

CRIME

Family of Uzi Shooting Victim Prays for the 9-Year-Old Who Accidentally Killed Him

BY TARA FOWLER

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The family of the man accidentally killed in a shooting mishap by a 9-year-old girl have written her a letter of forgiveness.

Charles Vacca was **fatally shot** on Aug. 25 at the Bullets and Burgers gun range in White Hills, Arizona, while teaching the New Jersey girl how to fire an automatic Uzi. The girl lost control of the weapon and accidentally killed him.

While the girl's name has not been released, Vacca's children – Ashley, 19, Elizabeth, 15, Tyler, 14, and Christopher, 11 – reached out to her with a heartfelt letter, which they read to [ABC News](#).

"You're only 9-years-old, they wrote. "We think about you. We are worried about you. We pray for you, and we wish you peace."

They added: You should not let this define you. Someday we hope we can meet you, hug you, and tell you that it's OK.

James Goodnow, the Vacca family's lawyer, says it was the kids' idea to write the letter.

I was touched when they told me they wanted to do this, Goodnow said. It's rare to see something so human in a legal situation like this.

Shortly after news of the shooting broke, the family of the girl released a statement regarding the incident.

"They are devastated by this accident that turned what was supposed to be a unique and brief excursion from their summer vacation into a life-changing tragedy," the statement read.

"Words cannot express the family's sadness about the accidental shooting of Charles Vacca. They prayed day and night that he would survive his injury, and they continue to pray for his family during this terribly difficult time."

No charges have been filed in the case.

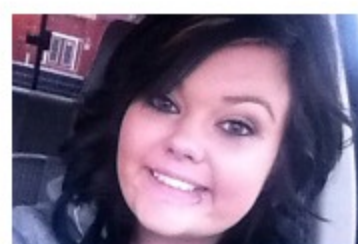
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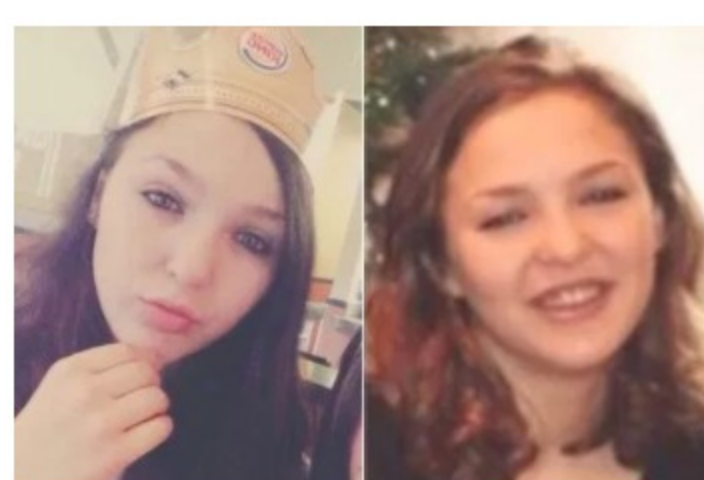
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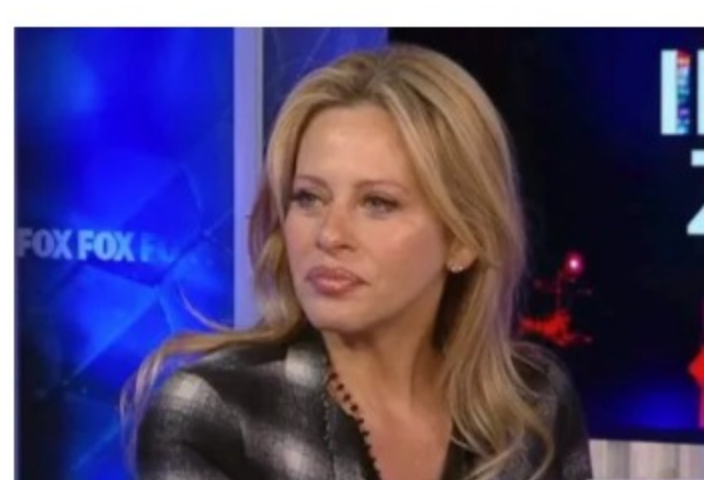
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