

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Luzerne County District Attorney's Office and Pennsylvania State Police announce partnership with the Luzerne Foundation to fund Cold Case Investigations

The Luzerne Foundation is pleased to announce that it has partnered with the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office and Pennsylvania State Police to assist in funding laboratory testing in cold cases.

The "Closing Cases" Fund has been designed to provide the monetary assistance needed to help law enforcement perform the necessary but expensive DNA tests and similar tests on these longstanding investigations. The District Attorney's Office and the Pennsylvania State Police recently received crowd funding for the testing necessary to move the investigation forward of a child found in 1980 and is next moving to an open investigation into the death of a young woman from a 2012 case.

2012 Jane Doe Case

Jane Doe, Newport Twp. was discovered on November 17, 2012, on Alden Mountain Newport Twp Luzerne County. The human remains were discovered on Earth Conservancy coal company wasteland. The remains were discovered by individuals digging for relics near an old mine shaft.

The remains were determined to be that of a female estimated to be in late teens early 20's. The remains examined suggest death due to foul play. The remains are estimated to have been present since possibly the 1960's.

The remains were submitted for DNA testing, a profile suitable for CODIS search was developed. This search did not yield any investigative leads as to her identity. The advent of forensic genetic genealogy is another avenue to potentially identify the remains. The remains will be submitted to Othram a company that specializes in degraded DNA samples.

"The Luzerne County District Attorney's Office and the Pennsylvania State Police have done a phenomenal job on these cases – recently closing a 1964 murder that has long haunted our County" said Luzerne Foundation President and CEO David Pedri. "It is up to us as community members to show our support for law enforcement and provide whatever help we can to help turn the page on a painful chapter for our friends and neighbors" continued Pedri.

District Attorney Sam Sanguedolce expressed his profound gratitude to the Luzerne Foundation saying, "On behalf of our office and the Pennsylvania State Police, we are truly honored to receive such immense support from CEO Pedri and the Foundation. Their assistance in both giving and raising funds will hopefully allow us to pursue answers in multiple ongoing cases. We can only hope that the public continues to get behind the Foundation's efforts to see these cases to a conclusion."

Trooper Ed Urban echoed these sentiments: “The Pennsylvania State Police Troop P would like to thank Luzerne County DA Samuel Sanguedolce and the Luzerne Foundation for their assistance in providing the financial resources to secure further DNA testing in an effort to identify Jane Doe.”

Members of the public could make a tax-deductible donation to the “Closing Cases” Fund via the Luzerne Foundation’s website www.luzfd.org or by mailing a check to the Luzerne Foundation at 34 South River Street, Wilkes-Barre.

The Luzerne Foundation has waived all fees for this service so that each dime donated will go to lab testing fees in order to help the families involved to have closure of the loss of their loved one.

The goal of the Foundation would be to not only fund the testing for this most recent case from Newport Township, but also to gather funds for any future investigations as well.

If you have any questions on donations, please contact the Luzerne Foundation at 570-822-2065. If you have any information on a cold case within Luzerne County, please contact the District Attorney’s Office at 570-825-1674.

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