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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 3, 2013
Re: Arthur Lane Yeary

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Arthur Yeary, age 54, formerly of Modesto, stipulated that he is currently unsuitable for parole at an April 3, 2013 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at San Quentin State Prison. District Attorney Birgit Fladager, who was the attorney at the 1997 jury trial, appeared at the hearing to argue against the granting of a parole date for Yeary.

On November 30/December 1, 1990, Arthur Yeary murdered his 69-year-old great aunt, Joy Bell Goad, inside her home on Dallas Street by repeatedly striking her in the head with a hammer. He then wrapped Joy Bell Goad in a blanket from her bed and buried her in her own backyard along with her purse, the hammer and a mop he had used to clean up the scene. Mrs. Goad's son reported her missing on December 1st and a subsequent search of the home by sheriff's detectives revealed a crime scene that had been cleaned up but no sign of the victim.

Joy Bell Goad had allowed the homeless and perpetually unemployed Yeary to live in a camper shell in her backyard. Testimony at the trial indicated that Yeary was living off the elderly woman who was subsisting on a small, fixed income. He refused to get a job or even apply for food stamps. A friend of the victim testified that Joy was going to tell Yeary on December 1st that he had to leave. Yeary continued to live in the trailer for almost a year after the victim disappeared. When other family members began clearing out the trash-strewn backyard, Yeary left Modesto. While digging in the backyard, Goad's nephew found her purse with her wallet inside. Upon excavation of the backyard, Joy Bell Goad's body was recovered and a warrant was issued for Yeary's arrest. He remained on the run until he was arrested in Mississippi in 1996. The television show "America's Most Wanted" had profiled the case in the hope that someone would turn Yeary in to authorities.

Prior to the commencement of the hearing, Yeary agreed that he had inadequate parole plans and stipulated to a 3-year denial. He will be scheduled for another parole hearing in 2016.

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