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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NORTH EAST MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR
GROSSLY NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER
IN FATAL HIT AND RUN**

ELKTON – On Friday, November 7, 2025, Joseph Anthony Giles, Jr. of North East was sentenced to serve fifteen years in prison after being found guilty by Cecil County Circuit Court Judge Cameron A. Brown of grossly negligent manslaughter, criminally negligent manslaughter, and sixteen other traffic charges related to a hit and run motor vehicle collision in which Raymond Albert Cote, Jr. was struck and killed.

The hit and run occurred on March 24, 2024, in the early morning hours in the 2600 block of Jacob Tome Highway in Colora. Cote, Jr. was walking to his mailbox when he was struck and killed by an individual who fled the scene. Eyewitnesses traveling on Jacob Tome Highway at the time of the collision advised law enforcement that the individual driving a white Toyota Camry hit the pedestrian, drove away, and then returned to the scene to ask what had happened before taking off from the scene again. The eyewitnesses relayed which direction the driver fled and a detailed description of his appearance. Paramedics who were the first to arrive also captured on dash camera footage the Camry fleeing the scene after it nearly collided with the ambulance.

Maryland State Police troopers later located the Camry approximately two miles from the crash scene. The Defendant had attempted to conceal it, but the heavy front-end damage and other indicators positively identified it as the vehicle. The Defendant was also found hiding in a residence near his car. The Defendant freely admitted to a trooper that he had caused an accident. Data later recovered from the Camry indicated the vehicle was traveling at over 80 mph just

prior to the collision and at the time of impact the speed was 70 mph to 73 mph. The posted speed limit on that area of Jacob Tome Memorial Highway is 50 mph.

After hearing from State, defense, and family members of Cote, Jr., Judge Brown sentenced the Defendant to a total of fifteen years, which exceeded the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines. Upon release from prison, the Defendant will be placed on supervised probation for five years. The maximum penalties for grossly negligent manslaughter and leaving the scene of an accident where a death resulted are ten years each.

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