Gatson named Homeland Security Investigations, Nashville, Task Force Officer of the Year

U.S. Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Kentucky

LEXINGTON — United States Attorney Jason Parman joins Homeland Security Investigations, Nashville, in recognizing the exceptional work and dedication of HSI Task Force Officer (TFO) Anthony Gatson of the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

On Sept. 23, TFO Gatson was awarded the 2025 Task Force Officer of the Year by Homeland Security Investigations, Nashville, for his exceptional work and significant achievements in combating child exploitation through investigations and prosecutions in the Eastern District of Kentucky.

TFO Gatson's investigations in child sexual exploitation contributed to more than 20 federal prosecutions in 2025 alone and resulted in multiple sentences exceeding 25 years. That work has continued. For example, in July 2026, Pamela Sargent was sentenced to 45 years in prison after TFO Gatson's investigation uncovered that Sargent produced child pornography with two toddler victims and then distributed the videos to others.

"We are profoundly grateful to TFO Gatson for his steadfast commitment to protecting children and holding those who exploit them accountable. His investigative work has helped uncover horrific crimes, identify dangerous offenders and ensure they face significant federal prison sentences," said Jason Parman, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky. "These cases are difficult, but TFO Gatson never loses sight of what is at stake – protection of children. Thanks to the collaboration between the Madison County Sheriff's Office and HSI, our children live in a safer community."



SUBMITTED

Anthony Gatson was recently awarded the 2025 Task Force Officer of the Year by Homeland Security Investigations, Nashville.

Beyond his TFO of the Year award, TFO Gatson is a highly respected and well-known member of Kentucky's law enforcement community. With more than 30 years of distinguished service with the Kentucky State Police and now the Madison County Sheriff's Office, he brings extensive experience and expertise in investigations, interviews, and interrogation. His decades of service and unwavering commitment have made him a trusted partner to law enforcement agencies and prosecutors across Kentucky.

Jury begins deliberating at Russell Brand's sexual assault trial

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Jurors have begun considering their verdicts in the trial of Russell Brand on charges of rape and sexual assault.

After three weeks of argument and evidence, Judge Joel Bennathan told the jury at London's Southwark Crown Court that they must reach a unanimous decision.

"I can only accept a verdict that is the verdict of all 12 of you," he said.

Brand, who is free on bail, has attended court every day, accompanied by his wife, Laura Gallacher.

Six women accuse the actor-comedian of sexual misconduct between 1999 and 2009, a decade when Brand went from rising stand-up comedian to major celebrity in the U.K.

Prosecutors argued that during that time Brand was "a sexual predator" who attacked the women in a hotel room, the London offices of MTV, the toilet of a London bar, a radio station, a recording studio and his home.

Brand, 51, has pleaded not guilty to three counts of rape, three counts of sexual assault and one count of attempted indecent assault.

Giving evidence, the entertainer acknowledged that he had been obsessed with sex as a younger man, but said his encounters were always consensual.

Brand's lawyers argued that the claimants' cases were undermined by the fact that they only went to police years after the alleged assaults, and following the broadcast of a 2023 documentary that contained anonymous allegations against Brand.

Brand's lawyer, Ian Winter, said the "well of justice had been corrupted and contaminated" by the documentary.

In his closing statement on Monday, Winter said the jury must separate Brand's treatment of women from the question of whether he committed crimes.

"It is not criminal to treat women unkindly before, during or after sex," he said. "It is not, I am afraid, criminal to be disrespectful or rude or to act like a crazy idiot."

He said Brand "had an immense amount of sex and none of it was unlawful."

"Disgusting, distasteful, immoral, who cares?" the lawyer said. "It's irrelevant to your consideration."

Flustered by Funeral Flowers



ANNIE'S MAILBOX
BY ANNIE LANE

Dear Annie: I've been friends with "Jessie" for several years, but lately, I've been feeling like the friendship is one-sided. I'm always the one reaching out, making plans and putting in the effort. Jessie has been responding to my texts with one-word answers, if at all.

I value our friendship a lot, but I'm starting to question whether she feels the same way. How can I address this issue without seeming needy? Should I confront her or let it go and just hope it changes back to what it was like before? Any guidance would be appreciated. — **Friendship on Uneven Ground**

Dear Uneven Ground: Friendships are not transactional. There are naturally times when one friend gives more than the other. Perhaps Jessie is going through a difficult season of life and simply doesn't have the capacity to initiate contact.

Reach out to her; tell her that she has felt distant recently and that you miss her; and gently ask how she is doing.

If she brushes you off, and if the blatant imbalance in your relationship continues, then perhaps your friendship has run its course. Not everyone who comes into your life is meant to stay forever; that doesn't mean you can't treasure your friendship for what it was.

Dear Annie: My sister passed away last week at the young age of 63. She was cremated and had served in the military. We had a small military service for her, and at her service, there were a few bunches of flowers sent to the funeral home, only three to be exact. Two were sent to the funeral home from my nephew's company that he works for, and one was sent from an aunt and uncle. After the services, my aunt and uncle asked if they could have their flowers back!

I was appalled and caught off guard. My question is, was it OK for them to ask for their flowers back?! I always thought when you sent flowers to a funeral home, it was supposed to be a gift to the family. I'm just lost for words. How should I address this? Or should I just let it go? I have never asked for flowers back from any funeral I have sent flowers to. — **Sincerely Appalled**

Dear Appalled: You're not alone; I, too, am surprised by your aunt and uncle's request. Sending flowers to loved ones who are grieving is a standard way to express sympathy and offer comfort after experiencing a loss. To ask for them back following the service seems insincere and, frankly, tacky.

While I can't imagine a particularly good reason for them to ask this of you, I'd advise that the path of least resistance is your best way forward. I hope you took one of the other two flower arrangements home with you, as a token of your sister's service instead. If she were still with us, I think she'd probably agree it's not worth fighting over either.

I am so sorry for your loss. Wishing you nothing but peace as you heal during this most difficult time.

"Out of Bounds: Estrangement, Boundaries and the Search for Forgiveness" is out now! Annie Lane's third anthology is for anyone who has lived with anger, estrangement or the deep ache of being wronged — because forgiveness isn't for them. It's for you. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Follow Annie Lane on Instagram at @dearannieofficial. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

Richmond Register
Local Media. Lasting Impact.
Serving Our Community Since 1917

PUBLISHER
Bill Atkinson
Overall publishing operations and business leadership

ADVERTISING
Pam Bowlin
Market manager

PUBLIC NOTICES
Pam Bowlin

CIRCULATION
Bethany Dawes

MANAGING EDITOR
Janie Slaven
Newsroom and editorial coverage

NEWS
Blake Vickers

SPORTS
Nathan Hutchinson

DESIGN EDITOR
Brad Hall

CONTACT US
News: news@richmondregister.com
Sports: sports@richmondregister.com
Advertising: advertising@richmondregister.com
Circulation: circulation@richmondregister.com
(859) 623-1669 · www.richmondregister.com

PUBLICATION INFORMATION
The Richmond Register is published Wednesday and Saturday by cnhi, LLC, 2130 Lexington Rd., Suite G, Richmond, KY 40475.

Periodicals postage paid at 120 East Water Street, Richmond, KY 40475-9998.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to the Commonwealth Journal, P.O. Box 99, Somerset, KY 42502-0859.

(USPS 465-540)