

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan

2024-01

DATE: February 5, 2024

CONTACT: Bret Witkowski

Managing Director

RELEASE: Immediately

Van Buren County Road Commission

Post Office Box 156

Lawrence, Michigan 49064

PHONE: (269) 674-8011, Extension 222

JURY REACHES VERDICT IN THE DEATH OF ROAD COMMISSION EMPLOYEE RENE RANGEL JR.

THE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW . . .

On March 3, 2023, Rene Rangel Jr., was killed while working for the Van Buren County Road Commission in a work zone on CR 681 in Arlington Township. His tragic death has devastated Rene's family, friends, and the Road Commission family. Our Road Commission family is thankful to the Michigan State Police, Van Buren County Sheriff's Department, Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office, the numerous Emergency Services Departments who initially responded, the jurors, and all involved in the investigation and trial for ensuring that the person responsible for Rene's death was brought to justice.

A jury trial began Tuesday, January 30, 2024, and on Monday, February 5, 2024, the jury returned a verdict. After an emotional trial and several hours of deliberation, the jury returned guilty verdicts on two of the three counts: Guilty of operating a vehicle in a work zone causing death and operating without insurance.

This is yet another tragic reminder of the risks associated with working on our roadways every day -- and the importance of driving safely and slowly near road crews.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Rene's family.

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

BW/jb