

Thomas C. Wales

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Thomas Crane Wales (June 23, 1952 – October 11, 2001) was an American [federal prosecutor](#) and [gun control](#) advocate from [Seattle, Washington](#), who was the victim of an unsolved [murder](#).

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Life and work [edit]

Wales was born in [Boston, Massachusetts](#). Wales was a graduate of [Milton Academy](#), where he roomed with [Joseph Patrick Kennedy II](#), whose father [Robert F. Kennedy](#) was assassinated. Wales graduated from [Harvard University](#). He attended [Hofstra Law School](#), where he graduated with distinction in 1979 and served as the Editor-in-Chief of the school's Law Review.

In 1995, a student at the high school that Wales's son attended brought a gun to school and shot and injured two classmates. Soon after, Wales became involved in Washington CeaseFire, most visibly as a vocal supporter of an unsuccessful 1997 state referendum that would have required gun owners to use [trigger locks](#). Wales later became president of CeaseFire. As a community volunteer, he was active in civic organizations and served as a trustee of the [Federal Bar Association](#).

Wales worked as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Seattle specializing in the investigation and prosecution of [fraud](#) in banking and business.^[1]

Death [edit]

On the evening of October 11, 2001, Wales was sitting at his computer in his home office in his basement. A gunman avoided the security lights in Wales' backyard and shot him in the neck, through a window, with a handgun. The killer left shell casings behind. The shots were heard by a neighbor who called [9-1-1](#).^[2]

Legacy [edit]

In his memory, the Thomas C. Wales Foundation was set up to support civic engagement.^[*citation needed*]

Marilyn DeJong organizes the annual Tom Wales Memorial 5K Run.^[*citation needed*]

Thomas C. Wales Park is dedicated to his memory. It is located at 2401 6th Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98109 and is administered by the City of Seattle. <https://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/thomas-c-wales-park>

Murder investigation [edit]

As of 2011, this murder case remains unsolved and no evidence has been found to establish a motive.^{[3][4]} An airplane pilot that Wales had prosecuted was investigated and his home searched, but he was not charged. The Bellevue airline pilot, once prosecuted by Wales, was also a firearms enthusiast. Agents believed he resented Wales' off-duty activism as a leading gun-control advocate.^[5] The pilot later filed a [malicious prosecution](#) claim, but the suit was dismissed.^[6]

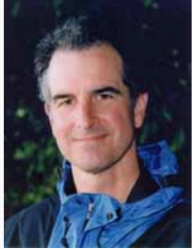
It has been suggested by the media that U.S Attorney [John McKay](#) was dismissed in part due to his request that resource allocation for the Wales investigation remain high. In June 2007, the [FBI](#) cut the staff assigned to the case down to two. There is an [open reward](#) of one million U.S. dollars for information leading to the conclusion of the case.^{[7][8]}

See also [edit]

- [List of Harvard University people](#)
- [Jonathan Luna](#)
- [List of unsolved deaths](#)

References [edit]

- ↑ *An Unsolved Killing* [*?*] August 6, 2007, *The New Yorker*
- ↑ *Federal Prosecutor and Advocate of Gun Control Is Shot to Death* [*?*] October 2001
- ↑ *Unsolved murder: Investigation into the shooting of Tom Wales moves slowly* [*?*] December 19, 2001
- ↑ *Assassination on Queen Anne: A year later, there are few leads in the slaying of assistant U.S. attorney and gun-control advocate Tom Wales* [*?*] September 18, 2002
- ↑ http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/FBI-cuts-agents-looking-into-murder-of-Tom-Wales-1205270.php [*?*]
- ↑ *FBI scours 2 houses owned by pilot in Wales case* [*?*] September 20, 2006
- ↑ *"Help Us Find a Killer"* [*?*]. Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- ↑ *FBI cuts agents looking into murder of Tom Wales: At least two will remain on case of federal prosecutor* [*?*] June 3, 2006

Thomas Wales	
	
Thomas Crane Wales.	
Born	June 23, 1952 Boston, Massachusetts.
Died	October 11, 2001 (aged 49) Seattle, Washington
Cause of death	Murder
Occupation	US federal prosecutor



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