

## VOICES FROM THE MOST HEARTBREAKING STORY OUT OF SAVANNAH

*\*With excerpts from the Savannah Morning News article, "Teen charged with murder in funeral home shooting," Feb 6, 2018.*

*On February 6, 2018, Savannah Police issued Deion Micah Pinckney, 15, an arrest warrant for the murder of **John Cooksey, Jr.***

Why did he do it to me?  
I never knew him,  
but he had to do it for a reason.  
I miss my mom and dad.

*Cooksey, 12, was attending a funeral at Bonaventure Funeral Home when he was struck by gunfire. The investigation showed **Deion Micah Pinckney** was the shooter.*

I killed a 12-year-old. I'm a monster!  
Keep it together, Deion.  
I had a job to do, but he should have lived, not me!  
Well, the boss has people who can bail me out.

*The **SWAT team** and hostage negotiators executed arrest warrants on Pinckney.*

*Bam. Crash.*  
Open the door,  
it's the police! You're surrounded.  
Come out with your hands up,  
or we'll come in.

*On the evening of February 5, Cooksey passed away, resulting in the upgraded charge of murder for Pinckney. Cooksey's **parents** were informed of his death by **officials**.*

Our son is dead? You're lying to me!  
Why couldn't I protect him?

Tell me D-Deion is going to rot!  
Honey, what are we going to do?

Ma'am, we're sorry for your loss.  
We don't know yet why it happened.  
We are still investigating.  
We know he will be charged as an adult.

*The **police** served the warrant at the Regional Youth Detention Center.*

Well, you are being charged with heavy stuff.  
It's either take this deal with the judge  
for life in prison with a chance for parole,  
or...

Late on February 5, **John Cooksey** walked the stairway to heaven, where he was met by **God**.

Whoa, what is this place?  
Calm. Peaceful.  
Like a circus without clowns.  
M-My Lord, it is nice to meet you.

My child, why have you come so early?  
You are welcomed into heaven.  
My child, just know this:  
we will bring your family support and care.