

# Woman found dead in Fort Wayne basement in 1992 identified more than 30 years later

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*Published: Feb. 14, 2024 at 6:24 PM EST*

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (WPTA) - 21Alive News has confirmed the identity of a woman found dead in a Fort Wayne basement in 1992.

**Tabetha Ann Murlin**, who was about 26 weeks pregnant at the time of her death, was found dead in the basement of 3512 Reynolds St. on May 15, 1992. Known as [Mary Jane Doe](#) for nearly the last 32 years, she was found wrapped in a blanket in a basement that was flooded with about six to eight inches of water.

A family member of Murlin's confirmed her identity with 21Alive News Wednesday evening.

Investigators in 1992 initially believed she may have been homeless at the time of her death and died from exposure. At a press conference Thursday morning, officials are expected to give more details about the timeline leading up to the last time Murlin was seen, when her remains were found and the three-decades-long effort to identify her.

An examination of her remains was unable to determine if foul play was involved in her death because of the advanced state of decomposition but did rule out stab wounds and gunshot wounds as her cause of death. Given the conditions of the flooded basement Murlin was found, the coroner's office believed she died sometime between late 1991 and early 1992.

Murlin was found wearing:

- A light blue or gray Windcrest jacket;
- A knit striped shirt;
- Black sweatpants;
- Pink Reebok sneakers;
- A gold-colored braided necklace; and
- A gold-colored loop necklace with three-star charms.

Murlin was buried in Lindenwood Cemetery, a 20-minute drive from the last known address 21Alive News found for her. She was later exhumed in 2017 for additional testing.

Thursday's press conference will be at 9:30 a.m. on the first floor of the Rousseau Centre. Allen County Coroner Jon Brandenberger, Allen County Deputy Coroner Chris Meihls, IGGniteDNA Investigative Genetic Genealogist Lisa Needler and Stacy Bozinovski, Indiana State Police laboratories forensic scientist will speak at the conference.