



**Iowa Department of Public
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For immediate release:

Friday, January 28, 2005

Des Moines, Iowa

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Public Information
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The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation and the Boone County Sheriff's Office Seek Public Assistance in Homicide Investigation

DES MOINES, IOWA ---- The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation and the Boone County Sheriff's Office are assisting authorities from Polk County Florida with an investigation into the 1986 homicide of **RONETTE LYNN PETERSON**, formerly of Madrid, Iowa.

On May 7, 1986 , Peterson's unidentified body was discovered floating in a water filled pit off highway 33, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of Combee Road , Lakeland , Florida . At this time an investigation revealed Peterson was the victim of a homicide.

In January 2005, a family member of Peterson's filed a missing persons report with the Boone County Sheriff's Office. According to Peterson's family, no one had contact with RONETTE since the early to mid 1980's.

Based on the missing persons report, the Boone County Sheriff's Office, with the assistance of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, initiated a missing person's investigation.

As a result of this investigation, information was developed indicating

RONETTE PETERSON left the state of Iowa , perhaps in route to unknown locations in Georgia and Florida .

Based on this information, Iowa investigators searched Florida 's missing persons website, www.fluiddb.com and determined Florida officials were attempting to identify the unidentified remains of a homicide victim meeting RONETTE's description.

Iowa investigators contacted officials in Polk County , Florida and forwarded to them known fingerprints of Ms. Peterson. This resulted in the positive identification of RONETTE LYNN PETERSON by Florida officials, whose remains had previously been unidentified for 19 years. Peterson's family has subsequently been notified.

On Wednesday, January 26, 2005 , investigators from the Polk County Sheriff's Office in Florida arrived in Iowa to meet with investigators from the Boone County Sheriff's Office and Agents of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

At this time investigators are seeking assistance from the public with this investigation. Specifically, law enforcement is asking anyone who may have had contact with RONETTE PETERSON prior to May 7, 1986 , to contact them.

Anyone with information regarding the activities of MS. PETERSON is urged to contact the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation at (515) 281-5138 or the Boone County Sheriff's Office at (515) 433-0524 .

LINKS:

[Florida Cold Case File -
http://www.polksheriff.org/coldcase/050786/janedoe.htm
Photograph of Ronette Lynn Peterson](http://www.polksheriff.org/coldcase/050786/janedoe.htm)