

# *News Release*

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## **Berkeley County man found guilty of Murder, burying body in his front yard**

**Moncks Corner, S.C.** – A Berkeley County jury found Jeffrey Michaelson guilty of the murder of Parrish Reeves, formerly of Cordesville, SC. After the jury verdict, Circuit Court Judge Kristi Lea Harrington, who presided over the two week trial, sentenced Michaelson to forty-five (45) years in prison.

On January 17, 2001, the victim, Parrish Reeves, was first reported as a missing person. The case remained unsolved and classified as a “cold case” until 2007 when new information was discovered which lead investigators to the defendant, Jeffrey Michaelson, and three other co-defendants: Katherine Feaster, Treze Feaster, and Jeremiah Scharer. On August 8, 2007, investigators from the Berkeley County Sheriff’s Office and State Law Enforcement Division were led to Michaelson’s former residence at 312-A Starbright Lane in Moncks Corner, where a 55 gallon barrel containing the victim’s remains was found buried in the front yard of the residence.

During the trial, evidence revealed the victim was lured out of his Cordesville home by Michaelson and a co-defendant, who claimed they needed assistance with their vehicle that was stuck down the road. The victim agreed to give them a ride to their vehicle, and while they were driving away from his home, the victim was shot in the head

by Michaelson. Michaelson gave a statement to police admitting to disposing of the murder weapon, the victim's truck, the victim's work trailer, and also selling a portion of the victim's coin collection after the murder. Michaelson also admitted he had rented the backhoe used to bury the barrel containing the victim's body in his front yard.

"It's hard to believe someone could be so cold as to murder another human being, bury the body in his own front yard, walk past that spot every time he went in or out of his house, and keep it a secret for all those years," said Deputy Solicitor Bryan Alfaro, who prosecuted the case with Assistant Solicitor Anne Williams.

Alfaro and Williams also credit the exhaustive efforts of the victim's mother, Frances Reeves, who continued to push investigators to treat her son's disappearance as a murder, despite its initial classification as a missing person case. In addition to continually asking law enforcement for updates in the case, she also contacted local and national media outlets for assistance in publicizing his disappearance and seeking information regarding his whereabouts.

The charges against Michaelson's co-defendants are still pending.

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