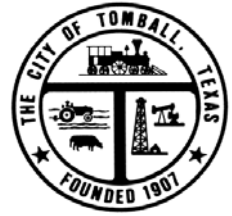




# PRESS RELEASE

#10242006  
TOMBALL POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## For Immediate Release

**Date:** October 24, 2006  
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### DWI Suspect Convicted of Murder

On September 18, 2006, the Harris County District Attorney's Office prosecuted Tyree Jack Jones II for Felony Murder. On January 15, 2006, Mr. Jones caused a six-car collision in the 28600 Block of Tomball Parkway which resulted in the death of Rita Gervais, 80 year old female resident of Tomball. Mr. Jones fled the scene of the accident and was located hiding in a nearby pasture. As a habitual DWI offender, Mr. Jones was charged with causing the death of Rita Gervais while committing the felony offense of Driving While Intoxicated (Three Time Offender).

On the night of the accident, Tomball Police Department called upon their team of Advanced Accident Investigators to investigate the accident. In an investigation of this nature, it is important that "Subject Matter Experts" are called upon to thoroughly and professionally perform each step in such a vital investigation. The team was led by Officer Bryan Hill who performed a detailed job of gathering evidence and coordinating the team who assisted him in the intense investigation. Officers Jason Smith and Rick Garza assisted in the investigation by processing blood evidence in the defendant's truck, including blood on the driver's side airbag. Since Mr. Jones fled the scene, this evidence was critical in proving that he was the driver of the vehicle during the crash.

Though not typically recognized in formal written form, the job performance of the Tomball officers was such to prompt the delivery of a written commendation by the Harris County District Attorney's Office for their pristine chain of custody on all blood evidence. "Mandatory blood draws and chain of custody must be conducted in a specific manner, and there are often technical errors made by law enforcement that can render this vital evidence inadmissible. By their meticulous work, these officers collected blood evidence that allowed the prosecution to prove that the Defendant was at a blood alcohol level nearly four times the legal limit at the time of the wreck." said William Exley, Assistant District Attorney for Harris County.

During the course of the investigation, the officers exhausted all of their means to ensure a careful investigation. The investigators had the benefit of retrieving data from the data recorder, or "black box" contained in Mr. Jones vehicle. With their gracious assistance, the Houston Police Department loaned Tomball a vehicle data retrieval instrument that captures vehicle operation factors just before impact. The crash data contained in the "black box" was admitted into evidence to help determine the speed factors and responsiveness seconds prior to the accident.

Armed with significant evidence gathered by Tomball investigators, the Harris County District Attorney's Office turned what could have been an impossible case into a case where the defense counsel was basically required to concede his client's guilt to the jury. Mr. Jones received 38 years confinement in the penitentiary for an aggravated offense.

Assistant District Attorney William Exley concluded by stating, "The Tomball Police Department conducted an outstanding investigation of a complex crime scene. All of the officers involved performed admirably. The case would have been virtually impossible to prove but for the extraordinary efforts of Officers Bryan Hill, Rick Garza, and Jason Smith."