

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
THIRTY-EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 19404



WILLIAM J. FURBER, JR.  
PRESIDENT JUDGE

(610) 278-5900

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Norristown, December 18, 2014** – The Veterans Treatment Court wishes to express our condolences to the victims of this horrible tragedy and our hearts go out to the families who lost loved ones. We wish to acknowledge all of the law enforcement, paramedics, and emergency staff involved in this incident over the last several days.

The members of the Veterans Treatment Court community are devastated by the acts of Bradley Stone. As has been reported, Mr. Stone was admitted to the court as a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense DUI. Mr. Stone did not have a record of violence and he showed no violent tendencies while in the program. Our Court community is at a loss to explain his actions.

The Montgomery County Veterans Treatment Court was established in April 2011 to more effectively address the needs of veterans involved in the courts with a clinical diagnoses of substance abuse and/or a mental health condition. This court represents a collaboration between the Court of Common Pleas, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the County Correctional Facility, the Adult Probation Office, the County Department of Veterans Affairs, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

This Court was founded with the mission to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism of criminal defendants who are veterans by connecting them with VA benefits, treatment services and support, and to find appropriate dispositions to their criminal charges by considering the defendant's treatment needs and the seriousness of the offense. To date there have been 37 successful graduates of the Court.

The actions of Bradley Stone do not represent the 32 veterans who are currently receiving treatment in Veterans Treatment Court. At this moment it is critical that we ensure the well-being of the veterans who are successfully completing this Court program and we ask that their privacy be respected as they cope with this tragedy that has so deeply affected them too.

In place of our regular Veterans Treatment Court docket tomorrow, veterans currently participating in the Court will receive private counseling.

As this is an ongoing investigation we cannot give further comment. All inquiries should be addressed to the District Attorney's Office.