



## **Dallas PD Detective Solves Decades Old Missing Persons Case, Bringing Family Closure After Half A Century**

On January 14, 1973, Norman Prater, was reported missing by his family to the Dallas Police Department. His disappearance launched an investigation that remained active but unresolved for decades.

In an unrelated tragedy on the morning of July 9, 1973, an unidentified white male was killed in a hit-and-run incident on Highway 35 in Rock Port, Texas (Aransas County). Despite extensive efforts by Aransas County authorities and local news outlets pleading for public assistance, the individual's identity remained unknown.

The breakthrough came recently from Dallas' very own Detective Ryan Dalby. By re-examining the Prater case and carefully connecting key details, he was able to establish a potential link between the two seemingly separate incidents. His diligent work established a compelling match between the unidentified 1973 hit-and-run victim and the missing Norman Prater. Detective Dalby then located Mr. Isaac Prater, the missing man's brother. Through this contact, Detective Dalby was able to conclusively confirm the identity of the unknown individual as Norman Prater, finally solving both the

Dallas missing persons case and the Aransas County unidentified persons' case.

**“This resolution stands as a testament to the Dallas Police Department’s commitment to the cases we pursue and the families we serve, no matter how much time has passed,” said Dallas Police Chief Daniel Comeaux. “Detective Dalby’s dedication, skill, and compassion have not only solved a historical case but have performed the most vital duty of our Missing Persons Unit: providing closure to a grieving family.”**

After 50 years of uncertainty, Mr. Isaac Prater has now received answers regarding his brother’s disappearance. This case exemplifies the enduring mission of law enforcement to seek justice and bring solace to families, unifying them with truth and closure.

The Dallas Police Department extends its deepest sympathies to the Prater family and commends the interagency cooperation and investigative perseverance that made this resolution possible.

This investigation is documented on case number 186504-2025.