

Carjack suspect shot by victim

Retired officer is wounded in shootout

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Retiree J.D. Hudson had 41 years of experience in Atlanta law enforcement to draw on when he was approached Thursday night by two would-be robbers at his south Fulton County home.

By Hudson's account, as told to police, two armed men wearing dark clothes and ski masks approached him from behind as he got out of his late-model Cadillac in the Cascade Glen neighborhood.

Gunshots shattered the nighttime quiet — neighbors estimate 15 to 20, but a police spokesman would only say "numerous" shots were fired.

When the smoke had cleared, Hudson lay wounded in his driveway. One of the assailants was in the street dead, his semiautomatic pistol a few feet from his hand. The other gunman had fled, apparently on foot, police say.

"If they tried to carjack me, I'd say, 'Take the keys,' but that's not J.D.'s way," said next-door neighbor Steve Holland, who likened Hudson to a popular movie detective played by actor Richard Roundtree 30 years ago.

"J.D. is like a retired John Shaft — tough as nails," Holland said. "He would take no garbage from anybody. The only thing that is going to kill J.D. is old age."

Hudson, 77, who was among a small group of black officers who helped integrate the Atlanta police force in the late 1940s, was listed in stable condition Friday afternoon at Grady Memorial Hospital. Before retiring in 1990, he was the city's director of

Carjack: Retiree kills one suspect

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corrections.

"We understand that Mr. Hudson was shot in the shoulder, hip and back," said police Lt. Darryl Halbert. "The wounds didn't affect any vital organs."

Halbert added that the motive appears to have been attempted carjacking.

An autopsy completed Friday afternoon determined that the slain man, in his late 20s or early 30s, died of a gunshot to the chest that hit a lung and the pulmonary artery, said medical examiner's investigator Mike Alsip.

Authorities have not determined the man's identity; his fingerprints were sent to the FBI.

"We do have several possible names, but we haven't been able to confirm a date of birth," Alsip said. Police also are trying to find the other man.

Hudson's son, Tony, said he spoke with his father Friday morning at the hospital and that Hudson was "doing fine."

Says he shot both

The gunbattle occurred around 10:30 p.m. Thursday in the upscale community of two-story homes off Cascade Road.

Tony Hudson said his father told him that two men with guns approached him in his driveway as he got out of his car, and Hudson shot both men.

The younger Hudson did not say what was said between his father and the suspects.

Holland said he and his wife, Deirdre, both heard 10 to 20 rapid shots Thursday night. Holland's wife called 911 and as soon as he heard police sirens minutes later, Holland went outside and saw Hudson lying in his driveway. Hudson's wife, Delores, had rested his head on a pillow and covered him with a blanket.

"He was in pain, obviously, but he talked the whole time until the ambulance came," Holland said. "He said there were two of them, 'and I shot them.'" Holland recounted.

Holland said Hudson indicated "that he had no doubt that there were two of them."

Gerald Howard, another neighbor, said Hudson was among the first four homeowners in Cascade Glen when the subdivision was built about 15 years ago. He said the neighborhood is quiet and has good access to I-285 and Atlanta.

He said Hudson spent his retirement years "living the life of leisure, and golfing every day. He was in fine shape, so all that golfing must have done him some good last night," Howard said.

"I see no need to leave the neighborhood because of this," Howard added. "If I moved somewhere else, something like this could happen there, too."