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## ***BOILING SPRINGS MAN RECEIVES 30-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR FATAL ASSAULT***

A Boiling Springs man received a 30-year prison sentence today after he admitted to killing a Good Samaritan who had been trying to help him.

Boyd Keith Mace, 50, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. He will serve more than 25 years of Circuit Judge Roger Couch's prison sentence before he is eligible for release.

Mace assaulted Archie W. Horton, 73, on Dec. 16, 2008 at the victim's Quail Ridge Circle home in the Boiling Springs community. Horton died two weeks later as a result of injuries sustained in the assault.

Horton and his wife, Betty, befriended Mace months before the attack and they invited him into their home with an offer of friendship, a place to sleep and warm meals. On the night of the assault, Mace came home in a delusional state and initiated a telephone conversation with a third party that made him angry. Moments after Mace hung up the telephone, Archie Horton questioned him about the language used. Mace responded by knocking the victim to the floor and bending his legs over his head. The victim sustained a broken neck.

Betty Horton found her injured husband when she returned home from running an errand and called 911. He identified Mace as his attacker while they waited for emergency workers to arrive.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Mace the night of the crime and later upgraded the charge after Archie Horton died.

"I'm pleased we were able to resolve the case without exposing the Horton family to the stress of a trial," Deputy Solicitor Derrick Balsa said. "They can hopefully rest during the holiday season knowing Boyd Mace will be behind bars for a long time."

Mace's prior criminal record spanned more than 20 years with nearly two dozen convictions for paint huffing. His criminal record includes convictions for resisting arrest, burglaries, larcenies and assaults.

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