsea Heights home in Atlantic City with the purpose to kill Feliciano. Marrero was armed with a lead pipe and struck the first blow followed by 14 more, while Perez stabbed Feliciano more than 40 times with a "survival" 15-inch knife with a 10-inch blade. Testimony indicated that the men purchased the knife at a store on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. Prior to the murder Anita Pratts, Feliciano's longtime companion and co-conspirator in his killing, let Perez and Marrero into her home and after the crime she provided a casino hotel room for the killers to clean up, Shill stated.

During the trial Pratts and Perez both testified that Marrero tried to convince Perez not to assault the victim. Marrero testified that he struck the victim with a pipe because he believed that the victim was going to assault him.

In a powerful closing argument on Tuesday Shill told the jury that the murder was planned and that even though Perez inflicted the fatal injuries, the killers had a "unity of purpose."

They hid in a bedroom at the victim's home and when the victim returned from dropping his wife off at her job, the men viciously attacked Feliciano. Shill argued that after the

victim fell to his knees, Marrero continued to bash the victim over the head with the pipe.

“This was a brutal murder,” Shill told the jury as he displayed two graphic color photos of the bloodied victim. “The killers showed no mercy for Mr. Feliciano.”

The jury deliberated approximately 2 ½ hours and reached its verdict Wednesday morning. Marrero’s case was scheduled for trial after he rejected a plea offer of 21 years in prison for the charge of aggravated manslaughter. Perez and Pratts who entered guilty pleas to aggravated manslaughter were sentenced to prison in 2008, Shill stated.

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor’s Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.