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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 9, 2018
Re: David Paul Ruff
5-Year Parole Denial for convicted killer

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that convicted killer David Paul Ruff, age 65, has been denied parole during a hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings held on November 6, 2018 at Donovan State Prison in California. Deputy District Attorney Rori Robinson attended the hearing representing the People.

On November 5, 1989, Ruff intentionally drove his car at high speed into another car being driven by his brother Troy, causing Troy's car to spin-out and hit a power pole. The force of the rear-end crash killed Troy's girlfriend and seriously injured Troy and his 14-year-old daughter who was also in the car at the time.

Ruff ran from the scene but was found in a nearby abandoned house with injuries consistent with having been in the collision. A chemical test showed his blood alcohol level to be 0.24%, three times the legal limit, and that he had been abusing cocaine. Ruff was arrested and charged with murder, attempted murder and driving under the influence causing great bodily injury.

On October 2, 1990, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury found Ruff guilty of the charges. He was subsequently sentenced to serve 26 years to life in state prison.

During the hearing on November 6th at Donovan state prison, prosecutor Robinson argued to the Board that Ruff was unsuitable for parole on the grounds that he failed to make any showing of a shift in his criminal mind set and had not participated sufficiently in programming to gain an understanding of the factors that led him to commit the crime. Robinson also argued that Ruff failed to show any real plan for dealing with his underlying substance abuse issues if he were released from custody. Finally, Robinson argued that Ruff showed he was still unable to control his anger and impulsiveness having recently violated prison rules on two occasions.

The Parole Board decided that Ruff posed a continuing danger to the community if he were to be released, that he showed a lack of understanding with regards to what caused him to commit the murder, lacked insight into his anger and impulsiveness issues and had not taken advantage of self-help or educational programs available to him while incarcerated. Accordingly, they denied parole for 5 more years.

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