



**Aisha Braveboy**  
State's Attorney

# PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## SENTENCING ANNOUNCED FOR BOWIE MAN IN HEARTBREAKING NEW YEAR'S DAY KILLING OF GRANDMOTHER READING THE BIBLE

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – State's Attorney Braveboy announced that 27-year-old Sammie Warren has been sentenced to 65 years and suspended all but 50. Warren killed 56-year-old Filomena Vasquez while she was sitting in her kitchen on New Year's Day reading her Bible, in preparation for a sermon on the radio.

"He went to Filomena's house and shot it up over a car," said Assistant State's Attorney Brenna Bush in arguing for a stiff sentence. "This is the type of gun-wielding, emotional person the defendant is. He goes from zero to one hundred using deadly violence"

The murder took place on January 1, 2020, a time traditionally celebrated as the hopeful beginning of a new year. It stemmed from a dispute between Warren and Vasquez's son. Warren bought a car from him a week before the shooting and was trying to get his money back after the car stopped working within 12 hours of the purchase. When the son refused to refund the money, Warren began making threats. "No one anticipates that a quiet New Year's Day at home could tragically end in loss of life," said State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy. "Ms. Vazquez was in the privacy of her home, simply reading her Bible when this happened, which is heartbreaking. I am gratified that we have once again, upheld justice in this case by securing the appropriate sentence for her. Mr. Warren will spend considerable time behind bars, ensuring that he is unable to inflict harm upon anyone else in this community. I also want to thank Assistant State's Attorney Brenna Bush for her diligent work in this case and bringing closure to this very tragic incident for the family."

Warren was sentenced to 30 years on second-degree murder, 15 years for use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and 5 years for illegal possession of a regulated firearm. He was convicted on May 12, 2023.

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