



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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SHERIFF-CORONER
SANDRA HUTCHENS

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCSD Coroner's Division IDs Jane Doe After Nearly 30 Years

SANTA ANA, Ca. (May 11, 2017) – The Orange County Sheriff's Department Coroner's Division has identified the victim of a vehicle crash from 27 years ago, bringing closure to her family after many years.

Coroner's officials on Thursday, May 4, received confirmation the 26-year-old woman struck and killed by two vehicles on April 1, 1990 as she crossed Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach was Andrea Kuiper of Fairfax, Va.

OCSD's Coroner Division continued to work the case over the years, even pushing to have it featured on the television show, "Unsolved Mysteries," and in numerous newspaper articles, but the woman's identity continued to elude investigators.

"We never forgot her and would regularly pull out her file to see if we could think of anything new to try," said Kelly Keyes, Supervising Deputy Coroner. "The investigators at the Coroner's Office never stopped trying to figure out who she was, just as they do with the more than 90 unidentified decedents that we have."

At the time of Kuiper's death, her information was provided to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The organization recreated images of what Kuiper might have looked like. Those images were circulated in the media, but she remained unidentified.

In 2010, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) was created. NamUs provided a searchable database to assist in solving cases involving unidentified human remains. Shortly after its creation, the OCSD Coroner Division input Kuiper's information and hoped for a hit.

Coroner investigators revisited the case as recently as eight months ago after learning Kuiper may have had connections in Newport News, Va., but their work didn't turn out any new information.

In early 2017, NamUs partnered with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on a fingerprint project that more closely examines fingerprints of unidentified decedents against an ever-growing database that has old fingerprints regularly added.



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On Thursday, May 4, 2017, the FBI notified the OCSD Coroner Division of the forensic match.

Coroner investigators worked with Fairfax law enforcement to contact Kuiper's parents and provide them closure after nearly three decades.

"We are thankful to know what happened to our daughter after all these years," said Kuiper's father, Richard Kuiper. "Andrea was loved and respected. She was beautiful. But she was manic depressive, and therefore we had been through quite an adventure."

Kuiper's family has asked their privacy be respected at this time.

ATTACHED: Please see the attached information, which provides more details about Kuiper's case and additional information provided by her family. Supervising Deputy Coroner Kelly Keyes can be reached at 714-647-7400.





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