

Betsy McDaniel dies following brutal attack; Crimestoppers increases reward in case

07:30 PM CDT on Thursday, May 29, 2008

WWLTV.com - <http://www.wwltv.com/topstories/stories/ww1052908jbbetsy.3e05b5a4.html?npc>

Betsy McDaniel, the owner of Betsy's Pancake House who was brutally beaten in her home early Monday morning, has died – according to Colonel John Fortunato, a spokesman with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

"This aggravated burglary is also now a homicide," said Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand.

The sheriff said that McDaniel died for \$4,000 to \$5,000, as investigators said an intruder made her open several safes in her home.

During a news conference Thursday, authorities said they do not yet have a suspect in the case and Crimestoppers has increased the reward to \$10,000 for any information that leads to an arrest and indictment. Crimestoppers was able to up the reward after an anonymous business put up \$5,000 to match the money from Crimestoppers.



Betsy McDaniel was hospitalized after someone broke into her Marrero home, robbed and beat her. Betsy suffered a broken hand, broken ribs and her face was severely bruised during the incident.

"If knows anything that might be of interest, could possible show who did this, please step forward. Give any information you can to the sheriff's office. It would be greatly, greatly appreciated," said Robert Bryant, her grandson.

Her family said Tuesday she suffered a brain hemorrhage. She died Wednesday evening at West Jefferson Hospital at the age of 72.

"Why does people have to beat somebody to death. Why do they have to beat them so bad they're going to die. That's just terrible, you know -- especially a woman that's 72-years-old," said Philip Callais, a neighbor.

"She would give the shirt off her back," Callais said. "She had a warm heart. Take in any stray person from churches or whatever. She was just that kind of person."

Betsy's Pancake House has been closed since Monday and people have been placing flowers outside the door of the Canal Street restaurant all week.

Her business is a local favorite – even President Bush dined there when Betsy reopened the restaurant after Katrina.