STATE OPENING REMARKS

Over the next couple of minutes you are going to hear a confession about a **vicious1** and violent attack of **the victim2**, James Earl Mason that ultimately led to his death. The victim, James Earl Mason, was a **26 year-old3** man. He was from Tennessee. Mr. Mason and his mother, **Ms. Williams4**, were visiting Daytona Beach for Biketoberfest in **20075** to enjoy the festivities associated with this special event and, as was their custom, **checked into6** the Daytona Shore Inn in Daytona Beach. And that's when this **hapless7** victim met this **savage8** woman: **Juanita Liebman9** and her band of brothers: **William McMinn10**, also known as Bill Bill and **Jason Bowman11**, Ms. Liebman’s boyfriend. You're going to hear that these three were, essentially **drifters12**, that **things were going badly13** for them in Tennessee and that they decided to **take a trip14** and kind of **clear their head out15**. So they went down to Daytona to see the ocean.

These **hoodlums16** didn't have a lot of money. **In fact17**, they had to **pawn18** some property and to cut costs. They ended up sleeping in their car. They saved money for food and beer. At some point, in fact, on **October 22nd of 200719**, they had **scraped together20-** just enough money to get a hotel room for the night. That's when they first met Mr. Mason and his mother. They also checked into the Daytona Shores Inn at **805 North Atlantic Avenue21**. That's when these two stories kind of **converge22**. The victim saw them pull into the parking lot, saw the Tennessee **license plates23**, and immediately tried to form a connection and become friends with these people from Tennessee, like him. The **defendants24** recognized the victim as an opportunity and tried to form a connection to **lure25** him in. You're going to hear **testimony26** that Ms. Liebman started **flirting27** with him immediately, that they were drinking and **doing28** Xanax together. At some point they end up going down to the beach, **the four of them29**, and then they went to a pool at a different hotel. And while at the **pool30**, Ms. Liebman tells Mr. Mason she can't swim and that she suffers from **seizures31**. Well, **one thing leads to another32**, and Mr. Mason **eventually33** pushes her into the pool. There's an **altercation34** at the pool, and that's when this **scam35** really, really **gets going36**. Ms. Liebman **climbs out37** of the pool, goes off with her boyfriend, Jason Bowman, back to the hotel room.

Later that day, Mr. Mason feels bad about what had happened and he tries to reconnect with his new friends. This **unsuspecting38** victim delivers himself to the hands of these **heartless39** individuals. In an effort to make peace with his new friends and hang out just a little bit longer, he brings three beers **downstairs40**. They get back to drinking. They're sitting around the hotel room, hanging out, and the four of them end up sitting opposite each other on the beds at some point. While they're sitting there, Mr. Bowman **leans back41** in a position that Mr. Mason's unable to see him as he **mouths42** across to the next bed to Mr. McMinn, the words, "**Hit him43**." Well, that's when the order goes into action, and Mr. McMinn **springs44** from the bed and punches him in the face. And, in fact, he continues to **punch45** him. And then Mr. Bowman joins the attack, and the two of them are **beating46** him with their **fists47** all about the face and the body. He's **struggling48**, he's fighting, he's trying to defend himself against these two individuals and their brutal attack that comes **out of the blue49**. Ms. Liebman is saying, "**Knock him out50**, knock him out, knock him out." So they drag him off the bed. Bowman puts him in a **chokehold51**. Liebman grabs a beer bottle, one of the bottles that he brought down, and starts **bashing52** him in the face with it. And then when it breaks, she **lunges53** in and tries to **slash54** his throat with the **remnants55** of the neck. At this point, whether it's because they were successful in choking him out or they'd just beaten and **stomped56** on him to the point of **unconsciousness 57**, Mr. Mason **lies58** in the corner of the hotel room in a pool of his own blood, choking on his teeth and the blood that he's **swallowing59**. That’s when these three vagrants, pack up their belongings, take the **remaining60** items off of Mr. Mason, close the door to the hotel room and **hop in61** their car leaving the victim right there in **his own62** pool of blood. Mr. Mason is finally found by his mother when she goes back into the room and hears him **gurgling63** in the corner. They immediately call 9-1-1, and she rushes to **her son's aid64**. And **at that point65** the officers show up and start the investigation as to what happened. He's transported to the hospital, **rushed66** to surgery and, several days later, is taken off of life support in a **vegetative state67** until he dies.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to ask you to consider all the **evidence68**. And I'm **confident69** that after you've had a **chance70** to hear the case that **will be presented71**, I'm confident that you'll return a **verdict72** of guilty for the **charges73** of **murder74** and **robbery75**.

Thank you.

(889 words)