

# Murdered 20-year-old woman finally identified 31 years later

By Robert Gearty | Fox News



## Murdered 20-year-old woman finally identified in 31 year old cold case

A murdered 20-year-old woman was finally identified 31 years after she was discovered.

Southern California cold case investigators announced this week a breakthrough in identifying a 1987 stabbing victim whose hands had been hacked off by her killer.

The investigators identified the Jane Doe homicide victim as Tracey Hobson after 31 years using “forensic genealogy techniques,” according to the Orange County Sheriff’s Office.

Hobson was 20 and living in Anaheim when she disappeared in June 1987. A hiker found her skeletal remains near a red handkerchief two months later not far from the Riverside Freeway in Santa Ana Canyon, [Patch Orange County](#) reported Thursday. She had been stabbed in the chest.

"Our investigators are working to see if anyone filed a missing person report on Tracey," Carrie Braun, a spokeswoman with the sheriff's office, said.

A Los Angeles Times article in 1989 reported that at the scene searchers found handfuls of blond hair but no clothes, pocketbook, or car keys--items that could have provided clues to the identity of the remains.

### **FINGERPRINT LINKS 1993 COLD-CASE RAPE TO TENNESSEE MAN, OFFICIALS SAY**

The nonprofit DNA Doe Project assisted in identifying Hobson using GedMatch, a public genealogical website, Patch and other local media reported.

The same technique was used to identify a man northern California police say was the notorious Golden State Killer. Joseph DeAngelo, 72, a former cop, is [accused](#) of committing more than 50 rapes and 13 murders from 1974 to 1986. "Forensic genealogy has provided a new tool for investigators to work cases from a different angle to bring closure to families," Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes said. "We will never stop investigating these types of cases and seeking justice for victims of crime."

A DNA profile of Jane Doe was extracted in 2005, the Orange County Register reported.

### **CALIFORNIA MAN ARRESTED IN TWO 1990S COLD-CASE RAPES AFTER POLICE USE FAMILIAL DNA TESTING**

Over the years the DNA profile was compared to other missing persons in an attempt to identify the victim with no results.

Two years ago investigators used facial reconstruction to create images of what Jane Doe might have looked like, the paper reported.

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Those images were released to the public but generated no new leads.