

Tennessee executes police killer

by UPI

NASHVILLE - Tennessee prison officials executed a man early Wednesday convicted 25 years ago of killing a Nashville police officer during a botched restaurant robbery.

Philip Workman, 53, was given a lethal injection at Nashville's Riverbend prison over a 17-minute period while strapped to a gurney, the Nashville Tennessean reported.

His final words were brief prayers as Warden Ricky Bell stood at the head of the gurney.

None of Workman's family attended, but relatives of the victim, Lt. Ronald Oliver did but made no comments for the media.

Prosecutors said Workman fired the fatal shot while holding up a Wendy's restaurant. Defense attorneys argued the bullet could have been from another police officer's gun.

Last week, Tennessee completed an overhaul of procedures used in lethal injections in response to challenges it constitutes cruel and inhumane treatment.

Workman was the third inmate to be executed in the state in the last 47 years.

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