



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: October 31, 2017  
Re: Christopher Towler  
Triple Killer Released on Parole

### **For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Christopher Scott Towler, age 61, of Ceres, was found suitable for parole during a State Board of Parole hearing on October 10<sup>th</sup> at the state prison in Solano. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey Mangar appeared at the hearing and strenuously argued for Towler's continued confinement based on the callousness of the murders and the risk to public safety should he be released.

On February 14, 1986, two brothers, Joe Flores, age 29, of Turlock, and Gilbert Flores, age 27, of Modesto, were found dead in a peach orchard in Ceres. Both bodies contained numerous gunshot wounds from three different guns. An autopsy revealed that Gilbert Flores was shot eight times in the skull and torso; Joe Flores was shot twice in the back of the head and twice in the torso.

Detectives discovered that Towler was affiliated with the "Hells Angels" outlaw motorcycle gang where he proudly earned his nickname, "The Devil." Towler believed that the Flores brothers had burglarized his friend's home and were "peddling" the stolen property. Towler confronted the brothers and drove them to an orchard. Despite the Flores brothers' pleas that they weren't involved with the burglary, Towler shot and killed them both. He then told two cohorts who were present that they also had to shoot the victims so they would be equally responsible. After the shooting, Towler and his crime partners drove to a nearby bar and drank beer.

In 1987, Towler was convicted of two counts of second degree murder with use of a firearm and sentenced to life in prison.

Towler had been previously convicted of second degree murder in 1978 after he killed a witness who had previously testified against him in a narcotic sales case. Towler received a six-year prison sentence for that crime and was paroled in 1982, only to then reoffend by committing the double murder in 1986.

Even while in the strict prison environment, Towler was disciplined in 1989 for manufacturing alcohol. In 1993, he was disciplined for having a positive urine sample which contained an unauthorized prescription pain medication.

The victims' family appeared at the parole hearing and asked that Towler not be released. What they found troubling was the fact that Towler has been making motorcycle related "Dark Art" under his gang nickname "The Devil" which shows that Towler still maintains connections to the motorcycle community which is the same environment he was involved in when he committed these murders.

A prison psychologist gave an opinion that Towler was at a "moderate" risk to reoffend if released back into our community. Towler's version of the crime had always been inconsistent with the facts of the case, and he has been criticized by previous Parole Boards for minimizing his responsibility for the crime and denying his true level of involvement.

Despite the objections from the District Attorney's Office and the victims' family, Towler was granted parole. Unless Governor Brown overturns the ruling of the two commissioners, Towler will be released in approximately 150 days.

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