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PRESS RELEASE

**Man Who Kidnapped and
Killed Witness in 1979
Denied Parole by Parole Board**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, June 1, 2017 – The Board of Parole Hearings yesterday denied the request of Randy Cook, now 55, to be released on parole from his life sentence in state prison for kidnapping and killing ten year old Tami Carpenter in July of 1979.

In July 1979, ten year old Tami Carpenter was expected to testify against William Record in a child molest case. Record sought help from his 20 year old stepdaughter, Brandee Tripp, her boyfriend Hilton Tripp, and his friend Randy Cook, to kidnap Tami and to prevent her from testifying. The three then kidnapped Tami from a grocery store and took her to a remote campsite. They tied her up and held her captive for several hours, before Hilton Tripp and Randy Cook beat and strangled Tami Carpenter. Hilton Tripp and Randy Cook buried the girl in a shallow grave nearby.

Because of pretrial publicity, the case was transferred to Monterey County, where it was tried. All three individuals were convicted. Brandee Tripp was paroled in 2008.

Deputy District Attorney Nik Dandekar appeared at the Parole Hearing today on behalf of the People of the State of California and argued successfully against the release on parole, stating that Cook was unsuitable and unfit for release.

Hilton Tripp is scheduled for a parole consideration hearing on July 26, 2017, where an attorney with the District Attorney's Office will object to his release as well.

Point of contact for media inquiries is Assistant District Attorney Lee Cunningham (805) 781-5874.

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