

Taft Residents Mourn Wrongful Death of Huntsville Walmart Employee

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

- December 9, 2010

Residents of the tiny community of Taft, Tennessee, are mourning the [wrongful death](#) of the 25-year-old Walmart employee who was shot Monday, December 6, by the estranged ex-boyfriend of a co-worker.

The shocking murder in the parking lot of the University Drive Walmart in Huntsville was apparently the result of domestic violence. The intended victim of the intentional act of brutality was grazed by another bullet during the shooting, which occurred after she had broken up with the shooter.

"She said if she ever left him, she was afraid of what he'd do," said the owner of a local grocery store in Taft on Tuesday. "She said she would have left him a long time ago if she wasn't so scared."

Both the shooter and the young Walmart employee who was killed in the shooting were residents of Taft, although the shooter had not lived there for long. The shooter's ex-girlfriend had also lived in Taft for a period of time, so all three were well known to residents.

After the violent events on Monday, the shooter was found at his Taft home. He had shot himself, and he died overnight at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Friends and Loved Ones Remember, Mourn Slain Resident

Taft is a small crossroads community about 20 miles north of Huntsville, just over the Tennessee line. The slain Walmart employee had grown up in the area, and he was well-liked.

People in Taft told the Huntsville Times that it was natural for the young man and the shooter's ex-girlfriend to have known each other and to be friendly in the workplace.

"He was a real good kid," said a retired Lincoln County High School industrial maintenance teacher who had taught the young man during the high school. The 25-year-old had graduated in 2003. The teacher added that his own son was a close friend of the deceased, and that the two had enjoyed riding four-wheelers and fishing together.

The driveway of the young man's home was filled with vehicles on Tuesday. Family members politely declined to discuss the young man or the wrongful death with a reporter from the Huntsville Times.

The man is survived by his wife, his parents, his brother and sister, and his grandfather, all residents of Taft.

Assuming he was killed during the course of employment, the family of the young man should receive [death benefits](#) through workers' compensation.

Source: The Huntsville Times, "[Tennessee town mourns victim of Walmart parking lot shooting](#)," Lee Roop, December 8, 2010