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For Immediate Release:

Killer in Douglas County Cold Case Sentenced to 32 Years

First Murder Sentencing in New 23rd Judicial District

Castle Rock- January 16, 2025- Michael Shannel Jefferson (DOB 3/26/1957) was sentenced to 32 years in the department of corrections for the 1985 home invasion murder of Roger Dean. Jefferson was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder in the first degree. Judge Victoria Klingensmith imposed the maximum sentence allowed.

DA George Brauchler commended the judge on the sentence but said, "Roger deserved better: his killer deserved much worse." Roger Dean's daughter, Tamara Harney said, "Jefferson has never taken any accountability for his actions. I'm pleased with the sentence and feel a sense of closure, but nothing can change the fact I've lived without a father for 39 years

On November 21, 1985, Roger and Doris Dean were at their residence on Big Horn Court in Douglas County when a man in a ski mask broke into the home. The intruder forced Roger to tie up his wife and place duct tape on her mouth. Following an altercation, Roger was shot and killed. The killer left a mask and bag on the scene. Initial tests on the items did not yield any suspects. After decades of investigation and advances in DNA technology, detectives from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office were able to link Jefferson to the crime, solving the cold case.

"Thank you to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office for their hard work, and for never giving up on our family," said Harney.

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