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March 17, 2010

SPARTANBURG MEN RECEIVE 30-YEAR PRISON TERMS FOR MURDER

Two Spartanburg men received 30-year prison sentences today after they were found guilty of murdering an acquaintance.

David Carson, 43, and Leon Jones, 46, were found guilty of murder at the conclusion of a two-day jury trial. The duo killed Darryl Keith Miller, 35, in 2005. The victim's body wasn't recovered.

Principal Deputy Solicitor Barry Barnette and Assistant Solicitor Prina Tailor presented a case that was driven by witness testimony and forensic evidence.

Spartanburg police filed the murder charges in 2008, about 3 years after Miller was last seen by family members leaving a Sunny Street home.

In the days following the disappearance, witnesses reported seeing Miller with a lot of money in the presence of Carson and Jones. Police also found traces of Miller's blood inside Carson's car. The blood was located on the passenger-side door and seatbelt of Carson's car. Carson told police Miller was shot during a robbery that occurred on the south side of the city and he drove him to the hospital. Carson claimed he couldn't get anyone to help him at the hospital and he fell asleep with the body in the vehicle. Jones admitted to killing Miller during a police interview. Neither man ever called 911 in reference to a robbery or the shooting.

During his police interviews, Carson admitted to helping dispose of the body but he denied any involvement in the murder. He tried to help the police find the body at multiple locations in Union County.

"I hope today's verdict helps the family of Darryl Miller in their quest for closure," Principal Deputy Solicitor Barry Barnette said. "They got some of their questions answered with today's verdict. I hope they someday learn the whereabouts of their loved one's body."

Carson and Jones will serve every day of retired Supreme Court Justice E.C. Burnett III's prison sentence. They are not eligible for parole.

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