

# 2 'killing fields' victims identified by League City police

By [Nick Powell](#)

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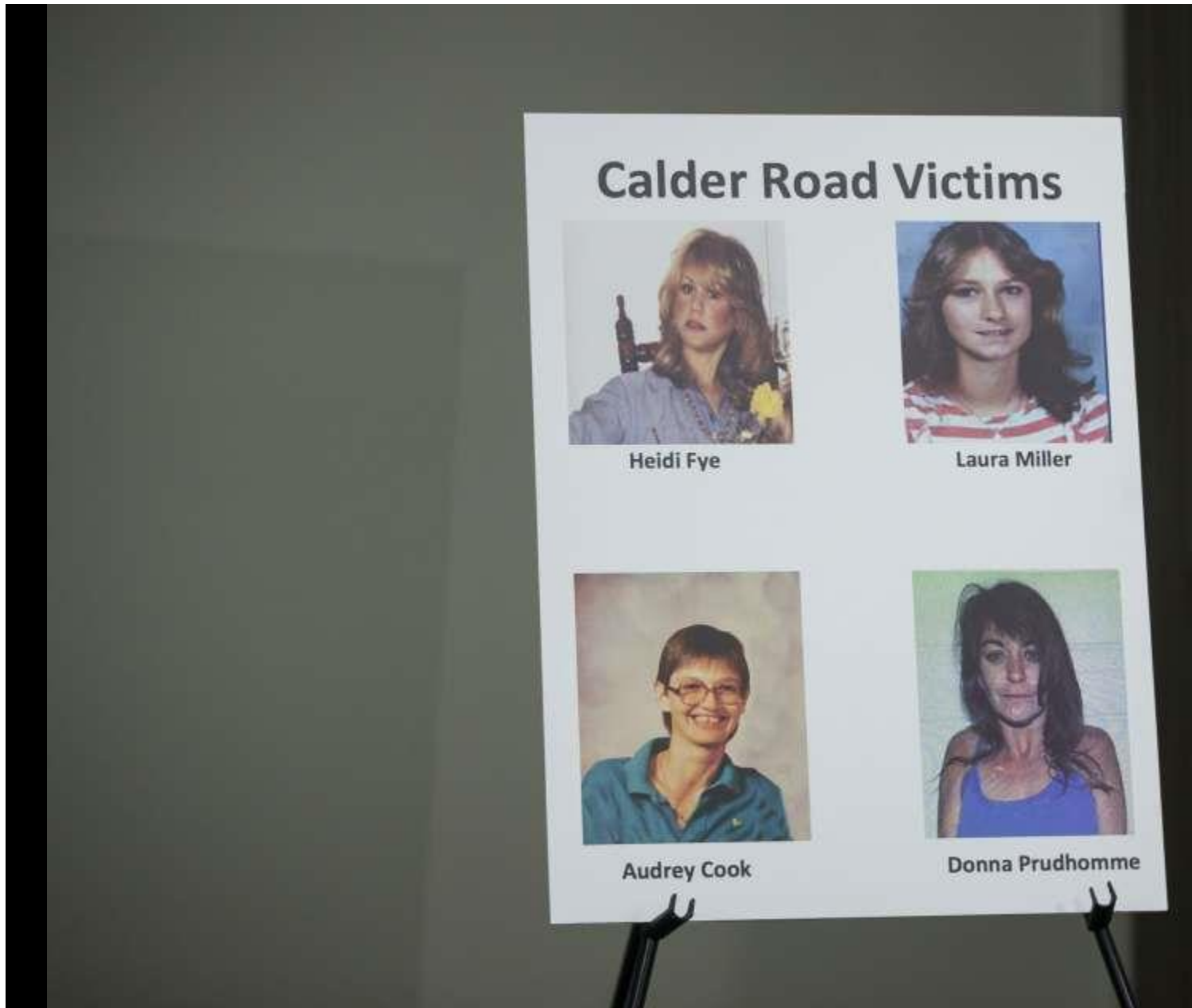


Photo: Mark Mulligan/Staff Photographer

**IMAGE 1 OF 32**

Law enforcement officials announce the identities of two previously unidentified women who were found dead along with two other women between 1985 and 1991 in an area off of Calder Road in League City during a  
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League City police on Monday identified two women found dead decades ago in a swampy area off Interstate 45 known as the "Texas Killing Fields."

The victim known as "Jane Doe" was identified as Audrey Lee Cook, who police estimated was about 30 at the time her body was found in 1986. The other woman, known until now as "Janet Doe," was Donna Prudhomme, about 34 when her body was found in 1991.

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At a news conference, League City Police Chief Gary D. Ratliff said authorities hoped the disclosure of the women's names would "help bring closure to the victims and their families" and yield tips that would help in investigations of potentially related cases.

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Cook had lived in the Houston and Channelview areas from 1976-1985, police said. Cook worked several jobs in the Houston area during that time, including as a mechanic for a golf cart company in 1979, for Harris Equipment Company in 1980 and for Balloon Affair in 1981.

Cook lost contact with her family in December 1985. Associates of Cook told investigators that she sold and used cocaine.

Prudhomme was born in Port Arthur and previously lived in the Beaumont area from 1982 to 1985. She moved to Austin in 1986 and then to Seabrook in 1988 where she lived in several different apartment complexes. Her last known address was in Nassau Bay in 1991.

Investigators had no information about Prudhomme's employment history. It is believed that she was a frequent patron of several bars around NASA Road 1 in Seabrook.

A breakthrough in forensic DNA analysis helped detectives identify the skeletal remains of the two victims, both found in an area off Calder Road.

The "Texas Killing Fields" is a boggy, 25-acre stretch of land along Interstate 45 where four women's bodies were found between 1983 and 1991, including Cook and Prudhomme. No one has been convicted in connection with the four deaths.

Investigators announced in December that advances in DNA technology had provided the potential for unearthing new leads in the cold cases and identifying a suspect.

Working with Parabon NanoLabs, a DNA technology company in Virginia, investigators have sought to piece together the appearance and ancestry of the two unidentified women using a new method of analysis called DNA "phenotyping."

After establishing the women's likely identities, Ratliff said, police located relatives and obtained DNA samples for comparison, which confirmed the identifications.

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