



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Director of Public Relations, 352-797-3609

Re: Detectives Still Seeking Information in Merrill/Colyer Cold Case Homicide

Date: May 9, 2024

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.

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also 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!