

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

NPGS PROFESSOR ADMITS KILLING EX-WIFE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2016

**CONTACT: Elaine McCleaf, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5246**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that in the case of People of the State of California vs. Larry Jones, the defendant entered pleas to injuring and subsequently killing his ex-wife in his Spray Avenue home in the City of Monterey between August 31, 2012 and September 7, 2012.

On September 7, 2012, San Benito Sheriff Deputies were alerted to a dismembered body along the side of Cannon Road. Authorities from San Benito, Santa Clara and the FBI were called to the scene. The body was identified days later as Norife Herrera Jones, the estranged wife of the Naval Post Graduate Professor. On September 13, 2012, the Monterey Police Department, assisted by the FBI, served a search warrant on the Jones home on Spray Avenue and determined the home was the scene of the shooting and dismemberment.

Today, Jones, age 74, entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity to the crime of premeditated, deliberate, attempted murder having occurred on August 31, 2012 and a guilty plea to premeditated, deliberate murder with the personal use of a firearm having occurred on September 5, 2012.

The Honorable Judge Julie R. Culver accepted the pleas and the factual basis provided by the defendant that during an argument over the divorce settlement, in a manic rage he struck the victim with a blunt object rendering her unconscious on August 31, 2012. Several days later, after realizing what he had done, the defendant shot the victim in the head and lower torso with a shot gun. The defendant then dismembered her body and prior to September 7, 2012 transported her body in the trunk of her Honda and arranged the body parts along the first driveway from Highway 101 on Cannon Road in San Benito County.

Jones, was on sabbatical from his teaching position at the military graduate school at the time of his ex-wife's killing but attended a school affiliated recruitment interview in San Diego September 11-13, 2012. After failing to board a return flight back to Monterey, the Monterey Police Department in conjunction with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office tracked Jones to a hotel near LAX where he had purchased a ticket online for a flight scheduled to depart on September 15, 2012 to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

On May 18, 2016, Judge Julie Culver will initially send Jones to the California Department of State Hospitals where his current mental status will be evaluated. When he is determined to be sane, he will be sentenced to serve fifty years to life in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The case was investigated by San Benito Sheriff's Office, Santa Clara Sheriff's Office, San Jose Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Justice and the Monterey Police Department specifically Detective Bryan Kruse and Detective Jason Newby.

#