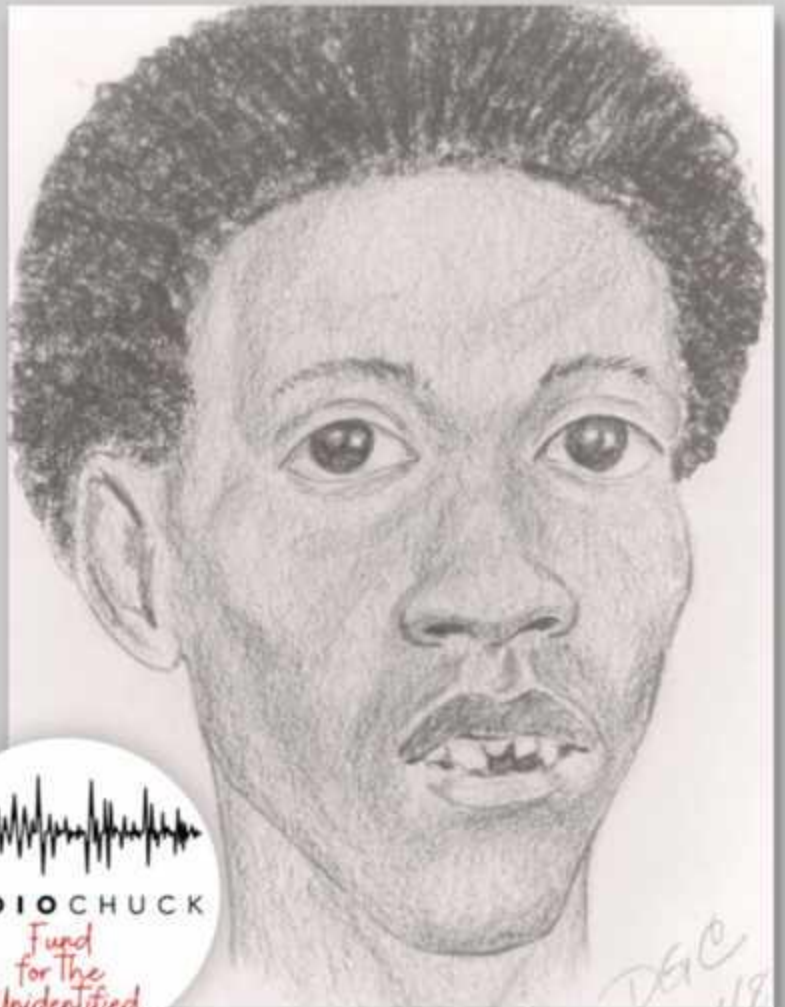


# Eddie Devone ID'd 45 Years After Body Found Along MD Parkway

Nearly 45 years after his body was found along a Maryland highway, a young man known only as “Greenbelt John Doe” has finally been identified, bringing long-awaited answers to a family that had not seen him in decades.



## Identified



Eddie Devone  
Photo Credit: *US Park Police*

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The unidentified man discovered along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in 1981 has been confirmed as **Edward “Eddie” Octavis Devone**, a 24-year-old Baltimore native who vanished in the late 1970s, the **DNA Doe Project announced**.

US Park Police detectives recovered the remains of a young Black man wrapped in a blanket alongside a guardrail on Sunday, Aug. 3, 1981, near Greenbelt, but despite decades of investigation, his identity remained a mystery.

Investigators at the time estimated the man was between 15 and 25 years old, about 5-foot-2 and 106 pounds, with distinctive and severely deformed teeth featuring unusual lengths, gaps, and angles, authorities said.

The cause of death could not be determined, and despite continued efforts by the US Park Police, the case went cold.

In October 2024, after all traditional identification methods failed, detectives turned to the DNA Doe Project, a nonprofit group that uses investigative genetic genealogy to identify unidentified remains, officials said.

DNA testing revealed family roots in North Carolina, leading genealogists to uncover a missing branch of a Fayetteville-area family tree tied to a woman who relocated to Baltimore decades earlier.

“We identified a couple from North Carolina as great-grandparents of the unidentified man, so we knew that one of their children had to be his grandparent,” said team leader Matthew Waterfield. “But when we couldn’t find him among their descendants, we realized that something didn’t add up – it was like a branch of their family was missing.”

That missing branch ultimately led investigators to Eddie Devone, who was born in 1956 and had not been seen by his family in nearly 50 years, authorities said.

Relatives were able to provide a single childhood photograph, the only image they still had of him, and further DNA testing confirmed his identity in December 2025.

“Eddie’s story is heartbreaking, but it has been an honor to assist his family in finding answers,” said team co-leader Rhonda Kevorkian. “We were lucky to work with a law enforcement agency that went above and beyond to resolve this case.”

The US Park Police and the DNA Doe Project credited advances in DNA technology, along with years of persistence, for finally restoring Eddie Devone’s name after more than four decades.