

# Genetic testing cracks two cold cases with bodies found in Columbus area over 10 years ago



**Bethany Bruner**

The Ohio Attorney General's office said Tuesday that two men who had been missing — one of them for three decades — have been identified using genetic genealogy and DNA testing on bodies that were found in central Ohio.

The men were identified as Chow Chan, whose body was found in September 1992, and Randy Raines, whose body was found in March 2006.

## The case of **Randy Raines**, whose body was found in the Scioto River

The other man, whose body was found on March 30, 2006, was identified as 39-year-old Randy Raines.

The man's body was found in the Scioto River and the man's cause of death was unable to be determined.

A DNA sample was submitted to BCI's Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known) and compared to DNA samples of other missing people, which yielded no results. A search through the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) was also unsuccessful.

In 2022, the coroner's office asked for the help of the DNA Doe Project, a nonprofit effort using investigative genetic genealogy to help identify remains with crowdfunding covering the costs of advanced DNA extraction and the genealogical work.

In March, a sample from a person who was possibly the brother of the victim was collected and a successful comparison was done, identifying the man who was found as Raines.

"We work cold cases because everyone counts and everyone deserves justice," Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said. "Each time we crack a cold case, the emotions of empathy and anticipation are bittersweet."

The Franklin County Coroner's Office's website has a database of unidentified persons, including six cases from 1989 to 2022. Anyone with information about those cases are asked to call the Investigations Section of the coroner's office at 614-525-5290.

*bbruner@dispatch.com*

*@bethany\_bruner*