

Your Honor,

My name is Hilary Kruger and I am the wife of Tracy Kruger and the mother of Alec Kruger.

I am writing this victim's impact statement on behalf of my 12 year old son, Zak, and myself. I have agonized over the writing of this - knowing that I could never put in words the loss that Zak & I have had to deal with since Feb 3, 2007 due to the actions of Michael Zabawa.

I could never describe the fear and pain that I went through that night as Michael Zabawa stood in my bedroom doorway with a smoking shotgun and a shotgun slug ripping through my left arm and body. I could never describe the sickness that I felt knowing that my husband Tracy was shot and killed right in front of me laying dead on the floor of the bedroom that we shared.

I could never describe the helplessness that I felt as my 13 year old son Alec begged a 911 dispatcher to please come and help his family....only to be murdered right in front of me moments later. And I could never describe the sadness that I now feel having to raise Zak without a father and brother.

On Feb. 3, 2007 Michael Zabawa chose to walk into my home in the middle of the night. He chose to seek out a deadly weapon; he chose to seek out human beings. Michael Zabawa chose to walk up the stairs of my home in the sneakiest way, and he chose to shoot me and my husband Tracy without confrontation.

After knowing that he probably just killed two people, he chose to walk away...Michael Zabawa moments later chose to walk back up those stairs of my home a 2nd time and brutally murder my 13 year old son Alec - not only shooting him once, but he chose to shoot my child 3 times...putting multiple bullets into his young body.

Zabawa chose to walk away, hide, and lie about these brutal murders, leaving me and my youngest son, Zak to live the rest of our lives without half of our family.

So... while Michael Zabawa chose to murder my family, there was another side of choosing. For more than 20 years Tracy & I chose to live a good life. We built a life together and we chose right over wrong. We had two wonderful boys and we were all very much part of each others life. We enjoyed life as a family of four. There really wasn't much that could tear the four of us apart.

Not until Feb. 3, 2007 when Michael Zabawa chose to tear the four of us in half. My family of four suddenly and tragically became a family of two. He left me without a true loving husband and left me without a child that meant more to me than Michael Zabawa will ever get to experience in his life. He left my son Zak without a fun loving Dad and a brother that cared for him more than anything in the world.

I am also here to remind you that there were 2 very kind and gentle faces of Tracy & Alec behind those horrific murderous pictures of them that have been repeatedly shown throughout these past two weeks. Tracy & Alec had kind smiles and gentle eyes. Two faces that were loved by many, and two faces that made people laugh and smile in an instant. They were without a doubt two very wonderful people.

Due to the acts brought on by Michael Zabawa, so much of mine & Zak's future has been altered. The plans of Tracy building a fort with his two sons - gone... The plans of Tracy restoring snowmobiles, cars and tractors with his 2 sons - gone... The plans of Tracy & I watching our 2 sons grow into men - gone... And the plans of Tracy & I growing old together peacefully in the big old farmhouse - gone.

Our nightly dinners of four have now been reduced to Zak & I with two empty chairs at our dinner table. An everyday reminder that the family Tracy & I built has been torn apart.

Besides leaving my son, Zak without a father and brother, Michael Zabawa left a 10 year old terrified for many days wondering if his mother was also going to die - leaving him without a family.

Michael Zabawa has completely changed who Zak & I are... and I don't think that was his decision to make. Besides changing who I am emotionally & mentally... he has changed me physically. Leaving me with one arm and countless physical scars covering my body. Every day tasks that were once easy and taken for granted are now consumed with frustration with trying to be completed with one arm. Where I could once tie my shoes effortlessly or put on a necklace easily (just to name a few) has now become tasks that my 12 year old has to accomplish for me. Constantly dropping things or having people help me with certain simple tasks has changed who I am and I have lost a lot of my independence solely due to Michael Zabawa's actions that night.

Michael Zabawa has taken away from me and my son Zak a caring, loving, happy, fun family which we shared with Tracy & Alec... never to be replaced.

I can only hope that Michael Zabawa can take just one ounce of the sickness that I have felt in my gut every single day for over two years, and carry that with him for the rest of his life.

On Feb 3, 2007... Tracy, Alec & I were not given a chance to fight for our lives against Michael Zabawa - it was an unfair fight. Tracy & Alec lost that battle and I am here today to fight for them, to fight for justice and to fight for the maximum sentencing of Michael Zabawa.

Michael Zabawa deserves nothing less than the maximum sentencing for intentionally murdering my husband Tracy and my 13 year old son Alec. And he deserves nothing less than the maximum sentencing for murdering Zak's father and his 13 year old brother.

We need to know that Michael Zabawa will go to prison for the rest of his life without the possibility of parole for the murderous path that he chose to take on Feb 3, 2007 so that we can leave behind us the vicious way that they died and begin to cherish the memories of the good life we had with Tracy & Alec.