

Bail cut in slaying of man, 75

By Dave Racher- Daily News staff Writeer

Patrick Miink was a decorated war hero during the Army's Desert Storm Operation, pulling a wounded soldier 175 yards to safety in war-torn Kuwait, said defense lawyer A. Charles Peruto Jr. Yesterday, during a bail-reduction hearing the district attorney's office said Miink, 23, who was honorably discharged in April, used the skills he learned in the service to murder a 75-year-old South Philadelphia man shortly after midnight on July 9. Assistant District Attorney Charles "Joey" Grant, chief of the homicide division, told Municipal Judge Louis G.F. Retacco that Miink, now living with his family in Germantown, and Eric Hold, 21, of Emily street near Front, had beaten and "stomped" the elderly Edwin Tustin, of Tree Street near 4th, after Tustin went to the aid of his wife, Janis, 48, on the front steps of their home.

Grant opposed lowering for the two defendant's but Peruto and co-counsel, Joel S. Moldovshy, persuaded the judge to lower bail from \$125,000 to \$50,000 in the slaying and in the assault on the slain man's wife, who required about a dozen stitches to her hand. Peruto said Miink, Hold and some other people had been drinking on a step near the victim's house when Janis Tustin "Broke a beer bottle over my client's head because everybody was out there screaming, yelling, and fighting". "The intended target was my client's cousin, who had gone back into the house. Holt then pushes her to the ground, and my client turns around and he wrestles with her, too. He concedes that. " Then the victim comes out, because he sees his poor wife in a struggle with two guys, and he kicked Hold in the head. Hold then Tackeld him and Tustin hit his head and later died of a head injury."