**PRESS RELEASE - MONITEAU COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

**-CASE UPDATE-**

On 04/09/2016 the Moniteau County Sheriff’s Office took a missing person report involving Jon L. Williams of Moniteau County Missouri. An investigation was conducted at the time which unfortunately yielded no results in locating Mr. Williams. In the following years the case was revisited when additional leads came into the Sheriff’s Office.

On 06/26/2019 Cole County Sheriff’s Office Detectives received a tip from a subject who stated they knew the location of a grave in Cole County Missouri which was suspected of holding Mr. Williams’ remains. Subsequently a joint investigation was opened with the Cole and Moniteau County Sheriff’s Offices with both agencies sending Detectives to the site.

On 06/27/2019 Cadaver K-9 teams from Missouri Task Force 1 were utilized in an attempt to locate the remains of Jon L. Williams in a semi-wooded area just outside of Jefferson City, Mo. A sub surface excavation was then conducted at the site by Detectives from the Moniteau and Cole County Sheriff’s Office, which eventually yielded the human remains of Mr. Williams. Through countless hours, Detectives from both Moniteau and Cole Counties followed leads which eventually resulted in the arrests of Sandy Ray Gallaspie, on 07/07/2019, and Suzanne J. Ponder, on 07/08/2019, both of Jefferson City Missouri, for their roles in the murder of Mr. Williams.

Subsequently on 08/14/2020 Ms. Ponder plead guilty to her involvement in the murder of Mr. Williams in Moniteau County Circuit Court.

On 10/16/2020 Mr. Gallaspie plead guilty to Murder 2nd Degree in Moniteau County Circuit Court and was sentenced to 25 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections.

The Moniteau County Sheriff’s Office would like to formally offer our condolences to Mr. Williams’ family. We are deeply sorry for your loss as we know no words can bring Jon back but, we hope that today’s judgment will only help the grieving process as you move forward.

The Moniteau County Sheriff’s Office would also like to make known our appreciation to the Cole County Sheriff’s Office, Missouri State Highway Patrol Division of Drug and Crime Control, Missouri Task Force 1, the Boone/ Callaway Medical Examiner’s Office, the Cole County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, the Missouri Attorney General’s Office, and the Moniteau County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. Through your dedication and hundreds of hours of work justice has been served and a family has gained some closure.

Tony Wheatley



Sheriff – Moniteau County