

[Back to previous page](#)



document 1 of 1

Victims' families wait and hope

Alex Tom Deering Tara. **Des Moines Register** [Des Moines, Iowa] 18 Sep 2002: B.1.

Abstract

At a press conference at New Friendship Church of God in Christ, 1317 Forest Ave., Linda Carter, president of the Des Moines branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, urged "complete cooperation and help from neighbors." Des Moines police say the same is probably true in two other double-murder cases that remain unsolved: * Johnson, 40, and Steaven Jenkins, 38, both carpenters, were found shot to death at Johnson's home at 1979 Summit St. More than \$5,000 was raised as a reward, but it has yielded no information. * The slayings of Keith Clayborne II, 20, and Jerry Cooper, 23, have stymied investigators for more than a decade.

Full Text

By TOM ALEX

and TARA DEERING

REGISTER STAFF WRITERS

Kay Folkers has called Des Moines police at least once a week since her son Jeffrey Johnson and his friend were found dead from shotgun blasts.

That's more than 80 calls so far.

"She reached me on the cell phone once while I was vacationing in Minnesota," said Sgt. David Ness, a former homicide investigator who worked the case of the February 2001 murders.

Cash rewards for information have gone unclaimed, but Folkers' dogged search for answers continues.

"Getting an arrest won't take it all away," she said. "But to know who and why would give some closure."

If her experience is typical, it could be a long wait for the relatives of Des Moines' most recent double-homicide victims.

Emanuel Burgs Jr. II, 21, of Des Moines and Celestina Payano, 22, of Los Angeles were found bound and shot to death last Thursday at 1831 Mondamin Ave. Payano was pregnant..

Police say they have no leads, no motives and no witnesses.

Black leaders on Tuesday urged anyone with information about the shootings to come forward.

At a press conference at New Friendship Church of God in Christ, 1317 Forest Ave., Linda Carter, president of the Des Moines branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, urged "complete cooperation and help from neighbors."

Faye Burgs, mother of Emanuel Burgs, said she understands why neighbors might be fearful of talking to authorities. "If someone could do that to someone who was with child, I'd be afraid, too," she said. "I'm sure there are a lot of people out there who know exactly what happened."

Des Moines police say the same is probably true in two other double-murder cases that remain unsolved:

* Johnson, 40, and Steaven Jenkins, 38, both carpenters, were found shot to death at Johnson's home at 1979 Summit St. More than \$5,000 was raised as a reward, but it has yielded no information.

* The slayings of Keith Clayborne II, 20, and Jerry Cooper, 23, have stymied investigators for more than a decade. They were killed execution-style at 3205 Kingman Blvd. in March 1991. A total of \$60,000 in reward money has gone unclaimed.

Payano's boyfriend, Ralph "Tony" Jordan, 29, said he and Payano's family will give \$10,000 to anyone who provides information that leads to an arrest.

Police say rewards can be effective, but history shows that cash might not be enough to pry loose information about who killed Burgs and Payano.

Witnesses "need to know that if they come forward, they will be protected," Lt. Kelly Willis said. "The only way we can guarantee that it doesn't happen again is if we put the person responsible behind bars."

Audrey Burgs, Emanuel Burgs' aunt and a copy editor at The Des Moines Register, said the cycle of silence must be broken. "We don't want retaliation," she said. "We just want justice."

Carter said there is strength in numbers. "We do not welcome or condone violence in our neighborhoods, so we must stand together to fight against crime of all kinds," she said.

Folkers said victims' families can expect a roller coaster of emotions as the investigation unfolds.

"The first year is full of shock and trauma; the second year is reality, but you never get over it," she said. "You wake up oneday and your life is changed forever. You go to counseling, meetings, you just try to some how get through the holidays."

She has started an Iowa chapter of Parents of Murdered Children, an Ohio group dedicated to provide "support and assistance to all survivors of homicide victims, while working to create a world free of murder."

Ness has moved on to a patrol job, but he keeps track of the Johnson-Jenkins homicide investigation.

Ness "has been very good to me," Folkers said. "He answers my questions. I cry, I call all the time. I'm not going to let anyone forget."

Rewards lie unclaimed as murders in Des Moines remain unsolved.

Homicide victims

DES MOINES: 15 in 2000; 12 last year; nine this year.

STATE: 59 in 2000; 56 last year; 42 this year.

Survivors

GROUP: Parents of Murdered Children meets the second Tuesday of every month at Park Avenue Christian Church, Southwest Ninth Street and Park Avenue.

WRITE: POMC, P.O. Box 36003, Des Moines, IA 50315.

ONLINE: www.pomc.com Crime; Homicide; Murder Folkers Kay; Johnson Jeffrey; Burgs Emanuel Jr II; Payano Celestina IA Midwest

METRO IOWA; Pg. 1B

Copyright 2002 - Des Moines Register - All Rights Reserved

Details

Subject	Criminal investigations; Murders & murder attempts
Location	Des Moines Iowa
Title	Victims' families wait and hope
Author	Alex Tom Deering Tara
Publication title	Des Moines Register
Pages	B.1
Publication year	2002
Publication date	Sep 18, 2002
Year	2002
Section	METRO IOWA
Publisher	Gannett Co., Inc.
Place of publication	Des Moines, Iowa

Country of publication	United States
Publication subject	General Interest Periodicals--United States
Source type	Newspapers
Language of publication	English
Document type	News
ProQuest document ID	889920849
Document URL	http://search.proquest.com.libezproxy.dmpl.org/docview/889920849?accountid=57601
Copyright	Copyright 2002 - Des Moines Register - All Rights Reserved
Last updated	2013-01-04
Database	Des Moines Register