



Greg Capers, Sheriff

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Press Release

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San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office Closes a 1982 Cold Case Murder Investigation

On May 12, 2017, at approximately 12 noon, the San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office Patrol Tactical Unit executed a Felony Warrant on Robert Earl Nard, BM 73 years of age, for the 1982 murder of Debra Ann Huffman of Houston. Mr. Nard was taken into custody at his residence in Harris County without incident.

On or about the 7th of May, 1982, the San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office responded to the report of a deceased woman in the roadway on FM 2666. Investigation linked the deceased female to a missing person case in Harris County. Initial reports indicated she was abducted during a robbery in Harris County. It was later learned that the female victim knew the male suspect in this case. The case, although a warrant was issued and the suspect arrested, sat dormant for approximately 5 years after the suspect posted bond. The District Attorney, in office at that time, chose to dismiss the case. This case rested in the murder files of the Sheriff's Office since that time.

In late 2015, Lieutenant Tracy Shipley (Retired) began working with our cold case files. Lt. Shipley was previously a long-time homicide detective with Harris County Sheriff's Office before taking on the lead of Sheriff Greg Capers' Detective Bureau. Lt. Shipley, after researching this case, determined that it was still viable and took the case to District Attorney Robert Trapp. Mr. Trapp reviewed the case and agreed that it was still viable and presented the case to a Grand Jury in San Jacinto County. The Grand Jury returned an indictment on this case and the warrant was issued. Lt. Mike Flynt and his Patrol Tactical Unit served the warrant today.

Lt. Shipley's diligence on Cold Cases resurrected this case and its conclusion. Several other Cold Cases have been brought to bear since her work on this case. The San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office will continue to pursue Cold Cases in our county to bring closure in each instance.