

## 2018 Silent Witness Project

Total confirmed domestic violence homicides in Arkansas for the year of 2017: 51 (26 women, 17 children and 8 men).

### **Jeanette, Age 71**

#### **Guy (Faulkner County)**

Killed January 2, 2017 – A young girl called 911 and told dispatch that her uncle had shot her “nana and papa”. Upon arrival, the officers found Jeanette outside the residence, next to her vehicle. She had suffered a fatal gunshot wound. Inside the family home, officers found Jeanette’s husband alive, though he had also been shot. The young girl who placed the 911 call was physically unharmed. It was revealed that Jeanette’s husband and son had exchanged gunfire after the son killed Jeanette in the front yard. Jeanette’s son was arrested and charged with capital murder, though he was later found unfit to stand trial. Jeanette’s husband survived the attack and shares that Jeanette cared deeply for her family.

### **Alex, Age 21**

#### **Berryville (Carroll County)**

Killed January 17, 2017 – Alex was found by his father in the living room of their family home. Alex had suffered from severe head trauma and a stab wound to his mid-section. Alex’s younger teenage brother later admitted to officers that he had killed Alex with a baseball bat and sharp instrument. He also admitted to a prior failed attempt on his brother’s life which had occurred the previous year. The teen was charged with capital murder, attempted capital murder and arson as an adult, and is now serving life in prison for the death of his autistic older brother. Alex’s family share that Alex was beloved, and a friend to many.

### **Heaven, Age 26**

#### **Harrison (Boone County)**

Killed January 22, 2017 – Heaven was separated from her husband who was obsessively jealous, and who had become fixated on Heaven’s past relationships. The day of her death, Heaven’s estranged husband was meant to drop off their children at her home following his weekend visitation. Unknown to Heaven, he had instead dropped their children off with his sister and was waiting for her inside her home. Heaven managed to escape, but was chased and shot. Her wound was fatal. Police found her body across the street from her home with her hands handcuffed in front of her. Her estranged husband plead guilty to murder in the first degree, being a felon in possession of a weapon, and kidnapping. He is serving a 75 year sentence in prison.

### **Fred, Age 58**

#### **Warren (Bradley County)**

Killed February 22, 2017 – Fred’s son drove to a police station and told officers that he was responsible for the death of his father, and that the body was in the trunk of the vehicle he had driven. Fred’s son was taken into custody and charged with first degree murder. Cause of death was reported unknown at the time of discovery and little has been shared regarding Fred’s death.

**Vanessa, Age 53****Jacksonville (Pulaski County)**

Killed February 26, 2017 – Vanessa was found by police in her master bedroom. She had suffered from a fatal gunshot wound. It was Vanessa's son who placed the 911 call, saying that his father was arguing with his mother. The son was inside the home when the shooting occurred. He was physically unharmed. Witnesses from both sides of the family testified that Vanessa's husband regularly abused her. Her husband plead guilty to reckless manslaughter and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to 65 years in prison. Vanessa was a loving mother of two children.

**Stephanie, Age 42****Pine Bluff (Jefferson County)**

Killed February 28, 2017 – Following a verbal altercation in which her husband threatened her, Stephanie did not show up to work or to pick up her grandchildren. This raised a red flag for her family members who went to her residence to check in on her. After no response from Stephanie or her husband, her family requested police conduct a welfare check. Officers did not find anyone in the home, but did find a large amount of blood. Stephanie's body was later recovered from a manhole, and the state medical examiner reported that she had died from multiple skull fractures. Her husband turned himself in and plead guilty to manslaughter and abuse of a corpse. Stephanie's loved ones remember her as an outgoing person who loved to dance.

**Crystal, Age 35****Ogden (Little River County)**

Killed March 6, 2017 – Crystal's mother reported her daughter missing after she did not show up to work and had not been answering her cell phone. A day earlier, Crystal had shared with her mother that she had been in an argument with her boyfriend. Officers went to Crystal's home, but she was missing. Crystal's boyfriend later admitted to stabbing Crystal and burying her in a shallow grave. Her boyfriend led police to the body. Crystal's boyfriend was charged with first degree murder, abuse of a corpse, and tampering with physical evidence. He has since plead not guilty, and been found unfit to proceed to trial.

**Kendrick, Age 38****Little Rock (Pulaski County)**

Killed April 3, 2017 – Kendrick's niece told police that her father had shot her uncle inside their family home. After entering the residence which the brother's shared, they discovered Kendrick lying on the floor suffering from multiple fatal gunshot wounds. Kendrick's brother plead guilty to the murder and is now serving 30 years in prison. Kendrick was a Little Rock native and father.

**James, Age 27****West Memphis (Crittenden County)**

Killed April 27, 2017 – When James was fatally attacked by his ex-boyfriend with a hammer, three of his family members were inside their family home, including a two year old child. No others were physically harmed during the attack. James's abuser had just been released from jail following a domestic violence charge, in which James was the victim. James's mother referred to James as her baby, and she shares that she hopes to find a path towards closure. James's ex-boyfriend was sentenced to 50 years in prison.

**Gracie, Age 44****Nashville (Howard County)**

Killed May 10, 2017 – Gracie's teenage daughter called police after she returned home and discovered that her mother was deceased. Gracie had suffered from fatal stab wounds. When police arrived they also discovered the body of Gracie's boyfriend in their shared bedroom closet. He had taken his own life. Police shared that her boyfriend had purchased a knife earlier that day, and that he had attacked Gracie after he returned home from dropping their children off at school. Gracie is survived by three daughters, one of which graduated high school shortly after her mother's passing.

**Kevin, Rita, and Cierra, Age 46, 61 and 17****Chickalah (Yell County)**

Killed May 11, 2017 – Haley ended a relationship with her abusive boyfriend. Days later, her abuser drove to Haley's family home and began an altercation with Haley. Deputy Kevin responded to the domestic disturbance at Haley's home. He was killed by the abuser as a result. The abuser then shot Haley's mother (Rita) and daughter (Cierra). When he held Haley hostage for five hours, he told her that the death of her mother and daughter were because she ended their relationship. Haley managed to escape the house alive. The ex-boyfriend was charged with three counts of capital murder and is serving a life sentence in prison. Deputy Kevin's family shared a statement at the hearing in which they celebrated Kevin's dedication as a fair officer. Haley, Cierra's mother and Rita's daughter, shared that she can never get back what her abuser took from her and she urges others in abusive relationships to seek support.

**Amanda, Adriana, and Francisco, Age 32, 15, and 16****Little Rock (Pulaski County)**

Killed May 15, 2017 – After police responded to a disturbance call, they found the bodies of Amanda and her daughter, Adriana, in the back of an SUV near a vacant trailer. They had suffered from fatal gunshot wounds. Both had been killed by Amanda's boyfriend, who first shot and killed her daughter's boyfriend, Francisco. Amanda's boyfriend was later found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Saline County. Amanda and Adriana are greatly missed by their family, and Francisco's family shares that he leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter.

**Briana, Age 20****Portland (Ashley County)**

Killed June 11, 2017 – During a child exchange between Briana and her ex-boyfriend, an altercation occurred and Briana suffered a fatal gunshot wound. The ex-boyfriend fled the scene with their child, but was later stopped and arrested by Lake Village police. The child was physically unharmed. Briana's ex-boyfriend was charged with capital murder.

**Heather, Age 47****Fort Smith (Sebastian County)**

Killed June 23, 2017 – Police received a phone call from Heather's children reporting that they had discovered the bodies of their mother and father in the sunroom of their family residence. The family members were there to check in on their mother and father after not being able to reach them for several days. Police reports state that Heather's husband shot her, and then himself. Police also relay that there were no previous domestic violence disturbances reported at Heather and her husband's residence prior to this violent and deadly altercation. Heather is survived by her three sons.

**Astrid, Age 2 months**  
**Searcy (White County)**

Killed June 28, 2017 – Police officers responded to a 911 call at a Searcy residence. Baby Astrid was having difficulty breathing. Astrid was taken to the Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Little Rock, and over the next four days her health deteriorated. Astrid later passed. Her father was arrested and charged with second degree murder.

**Anna, Age 28**  
**Little Rock (Pulaski County)**

Killed July 2, 2017 – Anna was discovered in her apartment by officers responding to a disturbance call. Anna was deceased. She had been strangled and died as a result of her injuries. Police also found Anna’s ex-boyfriend. He had suffered from a self-inflicted gunshot wound which proved fatal. According to court documents, Anna’s ex-boyfriend had a history of violence, including third degree domestic battery. Anna’s mother shares that her daughter was a loving person. Anna’s family planned an “Anna Love Day” event in 2018 where they remembered Anna’s life and raised awareness about domestic violence.

**Naomi, Age 36**  
**Little Rock (Pulaski County)**

Killed July 2, 2017 - Naomi’s family had been looking for her since the previous night, and later found her body in a crawl space at her home. Police did not disclose the cause of death. Her boyfriend was later arrested and charged with first degree murder. Naomi is survived by her daughter and other family members who share that Naomi was a loving mother.

**Brinley, Age 1**  
**Malvern (Hot Springs County)**

Killed July 2, 2017 – Baby Brinley’s death was originally believed to be due to natural causes, but an autopsy revealed that she had died from an overdose of a controlled substance which was prescribed to her parents. Both parents were charged with second degree murder.

**Bobby, Age 68**  
**Smackover (Union)**

Killed July 10, 2017 – Bobby and his girlfriend were visiting friends when he was killed. An argument broke out between Bobby and his girlfriend when they were in the kitchen of their friend’s home, and Bobby’s girlfriend attacked him with a knife. The wound to the back of Bobby’s knee severed a major artery and Bobby died as a result of his injury. Bobby’s girlfriend admitted to the killing and was charged with second degree murder. Bobby was two months away from celebrating his birthday.

**Jane Marie, Age 57**  
**Mountain Home (Baxter)**

Killed July 23, 2017 – Jane’s son returned home to find the body of his mother and stepfather inside their family home. Jane had suffered two fatal gunshot wounds and her husband had died from a single self-inflicted gunshot wound. Jane’s surviving family share that being a grandmother was one of the greatest joys of Jane’s life, and that she was passionate about her work as a physical therapist.

**Ryleigh, Age 3 months**  
**Farmington (Washington)**

Killed July 28, 2017 – Baby Ryleigh was transported to Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Little Rock after first responders received a call that Ryleigh was unresponsive. Medical staff determined that Ryleigh had previously suffered from broken ribs and fibula, and brain injuries. Ryleigh had visible bruising, and she passed the next day. Ryleigh’s mother was at work at the time of the incident. The child’s babysitter was arrested on charges of first degree murder. He had been babysitting Ryleigh that day, as well as for the previous two weeks. Ryleigh’s uncle shares that he can only imagine the good things Ryleigh could have grown up to become.

**Christel, Age 44**  
**Garfield (Benton County)**

Killed July 31, 2017 – Christel was discovered by her husband inside their family home. Police report that Christel was found in the floor of her bathroom with multiple fatal gunshot wounds, and that there was a young child in the home at the time of her death as well as Christel’s adult son. The young child was physically unharmed. Her adult son was arrested and charged with capital murder after admitting to shooting Christel multiple times. Christel’s daughter shares that her mother had always been a huge influence in her life and that Christel’s granddaughter was her mother’s light.

**Mickie, Age 74**  
**Pine Bluff (Jefferson County)**

Killed August 8, 2017 – Mickie was discovered by police who responded to a 911 call from Mickie’s husband. In the call to police, Mickie’s husband admitted to shooting his wife and himself. Both were inside their family residence. Police found Mickie’s husband alive, but suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his chest. He died later that day from his injuries. Mickie’s loved ones share that she was a sweet and kind person who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

**Tyrone, Age 59**  
**North Little Rock (Pulaski County)**

Killed August 9, 2017 – A passerby walking past Tyrone’s apartment noticed the home’s open front door as well as a large amount of blood inside the residence. Police were called, and they discovered that Tyrone had suffered from multiple fatal laceration wounds. His girlfriend was later arrested and charged with first degree murder. Tyrone was the youngest brother among his six sisters.

**William, Age 54**  
**Waldron (Scott County)**

Killed August 10, 2017 – William's brother was arrested and faces charges of second degree murder for William’s death. The manner of death was not shared and there are little details about this incident. William is survived by his four siblings and was called Billy by his friends and family.

**Catherine and Joseph, Age 4 and 5  
Little Rock (Pulaski County)**

Killed August 21, 2017 – Catherine and Joseph’s mother had separated from their father, her abuser, after he was arrested for a second charge of domestic battery in the third degree. The father was ordered not to contact their mother, his estranged wife, after she reported that he had threatened her life. Sometime after the separation when the mother was returning home from work, she discovered that her estranged husband was inside her house with Catherine and Joseph. All were deceased. Police report that the father killed their children, Catherine and Joseph, before killing himself. Little Joseph would have been celebrating his sixth birthday that year had he survived a few more weeks.

**Brittany, Age 31  
Drasco (Cleburne County)**

Killed September 2, 2017 – Brittany was discovered in the bed of a truck by a stranger passing by the vehicle. Brittany had suffered a fatal gunshot wound and had several visible bruises. Officers found evidence at Brittany’s home that suggested she had been killed at her residence. Her estranged husband was arrested and charged with first degree murder. He had been arrested the month before for three counts of third degree assault against Brittany. Brittany shared with officers at the time of the incident that she was afraid of her husband. She is survived by her two young children, and other’s described her as loving and caring.

**Eva, Age 36  
Sherwood (Pulaski County)**

Killed September 4, 2017 – Police found Eva inside her home. She had suffered from fatal stab wounds. Eva’s young daughter was inside the residence when she was attacked, and a neighbor reported finding the daughter shortly before the officers arrived. She was discovered sitting outside of the home with blood on her clothing. She had suffered no physical injuries herself. Police determined that Eva’s boyfriend was a person of interest, but he has not been apprehended.

**Annie, Age 70  
Marble Falls (Newton County)**

Killed September 24, 2017 – Police were called to conduct a welfare check on Annie from a concerned friend. When officers from the Newton County Sheriff’s Office arrived, they found Annie’s husband outside the residence. Annie was deceased inside their family home. She had been killed by a fatal gunshot wound. Annie’s husband was arrested and charged with murder in the first degree. He was later found unfit to stand trial and was committed to the Arkansas State Hospital.

**Unnamed Boy, Age 2  
Fort Smith (Sebastian County)**

Killed September 24, 2017 – A mother called EMS when she arrived home from work and learned from her husband that their two year old son was unresponsive with labored breathing. The mother and child were transported to the hospital, where the child later died. Hospital staff shared with officers that the child had injuries to his face and was suffering from brain bleeding. The father had struck the two year old boy in the face and head to stop him from crying. The young boy’s father pleaded guilty to second degree murder and is sentenced to 30 years in prison.

**Anderson, Age 4 months  
Bono (Craighead County)**

Killed October 11, 2017 – A father called 911 to report that his 4 month old son, Anderson, was unresponsive and having difficulty breathing. An autopsy later revealed that baby Anderson suffered from brain injuries, neck contusions and intramuscular hemorrhaging. There were also compression wounds to the 4 month old's rib and neck areas. Investigators interviewed the child's father, who later admitted to shaking his son and holding him by the ribs. The father was arrested on second degree murder charges.

**Melissa, Age 45  
Mayflower (Faulkner County)**

Killed October 10, 2017 – Officers responded to a home in Mayflower after a neighbor reported finding the deceased bodies of Melissa and her boyfriend. Melissa was found on the porch with multiple stab wounds and a gunshot wound to her back, and her boyfriend was located inside the residence with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police report that the boyfriend killed Melissa and then himself. Melissa had been in a relationship with her boyfriend for three years.

**Unnamed Boy, Age 1  
Fayetteville (Washington County)**

Killed October 15, 2017 – A young man called 911 to report that his girlfriend's one year old son had died a few days earlier when he had fallen down the stairs and began seizing. The boyfriend claimed to have performed CPR on the child, and he told police that he had waited to report the incident because he was scared. Police arrived on the scene and were directed to the couple's bedroom closet, where the body of the young boy had been hidden in a plastic tub and wrapped in blankets. The child's mother told police she had not reported her son's death for fear of losing her two remaining children. The boyfriend later admitted to covering the child's mouth and shaking him. He told investigators that he does not remember what happened after that, only that the child had become unresponsive. The boyfriend was charged with first degree murder. Both he and the child's mother were charged with abuse of a corpse.

**Nashae, Malayya and Zanashia, Age 38, 9, and 6  
Forrest City (St. Francis County)**

Killed October 20, 2017 – Police responded to Nashae's residence after neighbors reported hearing gunshots. Officers found Nashae alongside two of her children, Malayya and Zanashia. All had suffered from fatal gunshot wounds. Police also quickly discovered that Nashae and her ex-boyfriend's two year old daughter was missing from the home. It was revealed that the ex-boyfriend had fled with the two year old after the shootings, though he later returned the child to her grandmother. She was physically unharmed. The ex-boyfriend turned himself after dropping off the two year old, and was charged with three counts of capital murder. Nashae's sister reported that Nashae and the ex-boyfriend separated due to difficulties in their relationship, and that he was supposed to have been moving out of the residence. It is shared that sister's Malayya and Zanashia were very close sisters, and that they had inquisitive minds and big hearts. Both little girls loved music, dancing, and making their mother laugh.

**Journe, Age 3****Lake Village (Chicot County)**

Killed November 2, 2017 – Journe's mother and grandmother took her to an emergency room for treatment of severe physical injuries. From the ER, the three year old girl was airlifted to the Arkansas Children's Hospital. She died shortly after arriving. Journe's mother was interviewed by officers who had been called by the hospital to investigate. The mother's interview revealed that her boyfriend had "disciplined" Journe earlier in the day. The boyfriend was charged with capital murder and given no bond. The Chicot County Sheriff shared that Journe's case was very difficult and emotional for him and his officers. He wished peace and comfort to Journe's surviving family.

**Amanda and Child, Age 33 & 0****Campbell Station (Jackson County)**

Killed November 18, 2017 – A police officer reported that a man jumped in front of his vehicle in an apparent attempted suicide. The man's statements raised suspicion from responding officers, and upon further investigation they discovered that the man had locked his ten year old daughter in her room after she had witnessed him kill Amanda, who was his wife and the ten year old's mother. The daughter was found physically unharmed. Amanda had suffered multiple fatal stab wounds. Amanda was pregnant at the time of her death and the unborn child did not survive. Her husband was charged with two counts of capital murder. Amanda was a registered nurse, and her family shares that her ten year old daughter was the light of her life.

**Elke, Age 58****Lonoke (Lonoke County)**

Killed November 20, 2017 – It was October when Elke sought an order of protection against her husband, and she told officers that she was afraid the abuse would escalate. The order of protection was denied by the judge, reportedly due to insufficient evidence. A month later, police received a 911 call from a woman who said she saw a man stab his wife. Shortly after, a second call from Elke's husband was placed to officers. In the second 911 phone call, Elke's husband admitted to killing her. He was charged with first degree murder.

**Stefany, Age 23****Little Rock (Pulaski County)**

Killed November 28, 2017 – Officers responded to a residence after reports of gunfire were called in, and upon entry to the home they discovered Stefany alongside her boyfriend. It is believed that Stefany's boyfriend shot her, and then himself. Five children were inside the home when the shooting occurred, though none were injured. Stefany was born in Hot Springs and is survived by her son, who she referred to as her great joy.

**Mariah, A'Laylaih, and Elijah, Age 24, 5 and 3****Little Rock (Pulaski County)**

Killed December 5, 2017 – Mariah's grandmother was stopping by Mariah's home to check in when she discovered Mariah, A'Laylaih and Elijah. All had suffered multiple fatal gunshot wounds. Police later arrested Mariah's ex-boyfriend and his brother. It is reported that Mariah and her ex-boyfriend's relationship had just ended. Both the ex-boyfriend and his brother were charged with three counts of capital murder. Surviving family members share that A'Laylaih loved reading and playing with her little brother, Elijah, who loved helping his mother bake.

**Jessica, Age 43**

**Jonesboro (Craighead County)**

Killed December 27, 2017 – Jessica was found by police after a 911 call had been placed. She had suffered multiple facial contusions and lacerations, blunt force head injuries, fractured ribs and other physical injuries. Her husband was found alive inside the residence with a self-inflicted knife wound to his wrist. After he was arrested he admitted to officers that he had struck Jessica, saying that he, "... just took it too far this time.". There was a history of domestic violence in their relationship. Jessica's husband was charged with first degree murder.

**Chonda, Age 50**

**Helena (Phillips County)**

Killed December 30, 2017 – Chonda called 911 after her husband struck her in the face. When police arrived, they discovered Chonda. She had suffered a fatal gunshot wound. Chonda's husband and their two grandchildren were inside the home at the time of her death. Her husband was suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The grandchildren were physically unharmed. Her husband survived his wound and was charged with capital murder, aggravated assault and endangering a minor. He had a history of domestic violence.