

After guilty plea, Bowers gets life for brutal murder

By RYAN SMITH
News Tribune

Calling it the most horrendous case he'd seen in 30 years, Judge Thomas J. Brown III on Tuesday sentenced Edward G. Bowers to life in prison for killing his wife.

Bowers, 67, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the Jan. 15 death of Marcella Carlock, 57.

With a trembling voice and head bowed as he sat in court, Bowers apologized to a half dozen of Carlock's family members who attended the hearing.

"I hate myself and I feel remorse," said Bowers. "I do love (Carlock) and I will to the day I die. I can't sleep and I can't close my eyes without thinking about it."

But Charlotte German, one of Carlock's children who testified at the hearing, said Bowers' tears weren't going to make a difference.

"You can sit for the next 30 years and think about what you did to her kids," said German, as she pointed a finger at Bowers. German added that she couldn't take a shower without being worried that there would be "another creep like you."

Upon hearing news of the life sentence, members of Carlock's family voiced muted cheers.

"The cheers were more a relief that everything is over with, it's the end of a long road for the family," said Cole County Prosecuting Attorney Bill Tackett.

Bowers and Carlock had been married about a month, though Bowers still lived in Kansas City.

Scott Brown, Carlock's youngest son testified on video that Bowers "met my mother, hunted her and coerced her" after her previous husband died in 2003.

Police reports say the couple had been having problems, and Bowers said Carlock had asked for a divorce.

The day of the murder, Bowers



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Stephen Brooks/News Tribune

Edward Bowers is escorted to Cole County Division I courtroom, where he was sentenced to life in prison for the Jan. 14 slaying of Marcella Carlock.

said he had been drinking "all day long" and was on medication.

"I didn't know exactly what I was doing when I killed my wife, but that's no excuse," said Bowers.

He admitted to police investigators that he first assaulted Carlock in the downstairs area of the apartment by striking her in the head with a baseball bat. He then bound her hands with duct tape, led her to the upstairs bedroom and stabbed her repeatedly with a silver knife.

Bowers was arrested just east of the Kansas City area, two hours after police found Carlock's body

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in their duplex in the 2600 block of East McCarty Street.

Bowers' attorney, public defender Jan King, suggested Brown sentence his client 20 years, in part because of his poor health.

Brown refused the recommendation, saying the circumstances were "so horrendous, the manner of this is the worst I've seen in 30 years."

Tackett said he agreed with Brown's judgment.

"I think (Brown) made it clear," said Tackett, "if there was ever a time to give a life sentence, this was it."

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