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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: August 27, 2018

John Goold, Public Information Liaison

Re: Murderer granted parole; dies before release

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Edwin Munis, age 71, formerly of Tuolumne County, was found suitable for parole at a July 11, 2018 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Solano State Prison. He died less than a month later during the review process. Family members had been preparing to submit letters to the Governor to request he overturn the decision.

Munis had been denied parole just one year earlier. At that hearing, the commissioners recommended a 3-year denial and found the crime was committed in a gruesome manner, Munis lacked insight into the crime and posed a risk of danger to the public. Nonetheless, he was able to advance his hearing due to recent changes in the law. District Attorney Fladager appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People. She was the prosecutor during the 1997 jury trial when Munis was convicted of first degree murder.

On September 5, 1996, an OID ditch tender found a body floating in the canal near South Stearns Road and Warnerville Road outside of Oakdale, Ca. An investigation by the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office revealed that Wilma Munis, age 52, had been strangled and dumped in the canal. Her husband, Edwin Munis, was later arrested for the murder after witnesses placed the two of them together in Oakdale in her distinctive burgundy Lincoln Town Car which was when she was last seen. The day after her body was found, the Town Car was found on a canal access road just below Tulloch Lake which was about 3 miles from the Munis home. Evidence at trial revealed prior acts of domestic violence including strangulation and established that the staged crime scene was an attempt by Edwin Munis to make it appear as if his wife had committed suicide by jumping into the canal outside of Tulloch Lake.

District Attorney Fladager attended the parole hearing and argued against parole based on Munis's total lack of remorse and absolute failure to accept any responsibility. He continued to maintain that his wife's death was a suicide.

Booking photo from arrest attached.

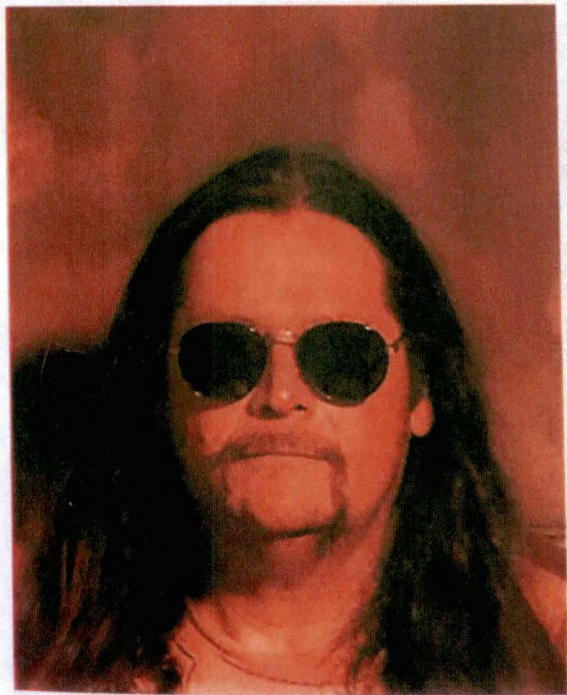
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Stanislaus County Sheriff



MUNIS, EDWIN VINCENT