



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Detectives Seeking Information in Merrill/Colyer Cold Case Homicide

Date: May 6, 2021

On May 9, 1981, Ricky Merrill and Dori Colyer were last seen leaving the Hilltop Lounge on Broad Street in Brooksville, Florida.

The pair told friends they would return to the lounge shortly; they never returned.

On the same date at approximately 2:30 a.m., the fire department was dispatched to a possible “brush fire” in the 300 block of Stafford Avenue in Brooksville (about one mile from the Hilltop Lounge).

Upon arrival, firefighters discovered a vehicle on fire.

A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed two bodies inside, later identified as Ricky Merrill and Dori Colyer.

Anyone with information on this **Cold Case Homicide** is asked to contact Detective George Loydgren at 352-754-6830.

If you would like to remain anonymous – Please call Hernando County Crime Stoppers at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> . You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!



The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.