



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 15, 2019

**MINNESOTA RAISES AWARENESS FOR BLAINE WOMAN**

Saint Paul, MN – Blue flags, yard signs, and banners reading “Live Free Without Violence” will be on display by hundreds of agencies and organizations around the state to honor the life of Mary Loons Jansen. The “Live Free Without Violence” flag campaign, led by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, memorializes the lives lost due to domestic violence. Mary Loons Jansen is Minnesota’s third confirmed victim of domestic violence homicide in 2019.

Mary Loons Jansen, 46, was shot and killed by her husband, Matthew Jansen, 46, in their Blaine home on February 8. Police received a call from Matthew stating he killed his wife on the evening of February 8, and upon arrival, discovered Mary’s body. Mary had served Matthew with divorce papers around thanksgiving last year, and intended to move out of their shared home on February 9, the day after she was killed. When questioned about what happened, Matthew stated he no longer had to “worry about a divorce now.” According to family members, an incident occurred in December, causing them to remove all firearms from the home. However, law enforcement found a receipt in his truck for a firearm purchased this month. Mary Loons Jansen leaves behind two children. Matthew Jansen has been charged with second-degree murder.

“The most dangerous time for a domestic violence survivor is when they leave an abusive relationship,” Richards said. “Safety planning is essential for survivors, and it begins in the community. We all need to surround victims with support and safe places when they choose to leave. We also need to be aware of threats to kill at this time and act on this information.”

For more information about the “Live Free Without Violence” campaign and domestic violence, contact Joe Shannon at [jshannon@mcbw.org](mailto:jshannon@mcbw.org) or visit the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women’s website at [www.mcbw.org](http://www.mcbw.org). If you are a victim experiencing abuse, contact Day One at 866-223-1111 to connect with services.

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