



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."


NEWS RELEASE


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Prepared by: Ava Hanner, Public Affairs Office
Phone and Email: 386-262-8066, AHanner@flaglersheriff.com
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FCSO Cold Case Unit Needs Help Identifying 1993 Cold Case Homicide Victim

New Information and Facial Approximation Are Now Available to Help Solve This Case

BUNNELL, FL – The Flagler County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) Cold Case Unit has been actively investigating a cold case homicide of an unidentified female from 1993.





FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COLD CASE UNIT
UNSOLVED HOMICIDES

CASE #: 93-754

WHO: UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE AROUND 25-35 YOA WHEN KILLED AROUND 1990-1991

WHEN: BODY FOUND ON JANUARY 10, 1993


WHERE: SEA SHIP PLACE, PALM COAST, FL

SPECIAL ATTENTION: SOUTH CAROLINA

"I WAS MURDERED! WHO AM I AND DO YOU KNOW WHO KILLED ME?"

THROUGH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH, THIS VICTIM WAS FOUND TO BE A DESCENDANT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON COLEMAN AND CLARISSA MINNICK FROM THE EDGEFIELD/AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA AREA. AT LEAST 30 RELATIVES HAVE BEEN CONTACTED FROM THE EXTENSIVE FAMILY TREE, BUT SO FAR, HER IDENTITY REMAINS UNKNOWN.

CALL THE FCSO COLD CASE UNIT AT 386-313-4911 OR EMAIL TIPS@FLAGLERSHERIFF.COM



L: Facial Approximation of the Unknown Victim (Image Credit: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Forensic Imaging Unit)

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In January of 1993, two young boys were playing basketball at the end of their cul-de-sac on Sea Ship Place. Their basketball went into the woods and when they went to retrieve their basketball, they found skeletal remains under some brush.

At the time, FCSO investigated the incident with assistance from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). They located partial skeletal remains and collected other items of evidence from the scene. Forensic Anthropologists from the University of Florida and the Medical Examiner's Office were able to provide the following estimates about the victim in 1993:

- She had been deceased for approximately 2-3 years
- She is a white female, possibly Indian
- 25-35 years old (she would have been born between 1955-1965)
- Approximately 64 inches in height (5 ft 3 inches)
- Has an old right nasal fracture

A facial approximation was completed in 1993 and distributed to news media for dissemination. Since then, several missing persons cases have been compared to this victim, but no matches were ever made.

In 2021, Sheriff Rick Staly created a Cold Case Unit to investigate old unresolved cases involving homicide, missing persons, and sexual battery to bring closure to victims and their families and to hold offenders accountable.

In July 2021, a DNA laboratory, Othram, was able to develop a DNA profile for the victim. It was also discovered that the victim is African American, possibly mixed with Caucasian. Through investigative genetic genealogy (IGG) research, Othram was able to establish this victim is a descendant of George Washington Coleman and Clarissa Minnick from the Edgefield/Aiken, South Carolina area.

In 2022, Detective Sarah Scalia was assigned to the Cold Case Unit to investigate unsolved cases in Flagler County. DNA technology is evolving constantly, so all FCSO cold cases are in the process of undergoing new DNA processing in hopes of identifying the victims, if unknown, to determine who they are and, hopefully, who did it.

Detective Scalia and Othram are actively engaged in research in hopes of identifying this victim. At least 30 relatives have been contacted from the extensive family tree, but so far, her identity remains unknown. One of these relatives is Donya Williams who is a genealogist with an organization called Genealogy Adventures. Ms. Williams has shared her knowledge of African American genealogy and

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specific expertise of the region of Edgefield, South Carolina with Detective Scalia in hopes of identifying this victim. Detective Scalia has also been working with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office in South Carolina and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to help identify this victim.

On January 10, 2023, on the 30th anniversary of her discovery, Detective Scalia hand-delivered the victim's skull to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) Forensic Imaging Unit. After a careful review of the skull and the ancestry information provided to them, PBSO forensic artists were able to reconstruct the victim's skull and create a new facial approximation. It should be noted that facial reconstructions aim to achieve a likeness of the unidentified individual and should not be viewed as a portrait of the individual.

"We hope that someone may be able to identify this woman so we can bring closure to her family who has been waiting for over 30 years to know what happened to her," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "We know someone out there knows something, so call us. We also thank the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office for assisting us, especially their Forensic Imaging Unit, the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and our other community partners."

If anyone has any information on the identity of this victim or information about her death, please contact the FCSO Cold Case Unit, Detective Scalia (sscalia@flaglersheriff.com), email TIPS@flaglersheriff.com, or call FCSO at 386-313-4911 or call CrimeStoppers of NE Florida at 888-277-TIPS. CrimeStoppers of NE Florida offers a reward of up to \$5,000.00.



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61 Sheriff EW Johnston Drive, Bunnell, FL 32110

386-437-4116 - Fax 386-586-4888

Mailing: P.O. Box 879, Bunnell, FL 32110

www.flaglersheriff.com