

**State of Maryland  
County of Montgomery Chief Medical Examiner  
Petition of Mary Chambers Warren Couey  
To Amend the Death Certificate of Keith Waddell Warren**

**AFFIDAVIT OF DALLAS LIPP**

Dallas Lipp, in support of the above stated petition, deposes and states the following:

1. My name is Dallas Lipp. I am a Lieutenant with the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service. I reside at [REDACTED].

2. I have been a firefighter since 1980 serving both as a volunteer, a firefighter in the United States Air Force, and since 1987 as a career firefighter with Montgomery County. As a firefighter I was trained as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Shortly after I completed my service in the Air Force in 1985, I took a part-time position as a firefighter with the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department.

3. On or about July 31, 1986, I was assigned to Medic 7 at Kensington Station 25 and my unit was dispatched to an area in Silver Spring, MD to respond to a call reporting a "possible attempted suicide by hanging." When we arrived at the address given, there was no one waiting to guide us to the victim. When we knocked on the door, there was a long pause before anyone answered. The occupants, two males and a female, carried on some discussion among themselves about whether any of them had called, and then told us the victim was back in the woods. One of them reluctantly escorted us to the site.

4. As we approached the site, we determined from the appearance of the body that it was too late to assist the victim. As the color of the skin and the facial features indicated that the victim had been dead for some time, the paramedic went alone to investigate further, while the rest of the team stayed back in order not to disturb the site. Our training as rescue workers taught us to be aware of potential criminal activity and to preserve the site for police investigation.

5. I was standing approximately twenty feet from the body, from where I could carefully observe the scene while awaiting the arrival of the police. My training as an EMT included training with respect to attempted hanging. It struck me that this was not the typical scene of a suicide by hanging. First, the body was hung from a small tree about four to six inches in diameter, hardly sufficient to support the weight of the body as the tree had bent over to the point that the victim's knees were flexed to approximately a 45 degree angle. Second, there was nothing at the scene for the victim to stand on or from which he could have jumped. Finally, the rope was fastened to the tree in an unusual manner running from the victim's neck, through a fork in the tree that would have been about eight to ten feet off the ground had the tree been erect, down to the base of the tree where it wrapped around the tree a few times, and then horizontally about one foot off the ground where it was tied to a larger tree approximately twenty feet from the tree that suspended the victim. The rope appeared to me to be arranged in a way

more conducive to hoisting a heavy load than for an attempted suicide. In fact, my impression at the time was that this looked like a lynching.

6. When the police arrived, the Officer in Charge of the Fire/Rescue response spoke to the police officer explaining what we had found, our actions to that point, and our unit identifications in case further follow up was required. I was surprised that we heard nothing further.

7. Several years later, 1992, a co-worker described to me a news report by Del Walters of a local TV station concerning photographs that had come into Mr. Walter's possession depicting a victim of a hanging. I realized that this was the same case that had bothered me for so long. I therefore contacted Del Walters and was interviewed by him for a follow-up story. Mr. Walters introduced me to Ms. Couey. In the intervening years, I have periodically spoken with various investigative entities following up on the case at Ms. Couey's request describing what I saw that day and my impressions of the scene. I also consulted with the television show *Unsolved Mysteries* when they did a profile of the case providing to them details about how the scene was arranged.

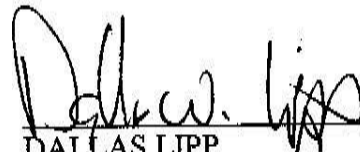
8. Over the years, I remain convinced that this was not a suicide by hanging. Therefore, I support Ms. Couey's petition to have the Death Certificate amended to show the manner of death as "Undecided."

**VERIFICATION**

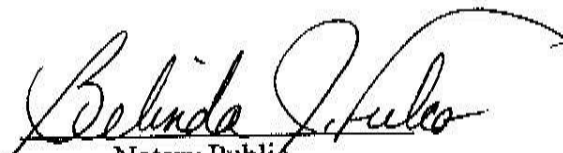
STATE OF MARYLAND

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

DALLAS LIPP, being duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that he has read the foregoing affidavit, that he knows the contents thereof, and that the fact therein stated are true and correct.

  
DALLAS LIPP

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO  
Before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2003.

  
Notary Public  
Montgomery County, State of Maryland  
My Commission Expires: 4/1/2007

Depiction of Keith Warden Hanging by Dallas Lopp on 8/11/93

Dallas Collops

