



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill  
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Ocala	Jacksonville	Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: STEVE COLE	
Tuesday - June 17, 2008			PHONE: (813) 274-6136	
<a href="http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr">http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr</a>			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

---

## **FOURTH DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY IN THE MURDER OF HAINES CITY POLICE OFFICER**

Tampa, FL - Today a federal jury returned a verdict of guilty in the trial of Charles Fowler, age 29, of Polk County, for the March 3, 1998 murder of Haines City Police Officer Christopher Todd Horner. Fowler is facing a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. A sentencing date has not been set.

Following the murder of Officer Horner, there was an exhaustive investigation and four individuals have now been found guilty in connection with Officer Horner's death. Testimony at Fowler's trial proved that Fowler was the defendant who fired the shot that killed Officer Horner.

U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill stated, "It has been a decade since Officer Horner's tragic death and today a major chapter in the investigation and prosecution has ended with justice being carried out. Officer Horner was a brave law enforcement officer who was trying to stop several individuals from breaking the law and those individuals will now spend the rest of their lives in prison. His efforts were not in vain."

The other three participants in Officer Horner's murder received the following sentences:

Christopher B. Gamble, age 30, of Polk County, was sentenced to life imprisonment

plus a consecutive term of 107 years' imprisonment on November 29, 2004. On August 11, 2004, Gamble pled guilty to participating in the murder of Officer Horner. Gamble also pled guilty to numerous robberies of businesses and banks in Polk County during 1998 and 1999.

Andre Paige, age 28, of Polk County was also convicted by a jury on September 28, 2005, of participating in Horner's murder, robbery and firearms charges and he was sentenced to life in prison plus 60 years' imprisonment.

In June 2007, Robert Winston, age 27, was convicted by a jury for his role in the murder of Officer Horner. He was sentenced to life in prison.

This investigation was conducted by the Haines City Police Department, Polk County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The prosecution of this case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney James Muench.

---