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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release on March 21, 2008

D.A. DONOVAN: FIRE MARSHAL'S WIFE INDICTED FOR HIS MURDER

******Janet Redmond Mercereau Named in 6 Count Indictment******

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced the unsealing of an indictment charging JANET REDMOND MERCEREAU, 38, of Oakwood, with Murder in the Second Degree, single counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second and Fourth Degrees, and three counts of Tampering with Physical Evidence. These charges arise from the murder of REDMOND MERCEREAU'S husband, Supervising Fire Marshal DOUGLAS MERCEREAU, at the home in which the two lived and REDMOND MERCEREAU's efforts to adulterate evidence of the crime and thus conceal her involvement in her husband's murder.

District Attorney Donovan stated that the indictment alleges that on or about December 2, 2007, defendant shot her husband with a pistol, killing him. It further alleges that to conceal her involvement in the crime, defendant tampered with the murder weapon, as well as with shell casings and clothing found at the scene of the murder.

The top count of the indictment, Murder in the Second Degree, carries a maximum penalty of from 25 years to life imprisonment, while the remaining counts carry maximum penalties ranging from one to fifteen years imprisonment. Defendant was arraigned this morning in Supreme Court, Richmond County, before Justice Stephen J. Rooney. Justice Rooney ordered that the defendant be remanded without bail. The matter was adjourned to April 15, 2008. Assistant District Attorney Yolanda L. Rudich, Chief of the Sex Crimes/Special Victims Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Neal S. Cohen, will be prosecuting the case.

The District Attorney thanks Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, Chief of Detectives George Brown, Inspector James Lavin, Commanding Officer of Staten Island Detectives, Lieutenant David Nilsen, who had charge of the investigation, the detectives under his command, and Supervising Chief Fire Marshal Louis Garcia, for their extraordinary efforts leading to the indictment in this case.

The public is reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation, and that a defendant is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Indictment Counts

Murder in the Second Degree (P.L. 125.25[1])

– Class A Felony, punishable by a term of up to 25 years to life imprisonment upon conviction

Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree (P.L. 265.03[1][b])

– Class C Felony, punishable by a term of up to 15 years imprisonment upon conviction

Tampering with a Physical Evidence (3 counts) (P.L. 215.40[2])

– Class E Felony, punishable by a term of up to 4 years imprisonment upon conviction

Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree (P.L. 265.01[1])

– Class A Misdemeanor punishable, by a term of up to 1 year imprisonment upon conviction