



# BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*Jeff LeDuff – Chief of Police*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DNA EVIDENCE SOLVES 22-YEAR OLD MURDER**

DNA evidence collected in a 1985 murder in Baton Rouge has resulted in a positive match and identification of the suspect.

TINA KRISTYNIK, 19, was found murdered inside her home at 14536 Silverthorn on September 18, 1985. She had been sexually assaulted and beaten to death.

DNA evidence collected at the scene and submitted to the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab has now been matched to that of VERNON KENNEDY, 51 (he was 29 at the time of the murder). The match was made using the Combined DNA Identification System (CODIS).

Kennedy is already serving a life sentence in Ware County, Georgia for another murder. It has not yet been determined when or even if Kennedy may be returned to Baton Rouge to be charged and tried for Kristynik's murder.

The Krystinik murder is the second Baton Rouge Police Department cold case to be cleared by the LSP Crime Lab through CODIS.

In August 2005 the murder of TRACEY WOFFORD-BUNN 26, was also solved through DNA evidence. Wooford-Bunn found murdered inside a car in the parking lot at 550 Oklahoma on April 1, 1989. Her killer, FREDDY MCKINLEY, was identified following a CODIS match. By that time, however, he had already died in prison while serving a sentence for another crime.

For additional information on CODIS, contact the Louisiana State Police Office of Public Affairs at (225) 925-6202.

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