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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 6, 2020
Re: Ray Stanley Walters
Convicted Killer Granted Parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ray Stanley Walters, age 74, formerly of Modesto, was granted parole during a March 3, 2020, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Solano State Prison in Vacaville, California. Deputy District Attorney Merrill Hoult appeared on behalf of the People.

Walters was convicted of murder for the November 17, 1991 shooting death of his neighbor, Randy Fernandes. Walters confronted the unarmed victim in front of Walters's home in the early morning hours and shot him in the chest without provocation. Walters then went inside and went to sleep without calling the police for assistance. Walters was an alcoholic who reportedly carried a .38 caliber revolver during confrontations with neighbors. He had been overheard at least once expressing his dislike of the victim and his intention to shoot the victim if their disagreements continued.

At the hearing, Deputy District Attorney Hoult asked the Board to deny parole since Walters currently poses a high risk of danger to society. Hoult argued that Walters lacked insight into what caused him to commit the senseless murder and that he has not shown remorse for his actions. The victim's family members were in attendance and asked the Board to deny Walters parole. The victim's nephew provided a written statement telling the Board "I don't care what age a person is, it doesn't take much to pull a trigger on a gun to shoot someone."

The Board agreed that Walters still displayed "limited insight" into what caused him to commit the crime. Nonetheless, the Board granted parole finding that Walters does not pose an unreasonable risk to public safety given his advanced age and his good behavior while in prison. Walters is serving an 18-years-to-life prison sentence. He has previously been denied parole four times.

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