

April 22, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL ANNOUNCES KENTUCKY MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR KILLING SHERIFF'S DEPUTY

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced a Kentucky man was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a Wayne County sheriff's deputy during a crime spree that spanned three states.

Ray Tate, 40, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky was sentenced in Wayne County Circuit Court after previously pleading guilty to the murder of 38-year-old Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Riley. After initially pleading not guilty, Tate pleaded guilty in March to first degree murder of a peace officer, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

"Today's sentence in no way makes up for the tremendous loss Deputy Riley's family, friends and colleagues have experienced. But, I hope they take some comfort in knowing the defendant will not be able to ruin anymore lives," Raoul said. "The partnership between my office and the Wayne County State's Attorney's office was critical to obtaining justice for Deputy Riley and the community he served."

According to the Attorney General's office, Tate shot and killed Deputy Riley, who was responding to a motorist call for assistance on Interstate 64, during the early morning hours of Dec. 29, 2021. Tate, who had an active warrant for his arrest related to an armed robbery in Indiana, shot Deputy Riley several times and fled the scene in the deputy's squad car. Tate allegedly stole several vehicles throughout Illinois and Missouri before ultimately being apprehended in Illinois after forcing his way into a home near Carlyle and holding two people at gunpoint.

The Attorney General's office co-prosecuted the case with Wayne County State's Attorney Kevin Kakac's office.

"I appreciate the cooperation of the Attorney General's office in the prosecution of this very serious offense that has impacted our entire community," Kakac said.

Tate is still facing armed robbery and armed kidnapping charges in Missouri.

Assistant Attorneys General Michael Falagario and Myra Yelle-Clark prosecuted the case for Raoul's Criminal Prosecutions and Trials Assistance Bureau.