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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 16, 2004

Re: FRANK ALEO Parole Hearing

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that convicted murderer FRANK ALEO, age 58, was found unsuitable for parole during a March 11, 2004 hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms held at Mule Creek State Prison in Lone, California. Deputy District Attorney Thomas Brennan appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People and successfully argued for Aleo's continued confinement in prison.

Aleo and his nephew, Frank Ford, were convicted by a Stanislaus County jury of robbing and murdering Modesto resident Dixon Flinders during a June 6, 1982 home invasion robbery. During the course of the robbery, Ford shot and killed Flinders while Aleo waited outside as the driver of the getaway car.

At the parole hearing, Aleo argued his innocence to the Parole Board. He claimed he was intoxicated the night Flinders was murdered and that he did not participate in the home invasion robbery. Despite admitting driving Ford's car to the residence, Aleo claimed he simply stayed in the car and had "no idea" that Ford robbed and killed Flinders until well after the fact.

Deputy District Attorney Thomas Brennan argued for Aleo's continued confinement based upon the callous nature of the crime, Aleo's three previous State Prison commitments, and a California Youth Authority commitment, all of which occurred prior to his conviction for murder. Brennan told the Parole Board that Aleo was practicing "revisionist history" and that his statements to the Board contradicted the mountain of evidence presented against him and his co-defendant at the jury trial which occurred more than 20 years ago.

Aleo is currently serving a prison term of 31 years to life. This was his first parole hearing. He will be eligible for another parole hearing in four years.

Co-defendant Frank Ford also remains in custody and is serving a life term at Folsom State Prison. Ford's parole was previously denied during a December 23, 2003 parole hearing also attended by Deputy District Attorney Thomas Brennan.

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