



NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

1127 First Street, Suite C
Napa, CA 94559

Main: (707) 253-4211
Fax: (707) 253-4041
www.countyofnapa.org/da

ALLISON HALEY
District Attorney

For Immediate Release
September 6, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

NAPA MURDERER DENIED PAROLE

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced that Donald William Dacus, aged 50, was denied parole after an August 29, 2018 hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville.

On December 13, 1989, when the victim, Jack Reiley, failed to provide the initial seed money for a business venture, Dacus lured him to an isolated area in Wooden Valley on the pretense of "going for a ride." When they reached a secluded turnout, they got out of the car. Dacus came up behind the victim and slit his throat. After the victim fell to the ground, Dacus stabbed him three times. Afterward, Dacus told a friend, "you know I don't feel any remorse."

Defendant pled guilty to one count of first degree murder. He was sentenced to 25 years to life. This was his third parole hearing.

At sentencing, Jack Reiley's father emphasized the devastating emotional effect of the murder: "The man killed my son. He took my opportunity to tell him how much I loved him."

Deputy District Attorney Holly Quate appeared at the hearing and argued against release. She emphasized the implausibility of Dacus' claim that he didn't plan the murder, his continuing lack of remorse, and his superficial understanding of the effect of his crime on the victim and the victim's family.

The members of Parole Board agreed that Dacus continues to pose an unreasonable risk of danger to community if he is released. They noted that the wholly unprovoked murder displayed a shocking level of violence. Next, the Board members noted that Dacus had little understanding of the factors that led him to kill. Finally, they underscored the fact that Dacus displayed an "under-developed sense of empathy" for the victim and the surviving family. The Board denied release for at least three years.

The Napa County District Attorney's Office sends a representative to every parole hearing for defendants serving a life sentence for a Napa crime. District Attorney Allison Haley stated that, "the District Attorney's Office believes it is our responsibility to maintain the dignity of our convictions no

matter how long ago they were obtained. We honor victims and there is no period of time that goes by that relieves us of our responsibilities to them."

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.