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WDAF

Roeder's Friend on Tiller's Murder: "Shame It Didn't Happen Sooner"

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KANSAS CITY, KAN.

Two people who knew Scott Roeder in very different lights spoke to FOX 4 on the day Roeder was charged with abortion doctor George Tiller's murder.

One man who works at a Kansas abortion clinic said he knew Roeder as a frequent protester. In fact, he said they had to chase him off the property just this past Saturday.

FOX 4 also spoke to a woman who knew Roeder in the late 90's, and called him a passionate fighter for the rights of the unborn.

Back in the 90's, protests in front of Planned Parenthood were common, and Regina Dinwiddie was a regular. That's where she said she met Roeder.

"He gave me a big hug and said I've read about you in the newspaper and I admire you," said Dinwiddie.

She knew Roeder as smart and kind and devoted to the pro-life cause.

"His heart was absolutely tender and broken for the death of those children," said Dinwiddie.

Dinwiddie spent some time in jail for the cause back then. And, now, she's not upset about Tiller's death.

"It's a shame it didn't happen a lot sooner," she said.

She's certain Roeder weighed the cost before pulling the trigger.

"He knew he was forfeiting his life for the lives of these children and to me that's a brave man. Very brave man," said Dinwiddie.

But, not everyone called Roeder brave.

"I want him convicted in a slow quiet process so he's not a martyr," said Jeff Pederson, a clinic employee.

Pederson knew Roeder from his regular protests outside the Kansas City, Kansas clinic.

He asked for his face to be hidden to protect his safety. Sunday's shooting reminded him this is a very real threat.

"They want a war. We don't want a blood bath, but they're asking for one," said Pederson.

He said Roeder was trying to glue the locks of the clinic the day before Tiller's murder. A staff member at Central Family Medicine chased down Roeder and got his license plate number.

So when he heard that same car was headed toward Kansas City after Tiller's murder, it made him shudder.

"He was heading to Kansas City not in some opposite direction. What was he going to do here in Kansas City?" Pederson said.

Dinwiddie said the pro-life movement has been quiet the last eight years hoping for a change in the law. But, now they're tired of empty promises.

Pederson, on the other hand, would like the pro-life groups to tone down the rhetoric because it's not going to help the dialogue on this issue.

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