

This pedestrian died 29 years ago on Park Blvd. Police just learned his name.



Pinellas Park police say they've finally identified a pedestrian who was killed while trying to cross Park Boulevard nearly three decades ago: Maurice Glenn Cooksey Jr. died on July 22, 1989 at the age of 66. [Pinellas Park Police Department]

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PINELLAS PARK — Police say they've solved the 29-year-old mystery behind the identity of a pedestrian killed while trying to cross Park Boulevard N.

His name is Maurice Glenn Cooksey Jr., according to Pinellas Park police. He died on July 22, 1989 at the age of 66.

According to police, Cooksey was trying to cross Park Boulevard N near the 4600 block at about 9:34 a.m. when he was struck by a semi-tractor trailer. No charges were filed at the time, police said, because it was determined the pedestrian was at a fault.

Cooksey also didn't have any identification on him, so police couldn't figure out who he was. Thus his family was never told of his death.

Then it became a cold case. In 2008, the pedestrian's information, such as DNA, dental records and approximate facial features, were sent to NamUs, or the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. It's a national database of missing persons and unidentified remains.

The last piece of the puzzle fell into place on Sept. 27. That's when Cooksey's family finally reported his disappearance to Pinellas Park police. He went missing from a medical facility in 1989, police learned, but due to a miscommunication his caregiver never filed a missing persons report, thus his name was never entered into any databases.

The family on Friday looked at photographs of Cooksey and, with the aid of the national database and the Pinellas-Pasco Medical Examiner's Office, positively identified Cooksey as the pedestrian who died in 1989.