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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: October 28, 2004

Re: Michelle Joe Parole Hearing

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Michelle Joe, 34, was found unsuitable for parole at an October 28<sup>th</sup> hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney Beth O’Hara appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the planned, callous and vicious killing of Sherman Robbins.

On March 22, 1994, World War II veteran, Sherman Robbins, 68 years old , was house-sitting in Modesto for his brother . While house sitting, Michelle Joe, along with Daniel Whalen, contrived a story to gain entry into the house while Robbins was present. Joe enlisted the help of Whalen to “fake” a car break down. Robbins allowed their entry into the house and offered them food ,drink and help with their car. Joe used Robbins’ telephone and pretended to call for automotive help. Robbins, in return, was hogtied with a “tie” binding his arms and legs behind him and shot point blank with a shot gun. He was left to die on the couch. He was found at a later date by family whom were concerned that he was not answering the phone. Items were stolen from the house and traded for money.

Michelle Joe was convicted of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder while armed with a shotgun. Joe is serving 16 years to life and was being considered for parole for the first time. Present at the hearing were Robbin’s surviving family members who urged the Board to deny her parole request.

Parole was denied and Joe will be scheduled for another hearing in 4 years.

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