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**QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON IN “COLD CASE”
STRANGULATION MURDER OF GRANDMOTHER WHO WAS SLAIN IN 1989**
Defendant Linked To Crime By DNA Found Under Victim's Fingernails

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 54-year-old man has been sentenced in the strangulation death of his own grandmother inside her apartment in November 1989 based on DNA evidence he left at the scene.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant has been sentenced for the cold-blooded and brutal murder of his own grandmother nearly fifteen years ago. DNA evidence scientifically linked him to the crime, and in combination with the hard work of police and prosecutors, justice has been done.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Kenneth Robinson, 54, of 163-11 Foch Boulevard in Jamaica, Queens. Robinson, who was convicted of second-degree murder, was sentenced today by Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter to 25 years to life in prison.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, Robinson went to the second-floor apartment of his grandmother, Pauline Henninghan, at 14-01 36th Avenue sometime between the hours of 5:30 p.m. on November 4, 1989, and 9:15 a.m. on November 5, 1989, and manually strangled her. The victim's body was later discovered laying in her apartment hallway with an electrical cord tied around her neck and fastened to a door knob, blood on her clothes and marks and abrasions on her scalp and nose. At the time, NYPD Crime Scene Unit officers placed paper bags over the victim's hands and taped the bags closed before removing the body to the morgue. As part of her autopsy, fingernail clippings from Mrs. Henninghan's left and right hands were taken and maintained by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

In March 2004, Robinson was being questioned by police on an unrelated matter when he agreed to a DNA test and forensic experts swabbed his mouth for saliva. At the same time, the Chief Medical Examiner's Office performed an analysis of the human cells recovered from under Mrs. Henninghan's fingernails nearly fifteen years ago. Robinson's DNA profile was a match to the DNA profile obtained from under the fingernails. Evidence at trial also included a photo taken of Robinson on November 5, 1989, during an interview with police about his grandmother's murder, which showed a scratch mark on his neck.

Assistant District Attorney Jack Warsawsky, Deputy Chief of the District Attorney's Homicide Trial Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.