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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AG Schimel Announces Charges Against Five in Iron County
for Lac Du Flambeau Man's Death**

HURLEY, Wis. – Today, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a criminal complaint in Iron County charging five individuals from northern Wisconsin with two felony counts each, relating to the death of Wayne M. Valliere, Jr. All of the defendants are charged with Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Intentional Homicide as a Party to a Crime While Armed with a Dangerous Weapon and also with Hiding a Corpse.

On January 1, 2018, the body of Mr. Valliere, of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was recovered in Iron County, after he was reported missing by family on Christmas Day.

The investigation into Mr. Valliere's death was led by the DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), with collaboration between Ashland County Sheriff's Office, Forest County Sheriff's Office, Iron County Sheriff's Office, Lac du Flambeau Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Vilas County Sheriff's Office, and Wisconsin State Patrol. Victim services are being provided by the Iron County District Attorney's Victim Services and DOJ's Office of Crime Victim Services.

"I am grateful for the excellent work in the brutal weather conditions by my DCI and crime lab teams and the local law enforcement agencies that led to the recovery of Mr. Valliere's body in Iron County, and the hundreds of hours of work that led to the arrest of these individuals. The dedication shown by these unsung heroes should not go unnoticed by the public," said Attorney General Brad Schimel.

At the request of the Iron County District Attorney, the DOJ Criminal Litigation Unit is handling the prosecution of this case. Assistant Attorneys General Richard DuFour and Chad Verbeten have been assigned by Attorney General Schimel to lead this prosecution.

The five individuals charged are:

Richard Francis Alexander Allen, 27

Joseph D. Lussier, 26

James B. Lussier, 19

Curtis A. Wolfe, 26

Evan T. Oungst, 27

A suspect is innocent until proven guilty. A copy of the criminal complaint is attached.