



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Moorpark Man Sentenced to Jail and Probation in Death of Paul Kessler

VENTURA Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced that Loay Abdel Fattah Alnaji (DOB 05/06/73), of Moorpark, was sentenced to one year in Ventura County Jail and two years of felony probation for the death of Paul Kessler. Alnaji previously pleaded guilty on May 5, 2026, to felony involuntary manslaughter and felony battery causing serious bodily injury. He also admitted a special allegation that he personally inflicted great bodily injury, along with aggravating factors that he used a weapon and that the victim was particularly vulnerable. The Ventura County District Attorney's Office argued for a state prison sentence and objected to the court's decision to impose one year of jail and probation.

Paul Kessler was a 69-year-old retired man whose life was centered on family and community. His hobbies included flying as an amateur pilot, going to the gym, walking in his neighborhood, and staying informed about current events. Victim impact statements were submitted prior to the sentencing hearing for the court to read, including a statement from Mr. Kessler's widow.

"There are no words to describe the pain of losing a husband in such a sudden and violent way," his widow wrote. "The grief is relentless. The silence in our house, the absence of his voice, his companionship, his love and the future we had planned together are losses I carry with me every day."

Alnaji escalated a verbal altercation to a physical confrontation with the victim, Paul Kessler, on November 5, 2023, while both were protesting on the corner of Thousand Oaks Boulevard and Westlake Boulevard in Thousand Oaks. Alnaji struck Mr. Kessler in the head with a megaphone, causing Mr. Kessler to fall to the ground and hit his head on the pavement. Alnaji stayed at the scene, called 911 and provided investigators with a statement. Mr. Kessler subsequently died from injuries sustained during the incident. Alnaji was taken into custody days later and charged with causing Mr. Kessler's death.

“Mr. Kessler lost his life in a violent attack that took him from his family and his wife of 43 years,” said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. “Given the circumstances of this case and the death that resulted, we believe a state prison commitment was the appropriate and just sentence.”

Senior Deputy District Attorney David Russell, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office Major Crimes Unit, prosecuted the case.

Case: 2023030461

Defendant Information:

Loay Abdel Fattah Alnaji (DOB 05/06/73)
Moorpark

Charges pled guilty to:

- PC192(b) – Involuntary manslaughter
- PC 243(d) – Battery causing serious bodily injury

Special allegations admitted:

- PC 1192.7(c)(8) – Personally inflicted great bodily injury
- CRC 4.421(a)(2) – Defendant armed with and used a weapon
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was particularly vulnerable

