

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

PAROLE UPDATE: April 29, 2025

Co-defendant in fatal 1988 'savage, barbaric' attack of elderly couple fails for seventh time at parole

Earlier this month, the Ohio State Parole Board informed Jenna Maze, Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office Victim/Witness coordinator, that Christopher Daniel, co-defendant in a savage, barbaric' fatal attack of an elderly couple in 1988, has been denied parole for a seventh time.



The board in a letter to Maze stated that Daniel appeared before a panel of the Ohio Parole Board for a release considering hearing.

"It was the decision of the Ohio Parole Board to deny this offender (Daniel) parole at this time," the letter stated.

The case was continued and Daniel will be seen again by the parole board in January 2029.

Prosecutor Dennis Watkins, who personally tried this case before a jury in 1989, said he was elated at the board's decision saying Daniel's barbaric actions should require him to serve his full prison term.

Daniel, 57, will continue to serve his prison term at Richland Correctional Institution. He was sentenced to an aggregate of 37 to 100 years by the late Trumbull County Judge F. Mitchell Shaker on March 17, 1989 after being convicted of involuntary manslaughter, attempted murder, aggravated burglary and aggravated robbery.

In the attack George Melnick, 65, was beaten to death and his wife, Katherine was severely injured in a home invasion attack in the couple's Wick Street SE home on Aug. 15, 1988.

Co-defendant Andre Williams was sentenced to death after his conviction by a jury of aggravated murder, attempted aggravated murder, attempted rape, aggravated burglary and aggravated robbery.

The two men broke into the couple's home, stoning and beating both and robbing them of about \$2,000, credit cards and a VCR. Daniel hit Katherine Melnick, 64, with a piece of cinder brick while she was washing dishes. Watkins said the velocity of this missile thrown at the victim was so severe that after hitting her head, the cinder block went through the kitchen window where she was standing. Mrs. Melnick was blinded in the attack and spent the rest of her life in a nursing home, where she died

in 2012. Before leaving the home, Daniel also watched as Williams sexually attacked the woman, while she lay unconscious and bleeding on the kitchen floor.

Melnick family members have told Mr. Watkins they will continue in their quest for a just punishment for both Williams and Daniel so that they will never, ever have another opportunity to kill any other homeowners or commit any other type of vicious crimes against anyone.

Watkins said Daniels had shown an apparent lack of remorse. An informant tape recording shows the thinking and behavior of Daniel one month after the Melnick family slaughter. When the informant asked Daniel about the brick attack on Katherine Melnick, by saying: "You must have hummed that mother (the brick) like a baseball?" Daniel replied: "I just popped that bitch, Travis, right off her head."

In a 2023 letter to the parole board, Watkins stated that "on the Richter scale measure of violence and suffering, these crimes are off the charts. Therefore, in my view... no punishment can be too great for Inmate Daniel."

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, investigator/public information officer for the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at 330-675-2485.