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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 23, 2013
Re: Michelle Joe

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michelle Joe, age 43, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a September 11, 2013 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the women's prison in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney Sandra L. Bishop appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the particularly gruesome nature of the murder and that Ms. Joe continues to pose a danger to society based on the callous nature of the murder, her poor institutional adjustment and her continued minimization of her responsibility for the murder. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for 5 years.

On March 21, 1994, Ms. Joe recruited two accomplices to assist her in robbing sixty-eight year old Sherman Robbins. Ms. Joe had briefly met the victim a few days before the murder at the home in which the victim was house sitting. On the day of the murder, Ms. Joe used a ruse to gain entry into the home and, once she and her female crime partner were inside the home, she signaled her male crime partner to enter. She and her accomplices bound the partially disabled victim and removed items from the home. The male crime partner shot the bound victim in the head with a shotgun, killing him. After the murder, Ms. Joe traded the stolen items for methamphetamine. Michelle Joe was convicted of second degree murder while armed with a firearm and is serving 16 years to life in state prison. Michelle Joe will be scheduled for another hearing in 2018.

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