

Jury: Jacksonville man should be executed for hammer attack that killed elderly woman

Defense fails to create sympathy for man convicted of killing 82-year-old.

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Cecil Shyron King, 41, faces the death penalty in murder of 82-year-old Renie Telzer-Bain.

By [David Hunt](#)

Renie Telzer-Bain was remembered as a mother, friend and healer Thursday before a jury decided a Jacksonville man should be executed for the 2009 hammer attack that took her life.

After about an hour of deliberations, the six-man, six-woman panel voted 8-4 in favor of the death penalty for Cecil Shyron King, 41, who was convicted of first-degree murder last week. Prosecutors said King hit the 82-year-old at least 17 times with a hammer during a break-in.

"Our family will never have closure but it is reassuring to know that justice has been served," Telzer-Bain's daughter-in-law, Lysa Telzer, said outside the courtroom.

King was linked to the murder after police traced pawn records from one of Telzer-Bain's bracelets. A DNA swab showed he was eating a piece of cantaloupe in her kitchen around the same time Telzer-Bain was killed. Investigators also found dozens of Telzer-Bain's possessions in King's apartment.

King had been working as a lawn maintenance man in Telzer-Bain's neighborhood before the murder. Assistant State Attorney Bernie de la Rionda argued that King decided to silence Telzer-Bain so she could not tell police he had burglarized her home.

"He could have done it without killing her but he decided to murder her," de la Rionda told the jury, stressing that she was asleep when King broke in but woke up in a feeble attempt to defend herself.

Chief Assistant Public Defender Refik Eler reasoned with the panel that with no parole possible for the crime, King would die in prison regardless of whether he was sentenced to lethal injection.

During Thursday's hearing, the jury was shown photos of Telzer-Bain and heard stories about her career in nursing, a lifelong calling that helped make ends meet when she was widowed and raised two boys on her own.

"She lived and breathed for our family," Lysa Telzer said.

King's uncle, Rodney King, is a Baptist pastor in Philadelphia. He told the jury that several years ago King was considering going to seminary school. He then apologized to the Telzer family.

King served a stint in the Navy, attended college in Kansas and has a 3-year-old son, according to testimony Thursday.

Outside the courtroom, de la Rionda called King a professional burglar who had seven convictions - something he was prevented under evidentiary rules from arguing to the jury Thursday unless the defense tried to portray King as a model citizen.

Circuit Judge Mallory Cooper will decide next month whether to follow the jury's recommendation or sentence King to life in prison.

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