



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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OROVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER

An Oroville man was sentenced today to life in prison by a Butte County judge after he was convicted by a jury last month for attempted murder, assault with a semi-automatic firearm, as well as being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. He had also pleaded guilty after his trial of attempting to intimidate witnesses during the trial.

Peter Lee Flaming, 53, was sentenced to 20 years in prison, with an additional 39 years to life after he serves those 20 years.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the jury took less than two hours to return guilty verdicts on all charges and special allegations.

Ramsey said this case began last March when Butte County Sheriff's deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle crash in the Thermalito area. When they arrived, deputies found the victim, 47, in the driver's seat of the crashed vehicle, bleeding profusely from three gunshot wounds. The victim told deputies he had been shot at a different location, but drove away until he lost control of his vehicle. Deputies were able to administer life-saving measures until medical personnel arrived and transported the victim to the hospital, where he received emergency surgery and ultimately recovered.

Deputies learned in their investigation that the person who shot the victim was Flaming, a friend of the victim, and that Flaming had shot the victim as the victim was exiting his vehicle that he slept in on Flaming's property in Thermalito. Deputies responded to Flaming's residence, but Flaming had fled the area. Later, Flaming was arrested without incident when he returned to his house and a good Samaritan reported seeing him.

Ramsey said the evidence presented at the trial showed that Flaming had an ongoing disagreement with the victim over a mutual female friend, and on the morning of March 19, 2023, he exited his house and shot the victim three times. Flaming then fled the area. The gun was never recovered.

Ramsey said the jury also heard evidence outlining the motive for the shooting, as well as circumstances of the crime that proved Flaming did not merely intend to hurt or scare his friend, but intended to kill him. Ramsey said the evidence proved to the jury that Flaming committed the

attempted murder willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation, which is the most serious form of attempted murder.

Ramsey said that Flaming also pleaded guilty to charges of attempting to intimidate the victim and a key witness at his trial. Ramsey said those charges added an additional eight years to his sentence.

Ramsey explained that although his charges meant Flaming was sentenced to serve decades in prison before he would be eligible for parole consideration in his life sentence, recent changes in state law by the legislature will give him his first opportunity at parole after only 20 years.



Peter Flaming