



# ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## NEWS RELEASE



Follow us @VenturaCountyDA  
[DA.VenturaCounty.gov](https://www.DA.VenturaCounty.gov)

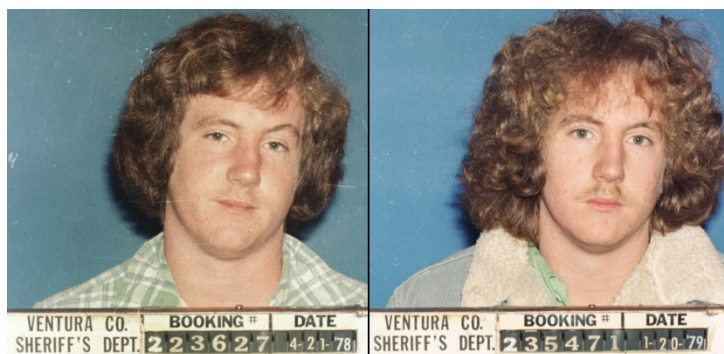
Contact: Joey Buttitta  
Title: Communications Manager/PIO  
Phone: (805) 767-3400  
Email: [Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov](mailto:Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov)

Approved: BN  
Date: September 4, 2025  
Release No.: 25-110

### Ventura County Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Identifies Serial Rapist, Brings Long-Awaited Answers to Victims

VENTURA, Calif. – The Ventura County District Attorney's Office announced today that following a yearslong investigation, Sean Patrick McNulty (DOB 06/04/59), formerly of Ventura, has been connected to two unsolved home invasion rapes occurring in Ventura in the early 1980s along with four additional home invasion rapes committed in other states. A summary of each of these sexual assaults is attached to this news release. McNulty died in 1997 in Emmett Township, Michigan.

As part of the Ventura County Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (VCSAKI), the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Forensic Services Bureau oversaw the testing of two sexual assault kits collected from rapes occurring in Ventura in 1982 and 1983. Testing identified DNA belonging to the perpetrator in each case, and those profiles were uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). In March 2024, the perpetrator DNA profile from the 1982 case was determined to match the perpetrator DNA profile from the 1983 case. Additionally, the same perpetrator DNA profile matched that recovered from rapes occurring in 1994 in Okemos, Michigan, 1995 in Birmingham, Michigan, and 1997 in Columbus, Ohio.



*Sean Patrick McNulty seen in two Ventura County Sheriff's Office booking photos from 1978 and 1979.*

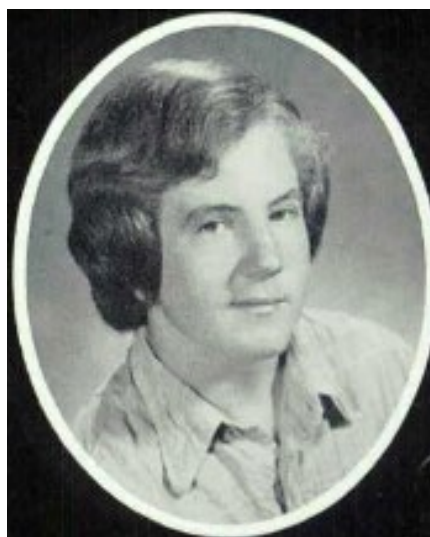
In each of the five cases, the identity of the perpetrator was unknown. An investigator and prosecutor with the District Attorney's VCSAKI team reached out to the agencies in Michigan and Ohio and launched a joint investigation into these serial offenses. The joint investigation included working with an investigative genealogist with the Columbus Police Department in Ohio. The investigative genealogist performed research on the perpetrator's DNA profile and was able to identify McNulty as a potential suspect.

With McNulty identified as a potential suspect, VCSAKI team members worked to locate a source of his DNA so it could be compared to the perpetrator DNA. Team members located McNulty's headstone at a Ventura County cemetery but ultimately learned his body had been cremated and the location of his remains was unknown.

Throughout the investigation, VCSAKI team members worked closely with a crime analyst with the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP). That crime analyst was able to locate a 1993 rape case from Bloomington, Indiana where McNulty was the named suspect. Team members reached out to investigators with the Bloomington Police Department and learned that McNulty killed himself in 1997 after he became a suspect in the Bloomington rape.

At the request of the VCSAKI team, Bloomington investigators searched for evidence in existence in their 1993 case and located a biological sample collected from McNulty. McNulty's biological sample was transported from Indiana to the Columbus Police Department's Crime Lab in Ohio. McNulty's DNA was determined to be an exact match to the 1997 rape in Columbus, Ohio.

The results of Columbus' DNA testing were forwarded to the Ventura County Sheriff's Forensic Services Bureau. Analysis by scientists at the Forensic Services Bureau confirmed that McNulty's DNA matched the perpetrator's DNA profile in the 1982 and 1983 Ventura rapes. Similarly, scientists in Michigan confirmed that McNulty's DNA matched the perpetrator's DNA profile in the 1994 and 1995 rapes. The investigation into other crimes that may have been committed by McNulty both within Ventura County and elsewhere remains ongoing.



*McNulty's senior portrait from Buena High School in 1977.*

McNulty was born in Burlingame, California but spent most of his childhood in Ventura. He graduated from Buena High School in 1977. In 1978 he was arrested by the Ventura Police Department for placing obscene phone calls to a woman. He served as a diver in the Navy from 1979 to 1992. He was married in 1988 and later divorced just prior to his death.

VCSAKI team members attempted to speak with McNulty's ex-wife to gain a fuller understanding of McNulty's whereabouts during his life, but she refused to speak with them.

McNulty is believed to have lived in or spent time in the following states as well as in the Philippines:

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- Ohio
- Virginia

Individuals who have information regarding any crimes committed by McNulty are encouraged to contact District Attorney Investigator Yumi Kirk at (805) 477-1638 or at [yumi.kirk@venturacounty.gov](mailto:yumi.kirk@venturacounty.gov).

VCSAKI team members worked to locate and notify the victims of McNulty's Ventura crimes regarding his identification and death. Only one victim could be located. That victim told the VCSAKI investigator that she had "waited forty years" to receive closure.

"This case demonstrates why the Ventura County Sexual Assault Kit Initiative is so important to sexual assault survivors," said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. "Every kit tested has the opportunity to bring critical knowledge to these women, including the knowledge that their perpetrator is deceased and therefore no longer able to harm others. The knowledge that undergoing an exam is not a futile exercise but rather a crucial piece of evidence that can help to identify violent offenders. And, perhaps most importantly, the knowledge that law enforcement and prosecutors recognize that each one of these kits represent a courageous survivor and the enduring voice of a savage crime."

The VCSAKI team also spoke to the Bloomington rape victim, who expressed gratitude for the renewed investigation of these cases. She said, "I am grateful after all these years you didn't give up." The victims from the other cases were contacted by the respective investigating agencies.

"I am proud of the dedicated work of our Forensic Services Bureau and the strong collaboration with our local, state, and federal partners that made these identifications possible," said Ventura County Sheriff Jim Fryhoff. "The results show the importance of testing every kit and pursuing every lead, no matter how old or how long it takes. While nothing can erase the pain and trauma these victims endured, I hope today's announcement brings them a measure of closure."

VCSAKI is a countywide effort that was launched in 2022 to test every sexual assault kit for the presence of DNA and investigate unsolved cases. The initiative is funded by grants awarded by the United States Department of Justice along with funding from the County of Ventura. More information on VCSAKI can be found at [saki.venturacounty.gov](https://saki.venturacounty.gov), including regularly updated data on the status of sexual assault kit testing. Victims of past sexual assaults can also utilize this website to access support services including free counseling in some instances, or to get assistance in determining the status of their sexual assault kit.

The closure of these cases would not have been possible without coordination and assistance provided by numerous law enforcement partners. First and foremost, the District Attorney would like to thank the Columbus Police Department, whose work performing investigative genealogy provided an essential lead in solving these cases.

Additionally, the District Attorney would like to thank:

- Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Forensic Services Bureau
- Ventura Police Department
- Altamonte Springs Police Department (FL)
- Bloomington Police Department (IN)
- Birmingham Police Department (MI)
- FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- Meridian Township Police Department (MI)
- Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (AZ)

