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**For Immediate Release:**

## **Castle Rock Man Will Spend Life in Prison Plus 92 Years for 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** – July 3, 2025. A Castle Rock man will spend the rest of his life behind bars, plus 92 years, for a DUI crash that killed 39-year-old Lt. Col. Matt Anderson and injured his four children.

Paul Stephenson, 57, was convicted in April of first-degree murder in the August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, DUI crash. 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.

Stephenson 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. This was his third DUI conviction.

The first-degree murder charge pursued by DA George Brauchler was an aggressive move designed to send a message to drunk drivers in Douglas County- a charge defense counsel recognized by admitting that Douglas County prosecutes drunk drivers more aggressively than the rest of the metro area.

Wayne Anderson, the father of Lt. Colonel Anderson, expressed gratitude following the verdict. "This gives our family a small amount of closure. We thank the District Attorney's office, first responders, bystanders, and the Castle Rock community for their support."

Senior Deputy District Attorney Nate Marsh said the jury's decision reflected the seriousness of the crime. "The defendant cared only about himself and showed a complete disregard for the value of human life. This was murder in the first degree-extreme indifference and the jury agreed. His life sentence will ensure he cannot rip anyone else from their family."

Castle Rock Police Chief Jack Cauley commended his office and the prosecution team, while acknowledging the challenge ahead for the Anderson family. "While the legal process has ended, we recognize that the emotional toll on the family will endure. Our hearts remain with them as they navigate the difficult path ahead."

District Attorney George Brauchler, who prosecuted the case himself, along with Mr. Marsh, concluded with a somber reflection. "It is a bitter irony that on the eve of our nation's celebration of independence, we mourn the loss of one of America's great Patriots -not in combat, but at the hands of a selfish act. The only appropriate sentence in this case is the one that will prevent things like this from happening again, by scaring the hell out of those who would engage in similar behavior."

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