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For Immediate Release:

Castle Rock Man Guilty of 1st Degree Murder in DUI Crash that Killed Air Force Pilot

Lt. Col Matt Anderson fatally struck while pumping gas. His four children were also injured in the crash.

Castle Rock, CO – April 28, 2025. A Douglas County found 57-year-old Paul Stephenson guilty of 1st degree murder in the August 4th, 2024 DUI crash that claimed the life of 39-year-old Lt. Col. Matt Anderson, a decorated Air Force Veteran and father of four. The crash happened at a 7-Eleven gas station at Plumb Creek Parkway and Perry Street in Castle Rock.

Lt. Col Anderson, and his wife and four children had attended the Douglas County Fair and were returning home to Centennial when they stopped for gas. Anderson's wife was walking into the store when Stephenson plowed his Chevy Silverado into their vehicle. This is Stephenson's third DUI conviction. He admitted in court he had consumed a bottle of fireball

whiskey and two beers before getting behind the wheel. His blood alcohol level was measured at 2.5 times the legal driving limit.

In addition to 1st degree murder, the jury also found Stephenson guilty of four counts of attempted murder, four counts of child abuse, and one count each of criminal mischief and assault.

After the verdict, Alli Anderson, Colonel Anderson's widow, expressed gratitude to the District Attorney's office, first responders, bystanders, and the Castle Rock community. "The kindness and support shown to me and my children has touched her and her children and will never be forgotten."

DA George Brauchler applauded the work of Senior Deputy District Attorney Nate Marsh and said Stephenson got what he deserved, "At a minimum this guy will get life in prison without the possibility of parole. The only question is how many more years will be added to the sentence. Our office will push for the maximum sentence to send a message that drunk drivers in Douglas County will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Sentencing is set for July 3, 2025. Stephenson faces up to life in prison.

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