



**COUNCIL BLUFFS POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

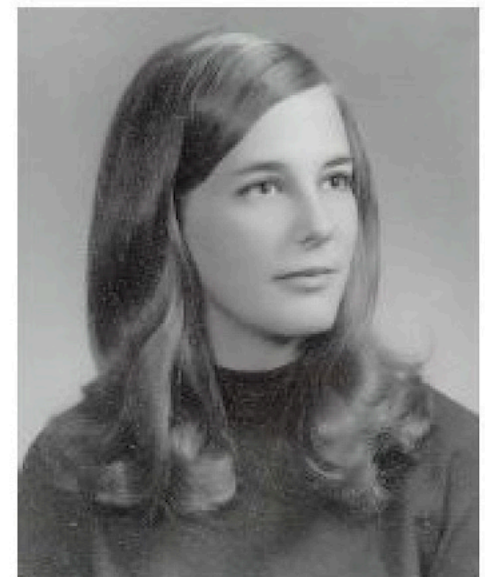
PRESS RELEASE

Tim Carmody
Chief of Police
1 Ezra Jackson Way
Council Bluffs, IA
51503

Date: 2/25/22	Reporting Officer: Captain Todd Weddum	Assigned Division/Unit: Criminal Investigations
Report#: (if applicable) F82-2558	Time: Phone: 712-328-4728	Email: taweddum@councilbluffs-ia.gov
Type of Incident: Cold Case Homicide	Location: Best Western Frontier Hotel, 2216 27 th Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa	

SUBJECT(S):

VICTIM: Rotatori, Lee
AGE: 32 years at time of death
CITY, STATE: Nunica, Michigan



Narrative: Council Bluffs Police detectives have cleared the cold case homicide of Lee Rotatori, who was murdered in June 1982.

Rotatori, a resident of Nunica, Michigan, had just started a job at Jennie Edmundson Hospital and had been staying at the Best Western Frontier Hotel, for several nights, while looking for a permanent place to live. When she did not show up for work on the morning of June 25, 1982, her boss asked the hotel staff to check on her and her deceased body was discovered inside her rented room. Rotatori died from a single stab wound and there was evidence of a sexual assault. No suspects were identified during the initial investigation.

In 2001, the evidence collected in 1982 was resubmitted to the State of Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Lab for examination. Advances in forensic technology revealed the presence of a male DNA profile. When entered into the State and Federal DNA databases, there was not a match for this DNA. The DCI Lab would periodically check this unknown DNA over the years, without ever getting any matches.

In April 2019, Council Bluffs investigators submitted the unknown male DNA profile to Parabon Nanolabs to begin a genetic genealogy case. In February 2021, researchers from Parabon and ES Genealogy, who examined familial

