

EXHIBIT NO. 6

Witnesses attest to MacDonald's trust, compassion

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Former Green Beret doctor Jeffrey R. MacDonald was described Tuesday as a model husband, loving father, trustworthy comrade and compassionate doctor with special concern for abused children.

Headed by MacDonald's mother, a string of witnesses took the witness stand at his murder trial in U.S. District Court to praise MacDonald for traits exhibited from childhood through his current life as director of emergency medicine at a

large Southern California hospital.

The character witnesses appeared during the 27th day of MacDonald's trial on charges of killing his wife Colette and daughters Kimberly and Kristen Jean on Feb. 17, 1970 in the family's Fort Bragg apartment.

One of the witnesses, Maj. James Williams, recalled his reaction when he heard early on that morning of a murder at the MacDonald home. "Oh, my God, the drug abusers have killed him," flashed through Williams's mind, he said.

MacDonald had been spearheading a program at Fort Bragg to treat Vietnam veterans returning home with drug addictions, Williams said. A confrontation between MacDonald and a suspected abuser had occurred on the afternoon before the family was slain, he said.

Sharon Shaw, who taught Colette MacDonald a course in the American novel at an N.C. State University extension at Fort Bragg, said that at the time of the killings, there was a strong anti-Green Beret senti-

ment on the base. During a class discussion one night, Colette became angry at the characterization of Green Berets as murderers. Mrs. Shaw said, "My husband is a Green Beret, and he's no murderer." Colette MacDonald told the class.

Williams and Mrs. Shaw's testimony was part of a continuing effort by defense attorneys Bernard L. Segal and Wade M. Smith to support MacDonald's claim that his family was killed

See DDC'TOR, page 38

Doctor called 'trustful, loving'

Continued from page 25

by drug-crazed intruders — three men and a woman with long blond hair.

To that end, the defense attorneys also filed a request Tuesday to secure testimony from James E. Friar, 30, an inmate serving a 10-year sentence for fraud at the medium-custody state prison unit in McDowell County.

Friar was convicted April 6, 1977, in Richmond County of writing a check with a fake name and address for men's clothing. Superior Court Judge William Z. Wood, who sentenced Friar, recommended that he receive psychiatric treatment.

Friar told an investigator for MacDonald that about 3 a. m. on the morning of Feb. 17, 1970, he was in Fayetteville. He said he telephoned the MacDonald house by mistake, looking for another doctor named MacDonald.

According to an affidavit by defense investigator John Myers, a woman answered the phone and began laughing when Friar asked for Dr. MacDonald. A male voice in the background said, "Hang the damn phone up," according to the affidavit.

Dupree late Tuesday had not ruled on the request to bring Friar to Raleigh for possible testimony.

The trial testimony Tuesday was aimed at portraying MacDonald to the jurors as a man who could not have committed the savage slaying of his wife and daughters.

"He was a very fine child (with) a sunny disposition," recalled Dorothy "Perry" MacDonald, the defendant's mother.

Describing Colette MacDonald as "responsive, sensitive, delightful," Mrs. MacDonald said that her son and daughter-in-law had a warm and loving relationship that began in high school and strengthened with the passage of time and the birth of their children.

Kimberly, she said, "was an elegant child, probably not the world's greatest beauty but a very intelligent child. She had the sensitivity of Colette."

"Kristy was blonde with blue eyes, more of a little tomboy. On the beach as we would walk down, people would comment on their beauty," Mrs. MacDonald said.

On the New Year's Eve before the killings, she recalled, the adults of the family were going to an officers' club to celebrate. "I remember Jeff embraced her and said she looked truly beautiful," she said.