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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 16, 2013
Re: Parole Hearing for Frank Ford

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Frank Ford, 49, of Modesto was found suitable for parole at an August 7, 2013, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings conducted at the California State Prison, Solano, located in Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney John Goulart appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the cruel and callous manner in which the life crime was carried out, Ford's failure to obtain a GED while in prison despite having ample opportunity to do so in the over 30 years that he has been in prison, and the unreasonable risk to the public posed by releasing Ford. The Board of Parole Hearings disagreed and granted parole.

On June 6, 1982, when Frank Ford was 17 years of age, he and three others went to the home of Dixon Flinders to rob him. They knocked on Mr. Flinders's door and announced themselves as drug agents. When Mr. Flinders refused to open the door, they kicked it open and Ford, seeing Mr. Flinders standing in the doorway of his bedroom with a rifle in hand, shot and killed Mr. Flinders with one shot to the chest. Ford and his accomplices then robbed a 19 year old girl who was present in the home, taking her purse, some seashells, a tape player and Mr. Flinders's rifle.

Frank Ford was convicted by a jury of First Degree Murder with the use of a gun, First Degree Burglary, and Robbery. He was sentenced on March 19, 1984 to 27 years to life in prison. He has been eligible for parole for 12 years but has been found unsuitable for parole at each hearing until now. He has been discipline free in prison for the past eight years during which time he completed several vocational and educational programs offered in the prison. He has accepted responsibility for the crime, expressed remorse for his actions, and submitted detailed written self-assessments to the Hearings panel offering insight into why he committed such a heinous crime. His attorney, Tracy Lum, submitted several letters of support including employment offers and concrete living arrangements for Ford once he is paroled.

The Board of Parole Hearings' decision will be final in 120 days.

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