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NEWS RELEASE

**JURY CONVICTS PERRIS MAN OF 1985 MURDER OF
RETIRED RIVERSIDE POLICE SERGEANT DURING ROBBERY**

RIVERSIDE – A Perris man has been convicted of the 1985 murder of a retired Riverside police sergeant working as an armed security guard when he was shot and killed during a robbery.

Late afternoon Monday, March 8, 2010, a jury convicted Leslie Gene Parker, DOB: 9-16-59, of first-degree murder and found true the special circumstance that the murder happened during the commission of a robbery. That special circumstance made Parker eligible for the death penalty. After a careful review of the case, District Attorney Rod Pacheco decided to seek the death penalty.

Parker was arrested after a "cold hit" in 2007 matched DNA in his blood to blood collected from the getaway car, a Datsun B210, which was found abandoned several blocks away from the shooting.

In December 1985, Brinks armored car guards were on strike so First Interstate Bank hired the victim in this case, Fred Taylor, as their armed guard for deposits picked up from the Tyler mall in Riverside, now known as the Galleria at Tyler.

On Dec. 15, 1985, two bank employees returning to their car with bags of money were confronted by an armed man. Fred Taylor intervened and a shootout happened between the victim and the armed robber. Taylor was shot six times and later died at a nearby hospital. On the way to the hospital, Taylor told a paramedic that there were two robbers and he wounded one of them. That man was identified from the 2007 "cold hit" DNA match as Parker.

The same jury that convicted Parker will begin the penalty phase of the trial to determine whether Parker receives the death penalty or a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. That portion of the trial begins Wednesday, March 10, 2010.

The case, RIF136528, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Laura Ozols.

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