



MEDIA RELEASE

Benicia Police Department

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(Benicia, Calif.) The Benicia Police Department is pleased to announce that it has solved the identity of a torso found off the Benicia shoreline in 1979.

The case was reopened in July this year when the Doe Network contacted Solano County Coroner's Office advising that a body found in 1979 might have been matched with an identity. However, after further investigation our detectives determined that the identity was not related to the torso.

Benicia Detective Sergeant Kenneth Hart continued his quest on the case and expanded the search of missing women in 1979 from the areas of Sacramento to San Francisco. While 11 results returned similar, one stood out: Dolores Wulff.

On July 31, 1979, 45-year-old Dolores Wulff vanished in the middle of the night from her home in Woodland, Yolo County, Calif. At that time, her husband was looked at as a prime suspect and was arrested, but ultimately the case was dismissed due to lack of evidence. He died in 2005.

Dolores left behind four kids and a community of friends who over the years worked to find answers. Working with the Yolo County Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Hart requested their assistance in obtaining a DNA swab from one of the living children.

After an extensive investigation and with the cooperation of the Solano County Sheriff's Office, the body found in 1979 was exhumed and matched with the DNA swab.

On October 20, 2020 Benicia Police Department was notified by the Department of Justice DNA lab that the femur bone from the partial recovered body was in fact Dolores Wulff's.

"We are so glad to be able to bring a sort of closure to the Wulff family after decades of uncertainty," Interim Chief of Police Mike Greene said. "I am also proud of Sgt. Hart and his team's tenacity on this case."

"This case has haunted my office and, in fact, all of Yolo County since 1979. Countless hours were spent investigating Dolores Wulff's disappearance. It is my hope that this provides some closure to the family who has suffered so much. I am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our law enforcement community who made this identification possible,

including the members of the Benicia Police Department for their incredible efforts,” Yolo County Sheriff Tom Lopez said.

The Benicia Police Department would like to thank the assistance from the Wulff family, the Doe Network, Solano County Coroner’s Office and Yolo County Sheriff’s Office on this case.

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