



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District
Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: July 2, 2009

Re: John Free parole denial

Contact: Carol Shipley

Assistant District Attorney

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that John Free, age 59, formerly of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at a July 1, 2009 hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings at Solano State Prison. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on lack of rehabilitation, poor parole plans and significant disciplinary history while incarcerated. The Board of Prison Hearings agreed and denied parole for seven years.

On October 18, 1979, John Free and his brother, Joe, stabbed Luther Fear six times and shot him twice at close range with a .45 caliber pistol over a dispute regarding a woman that all three had been involved with. Joe Free pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and served six years in prison. John Free was convicted of Murder in 1980 and was sentenced to eighteen years to life in prison.

John Free has been incarcerated for this crime for almost thirty years. This was his eighth parole hearing. John Free's prison disciplinary record included two stabbings, weapons offenses and resulted in him being locked down in the most secure facility available, the Secured Housing Unit (SHU), for forty months. He had no job offers and inadequate plans for his future income.

###