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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: November 6, 2008  
Re: Michell Joe – Lifer Hearing  
Found Unsuitable for Parole

**For More Information Contact:**

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**MODESTO, CALIFORNIA** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michelle Joe, 38, was found unsuitable for parole at a hearing on October 27 of the State Board of Parole Hearings in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney Beth Owen appeared at the hearing.

World War II veteran, Sherman Robbins, 68 years old, was house-sitting in Modesto for his brother. Michelle Joe, along with Daniel Whalen, contrived a story to gain entry into the house while Robbins was present. Joe enlisted the help of Whalen to “fake” a car break down. Robbins allowed their entry into the house and offered them food, drink and help with their car. Joe used the telephone and pretended to call for automotive help. Robbins, in return, was hogtied with a “tie” binding his arms and legs behind him and shot point-blank with a shotgun. He was left to die on the couch. He was found at a later date by family who were concerned that he was not answering the phone. Items were stolen from the house and traded for cash.

Present at the hearing were Robbins’ surviving family members who urged the Board to deny Joe’s parole request.

Michelle Joe was convicted of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder while armed with a shotgun in 1996. Joe is serving 16 years to life and was being considered for parole for the second time. Parole was denied and Joe will be scheduled for another hearing in 3 years. Daniel Whalen is presently on death row.

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