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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: January 9, 2013  
Re: George Salter granted parole

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that George Salter of Modesto was found suitable for parole at a December 26, 2012 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings in Tracy. Deputy District Attorney Elizabeth O'Hara Owen appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the heinous, atrocious and cruel and callous manner the crime was carried out, his minimization of his participation in the crime and his lack of solid parole plans. The Board of Parole Hearings disagreed and granted him parole.

In November of 1988, Salter worked in a bar in Modesto as a bouncer. He and several bar patrons noticed an intoxicated elderly man who had just cashed his social security check and was displaying a large amount of cash. They decided to rob him and followed him to his campsite by the Tuolumne River where he was hit on the head with a baseball bat, stabbed multiple times and mutilated after his death. Salter claimed that he only intended to help his friend collect a debt. He has tried to distance himself from the murder and mutilation of the victim, notwithstanding the fact that he hit the defenseless man on the head with a bat while his crime partner was assaulting him and then robbed him of all his money.

In a previous parole board hearing, the parole board ordered Salter's release from prison. Governor Schwarzenegger reversed that decision, stating the murder "was especially heinous" because the victim was "especially vulnerable," that Salter had "not accepted complete responsibility for his role in the matter" and that "his release from prison...would create an unreasonable risk to public safety." More recently, at a parole hearing in 2010, Salter was denied parole for 3 years. The Board then granted an early parole hearing for the December 26, 2012 date.

Salter was convicted of murder, conspiracy to commit murder and robbery in 1988 and was sentenced to life in prison. He has served 23 years in prison. This was his tenth parole hearing.

The Board of Parole Hearings' decision will be final in 120 days and then can be reviewed by the Governor.

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