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Cop's Widow Castigates Killer

By Dave Racher, Daily News Staff Writer

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The police officer's widow stood at the bar of the hot courtroom and told the man responsible for her husband's death: "You have deprived me of my dreams, hopes and future with a man I loved more than anything else in the world.

"I know you feel some sort of pain," Elizabeth McCarthy said. "But you really don't know what pain is until you have looked into my children's eyes and told them their father is never coming back because a drunk driver killed him," she said.

Former Police Officer Charles Loughran, 40, who pleaded guilty in February to vehicular homicide while under the influence of alcohol, sat quietly as McCarthy made her comments yesterday.

Assistant District Attorney Hugh Colihan had invited her to speak before Loughran's sentencing.

Common Pleas Judge William J. Manfredi then sentenced Loughran to a mandatory three to six years in prison for the killing of mounted Police Officer William D. McCarthy, 31.

McCarthy was struck and killed while on his horse on Sept. 22, 1987, as he was crossing Broad Street on his way back to headquarters at the end of his

shift. He had been patrolling a Grateful Dead concert at the Spectrum. Colihan said Loughran, who was off-duty, was traveling at more than 71 mph in his pickup truck when he plowed into McCarthy and his horse, Skipper.

McCarthy was thrown into the bed of the pickup, and the horse was knocked 155 feet. It had to be destroyed. Loughran's truck narrowly missed three other mounted officers, Colihan said.

"To me this is an act of murder because you (are) a police officer who is supposed to enforce the laws, now break them," McCarthy told him yesterday.

"You have left me alone to raise four small children," she said. "The baby was only a month old when his father was killed, and he will never know what a father is."

Turning to Manfredi, McCarthy said she was "displeased and downright angry at the length of time the trial and sentencing has taken."

"This defendant has been allowed to walk the streets this past two years free, and permitted to drive and perhaps kill again. Where is the justice here?"

Defense attorney A. Charles Peruto Jr. said Loughran, of Thompson Street near Cambria, continually talks about the victim and "is remorseful" about the death.

Peruto said his client "desperately needs" treatment for his alcohol problem. The judge ordered treatment as part of the sentence.

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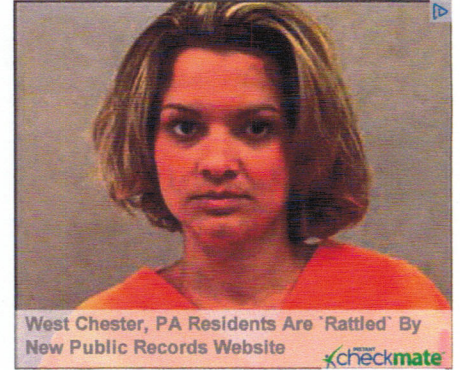
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