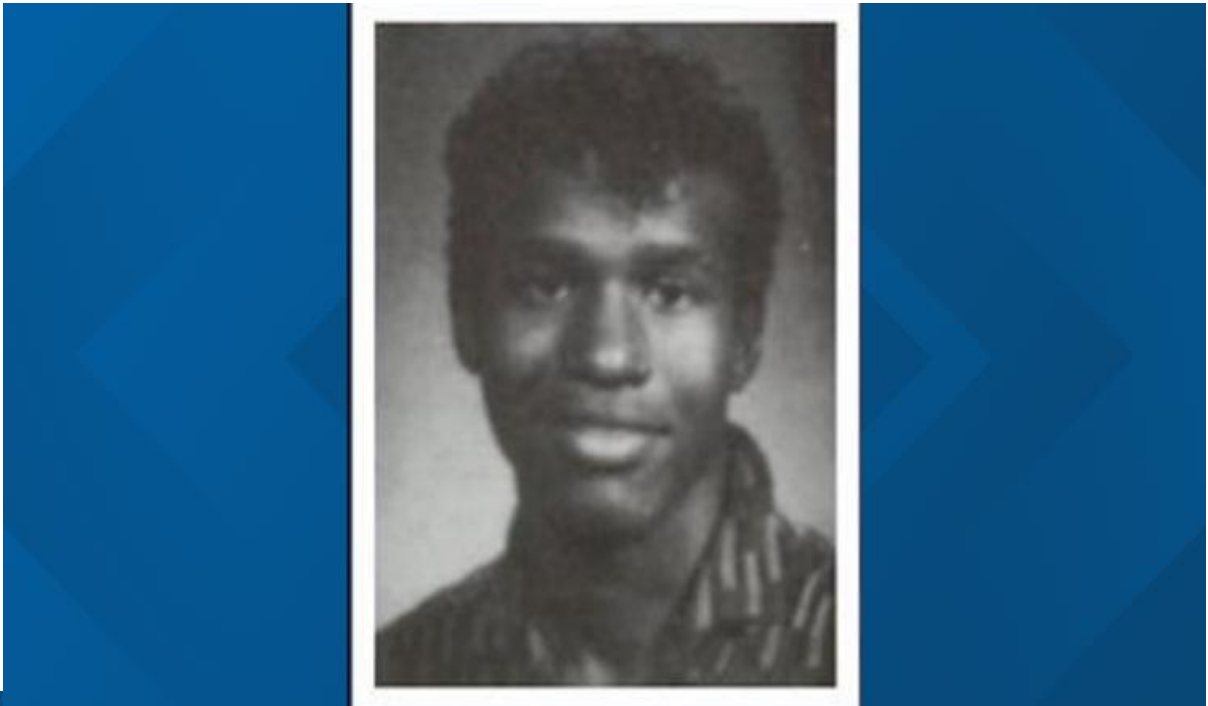


Pueblo detectives solve nearly 25-year-old mystery by identifying man found dead in a field

Detectives identify remains of **Marvin Majors**, found in 2000, using DNA analysis.



Credit: Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

High school photo from the 1980s of Marvin Majors

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PUEBLO, Colo. — After 25 years, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office detectives have identified the remains of [a man whose body was found in 2000](#) in a field just north of the Pueblo city limits.

Detectives announced that using updated analysis of DNA, the remains found in November 2000 have been identified as Marvin Majors, who was originally from Oklahoma, according to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office. Majors was 34 at the time of his death. He was homeless and believed to have been sleeping in a field just north of the Walking Stick development, where his body was found by a woman walking her dog, the media release says. The body was mostly skeletal remains and didn't have any identification.

The Pueblo County Coroner's Office conducted an autopsy. While the cause of death was undetermined, foul play was not suspected, according to PCSO. An anthropologist was contacted to analyze the remains and estimated the man was between 35 to 50 years old and was 6-foot-1 to 6-foot-3 inches tall. The man also had thick black hair that was in dreadlocks, the media release says.

For months after the body was found, sheriff's office detectives worked to identify the man, but were unsuccessful. In November 2001, a sculptor from the University of Colorado made a facial reconstruction using the man's skull to create a clay bust, the sheriff's office said. Photos of the bust were sent to the media, the public and were posted on websites for missing people seeking help to identify the man, according to PCSO.



Credit: Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

A sculptor made a facial reconstruction using the man's skull to create a clay bust.

Only a few leads came in, including one from a rancher who identified the man as someone who had been camping on his property in August 2000, the media release says. The property was near the field where the man's remains were found. The

rancher said the man told him he was traveling from New Mexico to Denver, the sheriff's office said.

Even though the leads and tips went down, detectives kept working to identify the remains. In June 2021, detectives revisited the case and learned that the FBI has completed a DNA profile of the man, PSCO said. The information was now in a combined national DNA database.

Pueblo County Sheriff's Office detectives obtained a new DNA sample from an item in evidence that was taken from the campsite when the body was found. With assistance from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, the new DNA sample was submitted to a genetic genealogy database in 2023, the sheriff's office said.

In November 2024, a DNA match was made with a distant family member of Majors. Detectives then got a DNA sample from a suspected sibling, and it was verified this week by a forensic investigative genetic genealogist, according to the sheriff's office. The DNA comparison matched the unidentified man, who was confirmed to be Majors.

Family members said that Majors, who was from Oklahoma but grew up in Los Angeles, lived a transient lifestyle, PCSO said. The family said they had not seen or heard from Majors since around 1998 to 1999 and wondered what had happened to him.

“Through modern science and teamwork, our detectives were able to get the breakthrough they needed to identify this person,” Sheriff David J. Lucero said. “The years of dedication, diligence, and perseverance by our detectives demonstrate that no matter how old a case is, they are committed to solving it. This was somebody’s family member, and our team went above and beyond to identify him and to bring some closure to his family.”

