



NEWS RELEASE

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VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Thomas Young (DOB 5/19/47), of Birmingham, Alabama, was sentenced today for the July 30, 1980, murder of 15-year-old Stacy Knappenberger, in Oxnard.

Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Bennett sentenced Young to life in prison without the possibility of parole after a jury found him guilty on February 26, 2015, of first-degree murder in the commission of rape.

The murder took place during the daytime when Young entered the home of teenager Stacy Knappenberger through a back door, brutally raping and killing her. Young's identity as the murderer remained unknown for the next 30 years, until DNA he left at the crime scene was matched to a DNA sample taken from him by law enforcement in 2008, when he was arrested for molesting his 16-year-old granddaughter in Illinois. Young was subsequently located in Alabama by the Ventura County Cold Case Task Force and arrested for the murder on September 6, 2012. He was then extradited to Ventura, where a jury subsequently found him guilty of the murder in the commission of rape on February 26, 2015.

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