

Stafford County Sheriff's Office and NCMEC Team with Othram to Identify a 1990 John Doe

After more than three decades, advanced DNA testing finally revealed that Stafford County John Doe was Virginia teen, Timothy Alan Mangum

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Summary

In September 1990, a human skull was found next to the roadway of Joshua Road in Stafford County Virginia. The skull was discovered by a property owner who then notified the Stafford County Sheriff's Office. It was believed the skull was that of a Caucasian Male, between the ages of 15-18 years old and had been deceased 1-3 years at the time of discovery. His cause of death was undetermined. There was no evidence of trauma to his skull and no other skeletal remains were found. Cause of death was not clear.

Over the years many leads were pursued. A forensic facial reconstruction was commissioned in hopes that someone would recognize the young man. Standard DNA testing was used to search CODIS, but no hits were found. With all leads exhausted, the young man's identity remained a mystery.

In November 2021, Stafford County Detective Dave Wood and the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children teamed up with Othram to use advanced DNA testing to attempt to generate new investigative leads that might point to the man's identity. Othram scientists used Forensic-Grade Genome Sequencing® to build a comprehensive DNA profile for the unknown man. Once built, the Othram genealogy team used the profile to perform a genealogical search and then returned

investigative leads to Stafford County Sheriff's Office investigators so they could continue their work.

Othram was able to provide the names of the unknown man's possible father and brother. Detective Wood contacted family members and they were able to provide him with the name Timothy Alan Mangum. DNA samples from the father and brother were sent to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science and follow up confirmation DNA testing confirmed that the unknown man was Timothy Alan Mangum.

Othram is grateful to Justin Woo for sponsoring the costs associated with the work that Othram did to help identify Mangum.

Investigators believe that Timothy Mangum was last seen alive around 1983-1984, not much is known about the circumstances of his death. Investigators are asking anyone with information to contact Detective Wood at the Stafford County Sheriff's Office at 540-658-4727 or email at dwood@staffordcountyva.gov.