

Community holds vigil after vicious attack

by UPI

LEESBURG, Va. -- An estimated 200 men, women and children held a pre-dawn vigil to honor a Leesburg, Va., couple attacked during a routine morning stroll.

Sunday's march was one week after retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. William Bennett, 57, was beaten to death and his wife, Cynthia, was found critically injured in a ditch, The Washington Post reported Monday.

"We're taking our neighborhood back," said march organizer Beverly Bradford. "We're not going to be intimidated by these cowardly acts."

No arrests have been made and Cynthia Bennett, 55, remains in critical condition at a hospital, where she is under 24-hour guard, the Post reported.

Cynthia Bennett is director of procurement for the Architect of the Capitol, the office that maintains the U.S. Capitol complex. William Bennett, after retiring from the Army, worked as a CIA contractor for several years and trained troops in Iraq, said former colleagues.

Investigators, who are trying to determine whether Bennett's professional background is linked to his killing, told the Post they are looking for a white van seen in the area and at least three assailants.

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