PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 3, 2009
Re: Jimmy McVane - Parole denied for man who murdered his stepfather

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jimmy McVane, age 78, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at a hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings in Folsom Prison. Deputy District Attorney Thomas Brennan appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the newly enacted “Marsy’s Law” passed by California voters. “Marsy’s Law” increases the period of time a life inmate must serve in prison after a parole denial before he/she can again appeal to the Board of Prison Terms for release on parole. The new maximum period of denial is 15 years.

Brennan argued that despite McVane’s advanced age his release on parole into Stanislaus County would create an unreasonable public safety risk. McVane offered the Parole Board no plans should he be released. When asked by the Parole Commissioner what he did after the murder, McVane responded he went back into his house and had a “good night’s sleep.” When the Parole Commissioner reminded McVane that Modesto police officers had to resort to tear gas to extricate him from the house, McVane responded, “that wasn’t until the next day. They (police) never asked me to come outside.”

On June 7, 1980, Jimmy McVane was 49 years old when he shot his stepfather, James Jordan, in the torso with a .44 magnum revolver outside the family home in Modesto. Jordan collapsed in the street after the first shot. McVane then stood over Jordan and fired three more rounds into Jordan’s torso. McVane then retreated into the house. Modesto police officers were unable to get McVane out of his house and into custody. Police resorted to throwing tear gas into the home causing McVane to walk out approximately 9 hours after the murder. McVane has a history of violence and disruption in the Department of Corrections which has him classified as a “high risk” inmate.

McVane was convicted of murdering his stepfather and was sentenced to a term of 17 years to life in state prison. The Board of Prison Terms imposed a ten-year denial.

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