



Minnesota Coalition
for Battered Women

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 27, 2016

FARIBAULT MURDER-SUICIDE VICTIM IS 17TH FATALITY IN 2016

Saint Paul, MN – On Tuesday, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women issued a notice to over 500 participating organizations, agencies and individuals across the state to raise blue flags bearing the phrase “Live Free Without Violence” for one week to honor Barbara Larson, Minnesota’s most recent victim of domestic violence homicide.

“This is yet another tragedy faced by the community of Faribault and Minnesota as a whole,” said Liz Richards, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

On December 23, Barbara Larson, 59, was shot and killed in the Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce, her workplace, by her ex-husband Richard Larson, 61. Richard then committed suicide. Barbara was married to Richard for several years and divorced him in 2014. She was recently granted a restraining order against Richard, which was served to him the week of the murder. Barbara informed the courts of physical abuse and repeated, escalating stalking by Richard. Barbara had worked at the Chamber of Commerce for over a decade and Richard was a retired police officer. Barbara leaves behind two adult children.

According to the Stalking Resource Center, 76% of intimate partner femicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner and 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers.

“We must stop asking ‘What more could the victim do?’ and instead ask ‘How can I help this person change their violent behavior?’” said Richards. “We need friends, families, coworkers and community members to both be a resource to victims and hold the people who use coercion and violence accountable by asking them to seek resources for change. Local domestic violence programs can provide references for people who want to change their violent behavior.”

For more information about the Live Free Without Violence campaign and domestic violence, contact Becky Smith at bsmith@mcbw.org or visit the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women’s website at www.mcbw.org

If you are a victim experiencing abuse, contact Day One at 866-223-1111 to connect with services.

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