

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
**SALINAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2018

**CONTACT: Crystal Vasalech, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5264**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on March 28, 2018, Kenneth Donahue, age 69, a Salinas resident, pled guilty to vehicular manslaughter.

Around noon on July 6, 2017, Kenneth Donahue was driving his pickup truck on West Carmel Valley Road when he took his eyes off of the road as he approached Selfridge Lane. A car in front of him was stopped to make a left turn onto Selfridge Lane. Donahue did not see this car until it was too late to stop, so he took evasive action swerving his truck to the right shoulder to avoid a collision. In his attempt to get around the stopped car, Donahue overcorrected and drove across the double yellow lines into oncoming traffic and collided with a motorcyclist, Michael Carnevale. The impact caused Mr Carnevale's helmet to come off and he suffered fatal injuries.

An investigation determined that alcohol was not a factor and Donahue had not been talking or texting on his cell phone at the time of the collision. Donahue told the officers he took his eyes off of the road and was looking down for unknown reasons.

Michael Carnevale, age 58, was a retired San Mateo Police Officer and worked as a motorcycle patrol officer. He was out for a pleasure ride that morning after having breakfast with his wife, Jenne Carnevale.

At the sentencing hearing, Mrs. Carnevale spoke eloquently regarding who her husband was and the depth of her loss. She urged the court to consider the maximum sentence, one year in county jail, because Donahue's negligent actions and traffic violations causing the death of her husband. Donahue also spoke briefly to the court.

The District Attorney's Office recommended a sentence of 180 days in county jail. The Probation Department presented a report to the court and recommended 50 hours of community service.

Judge Thomas Wills adopted the recommendations in the Probation report and sentenced Donahue to 50 hours community service and placed him on probation for three years.

California Highway Patrol Officer John Yerace investigated this case. California Highway Patrol Officers Thompson, Baenziger, Cho, Browning, Marmo, and Bispham also assisted in the investigation.

###