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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 2, 2021
Re: Jack Dewayne Britt
Killer granted parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that convicted killer Jack Dewayne Britt, age 56, of Modesto, has been granted parole after a June 17, 2021 hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings held at the California Correctional Center. Deputy District Attorney Vita Palazuelos appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In 1981, Britt then, age 17, and Jonathan McIntyre and Stoney Lynn Hunt decided to kidnap 51-year-old Modesto school teacher John Crahan. The group believed the victim, who lived with his mother, had access to a substantial amount of money which they could extort from him. In the early morning hours of December 1, 1981, they went Crahan's home in Modesto to carry out their plan. Crahan, who had heard rumors about a possible kidnapping plot, resisted being taken by shooting at the group as they approached him in his driveway. Britt shot Crahan in the chest, killing him.

In 1982, Britt pled guilty to second degree murder with use of a firearm and attempted kidnapping for ransom. He was sentenced to serve 17 years-to-life in state prison.

Codefendant Jonathan McIntyre was convicted at jury trial of first degree murder, attempted kidnapping for robbery and conspiracy to kidnap for the purposes of robbery. He was sentenced to 25 years-to-life in state prison. Stoney Lynn Hunt was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to serve 16 years-to-life in state prison.

A 2021 psychological assessment rated Britt as a moderate risk for violence if released on parole. The psychologist noted Britt was counseled for disobeying an order in 2018 and failing to respond to notices in 2020. Such conduct was notable as relatively recent indications of behavioral instability and challenges with complying with institutional rules.

Prosecutor Palazuelos argued against Britt's release, however this time the Board determined that he no longer posed an unreasonable danger to society and was suitable for parole, noting that Britt had participated in numerous self-help and vocational programs.

Britt had previously been denied parole 13 times.

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