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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 5, 2017
Re: Rudy Milan Blanusa
Convicted killer granted parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Rudy Milan Blanusa, age 64, of Modesto, was found suitable for parole during a June 28, 2017, proceeding of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the California Medical Facility Prison in Vacaville.

Deputy District Attorney Randy Fischer appeared at the hearing and argued for Blanusa's continued incarceration based on the violent nature of his commitment offense and lack of rehabilitation. The hearing was attended by several of the victims' next of kin who also opposed release on parole.

On October 14, 1986, Blanusa and crime partners Chris Towler and Ed Haro killed Gilbert and Joseph Flores believing they had burglarized Haro's home. Haro had threatened on several occasions to kill the persons who stole his property and deliberately searched for them with Blanusa and Towler in tow. Once found, the Flores brothers were kidnapped at gunpoint and taken to a remote orchard in rural Stanislaus County where they were shot twelve times with three different guns.

Blanusa fled California before law enforcement could arrest him. After several years in hiding, he was captured in Canada after his case was profiled on the "America's Most Wanted" television show and a viewer turned him in to authorities. He was extradited from Canada in June of 1989. Blanusa, Haro and Towler were convicted at separate jury trials of the two murders and two counts of false imprisonment along with firearms enhancements. They were sentenced to over thirty years-to-life in prison.

At the time of the murders, Blanusa was affiliated with several Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, including the Hell's Angels and Barhoppers, where he earned the street name of "Mayhem Mike." During the parole hearing, he claimed to have committed the murders because he was loyal to his friends 'to a fault,' a different version from his statements at previous parole hearings.

This was Blanusa's third parole hearing. In January of 2016, he was given a 3-year denial based upon a psychological report that determined he posed an unreasonable risk to public safety if released. Unfortunately, under new rules passed by the State Legislature for 'elderly' inmates, Blanusa was able to accelerate his parole hearing to June 28, 2017. The same 2016 psychological report was used once again this year, prompting Parole Commissioner Anderson to state in his findings that Blanusa was "violent beyond our imagination" before granting him a parole date. Commissioner Anderson previously granted parole to Blanusa's crime partner, Ed Haro, in 2011.

Blanusa will be released within 120-150 days unless Governor Jerry Brown overturns the Board's decision. Blanusa's parole plans include living in Hughson with his mother.

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