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“MONSTER” CORBETT FOUND GUILTY OF 2012 MURDER

(FORT WORTH) — Following almost two weeks of graphic testimony, Staten William Corbett, Jr., aka “Monster,” was found guilty of Murder and Tampering with Evidence (Corpse) for the 2012 beating death of Earnest Lackey.

The jury heard evidence that Corbett, his co-defendants Ronnie Freeman, Jr. and Jimmy “Jimbo” Lee Riddle, and several witnesses, including the victim, consumed methamphetamines and gathered at Freeman’s trailer near Eagle Mountain Lake one night in early July 2012. Lackey, claiming to be a member of the Aryan Brotherhood, was asked by the three co-defendants to recite the “14 words,” a doctrine or belief of the AB. Upon his inability to recite the phrase, Lackey was attacked by “Monster” and his co-defendants, themselves professed AB members.

Witnesses in an adjoining room testified to hearing screams from the victim, interspersed with Corbett’s shouts to “Take it like a man.” By looking through a crack in the doorway, they testified to observing Lackey being kicked, punched, choked and sodomized with a soldering iron that had been heated with a torch. Hours later, the witnesses testified to seeing the victim laying motionless in the living room wrapped in a blanket, and then being loaded into the trunk of Corbett’s vehicle. Lackey’s decomposed body was discovered August 2, 2012 in a rural area of far northwest Tarrant County, wrapped in the blanket and tied with yellow cord. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office reported the victim’s hyoid bone and thyroid cartilage exhibited signs of being cut, slashed or stabbed by a sharp-bladed object, and Lackey suffered several broken ribs and a broken bone in his spine at or around the time of his death.

“Earnest Lackey was brutally beaten, tortured and killed by his assailants. The savagery of the violence and total disregard for human life shown by this defendant is terrifying,” said prosecutor Art Clayton. *“Earnest’s suffering in his final moments is unimaginable.”*

A gang expert from the Fort Worth Police Department testified that falsely claiming to be a member of the Aryan Brotherhood can result in aggravated assault or death.

The jury deliberated just 37 minutes before returning the guilty verdict. The State was represented by prosecutors Lisa Callaghan and Clayton, and the Defense by Jim Shaw and Ray Napolitan. Sentencing will be by Judge Scott Wisch after receiving a pre-sentencing report. Trial dates for Riddle and Freeman are pending.



END