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August 4, 2014

Location: Kentwood, MI

Victim(s): Michael Connor Verkerke 9

Attacker(s): Jamarion Lawhorn 12

Description: Lawhorn walked over to a playground where Michael was playing, before pulling out a knife and stabbing him multiple times in the back without warning. Michael ran back to his home, before collapsing on the porch. He was taken to the hospital in critical condition and died hours later. "I'll always love you" were his last words to his brother.

Archive.is Link(s):

<https://archive.is/vrn7T> Lawhorn is charged with murder.

<https://archive.is/DpDkm> Lawhorn is found guilty of 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder.

<https://archive.is/jpQfT> Lawhorn receives a "blended" sentence.

<https://archive.is/x9Ade> Lawhorn's parents take turns serving a jail sentence for child abuse so that they can still "care" for their 3 other children.

<https://archive.ph/pmVvP> Lawhorn, who was released in 2021, is released from court supervision.

<https://archive.is/b5rHW> Michael's find a grave memorial.  
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<https://archive.is/6IeVB> Mother apologizes.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180503161503/https://lastnames.myheritage.com/last-name/Verkerke> Verkerke surname distribution. It's predominately found in the Netherlands.

<https://archive.ph/km34w> Verkerke namespedia entry.