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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 11, 2010
Re: William Sizemore-Parole Granted

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that William Sizemore, age 45, of Columbus, Ohio, was granted a parole date at a hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings on February 2, 2010, at Soledad State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Richard Gore appeared at the hearing and argued against parole based on the risk of danger to the public that he may pose should he be released into the community. The Board of Prison Hearings disagreed and concluded that Sizemore would not pose a danger to the community if paroled.

On October 21, 1983, Sizemore, then nineteen, along with his crime partner, Michael Chandler, 28, were traveling through California with victim William Martin, 52, in Martin's motor home. Sizemore and Chandler hatched a plan to rob Martin and take his motor home. The three men pulled off the road in Modesto and Chandler and Sizemore took Martin out into an orchard where Chandler pulled out a gun and shot Martin to death. The pair left with the motor home and were arrested a few days later while committing additional crimes in Iowa.

On June 27, 1984, Sizemore was convicted by a jury of first degree murder. He was serving a 25 years-to-life prison sentence. Sizemore had been denied parole on five prior occasions, and he had been granted parole on February 24, 2008. The Board's February 24, 2008 decision had been reversed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

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