This case involved a man from Kentucky, Gerald Lynn Smith, being charged with the rape and murder of Gloria Hansell, 69, of Gary Indiana on June 17th, 1994. This was announced in October of 2022, so he was finally apprehended over 28 years after the crime. DNA was collected from Gloria’s body using a sexual assault kit during her autopsy in 1994. This, combined with eyewitness statements, placed him in Gary around the time of the rape and murder, and confirmed that he had physical contact with her.

DNA samples from people not convicted of a crime should be retained for further use. New evidence can arise that requires re-examination of the DNA. Furthermore, it can be used to help identify victims of a crime, not just perpetrators.

References:

1. FBI. (2022, October 18). *Kentucky man charged for 1994 murder of Gary Woman*. FBI. https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/indianapolis/news/press-releases/kentucky-man-charged-for-1994-murder-of-gary-woman