

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“Northeast Rapist” Pleads Guilty to Second Degree Murder

Rochester, NY- Today, 57 year old Nat Lee Jones pled guilty to Murder in the Second Degree, for the May 1980 murder of Mary Hull. Jones raped and strangled the 74 year old in her home on Laura Street in the City of Rochester. Hull, who lived alone, was discovered deceased on her couch on May 19, 1980. The case was investigated by the Rochester Police Department, but there were no eyewitnesses, and the case went cold after several years.

Over 20 years later, now retired Rochester Police Investigator Joseph Dominick re-opened the investigation. Dominick, who currently works as an investigator at the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, located evidence at the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office and submitted it to the Monroe County Crime Laboratory, where DNA analysis was performed. The DNA profile was matched to convicted offender Nat Lee Jones. At that time, Jones, also known as the Northeast Rapist, was serving a sentence after being convicted of 12 counts of rape and related crimes in 1987.

The case was prosecuted for the People by Second Assistant District Attorney Timothy Prospero.

"This crime involving an innocent, elderly woman who was attacked and murdered in her own home would have gone unsolved without advances in DNA technology" said Prospero. "Families of victims whose cases have gone cold should know that the men and women of law enforcement are fighting to bring justice for their loved ones."

Jones will be sentenced to 15 years to life in prison on July 11, 2014 before Monroe County Court Judge Vincent Dinolfo. Jones, who has been continuously in custody since his arrest in 1986, will remain imprisoned.

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