



Minnesota Coalition
for Battered Women

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2015

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE COUNT CLIMBS TO 26 IN 2015
Over 500 raise the Live Free Without Violence Flag

Saint Paul, MN – The number of known domestic violence homicide victims in Minnesota in 2015 has risen to 26, with the murder of Julie Ann Hildreth on Sunday, November 8.

“We all know that domestic violence and domestic violence homicides happen but we never expect that it will happen in our community, with our friends, to people we know,” said Liz Richards, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. “We know that 1 in 3 adult women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. This is a time for everyone to realize that domestic violence can happen in their community, to people they know and love.”

Julie Ann Hildreth, 49, was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend, John Joseph Plevell, 51, outside of the local American Legion in Aurora, Minnesota. At the time of Julie's murder, Plevell was on pre-trial probation for an assault against her and was also subject to a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO). According to public court records, Plevell was arrested on Sept. 1 on charges of misdemeanor domestic assault and disorderly conduct for beating Julie Hildreth. He was released on September 3, on a \$1000 bail and pleaded guilty to the disorderly conduct charge in October. He was scheduled to be sentenced on November 18. Plevell also was subject to a harassment restraining order in the past by another woman. He is currently in jail awaiting formal charges.

“Every person in Minnesota needs to consider their role in ending domestic violence,” said Richards. “Whether that’s supporting their local domestic violence program with resources, joining the Live Free Without Violence flag campaign, or talking with young people about healthy relationships – we each need to make a commitment today.”

To honor the life of Julie Ann Hildreth, over 500 agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals from across the state will raise the Live Free Without Violence flag, a public awareness campaign spearheaded by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

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.