

In March 2002, the remains of an unidentified man were discovered by a ranch employee within the dry Gabilan Creek bed in Salinas, California, along the southwest portion of a cultivated field. Monterey County Sheriff's Detectives responded to scene but were challenged to identify the man due to advanced decomposition. The man is presumed to be Hispanic/Latino and his age was estimated at between 40 and 60 years old at the time of his death. The man's height and weight were measured as 5' 3" tall and 114 pounds, respectively. Additionally, the man had black and grey hair, no longer than two to three inches in length, brown eyes, and a gray mustache.

Detectives noted several distinctive features on the individual's right thigh and shin including a rectangular skin donor site scar on the front right thigh and a bone deformity of the right shin covered by extensive skin scarring and grafting. Detectives also observed a tattoo of a monkey hanging from a tree limb/branch on the right upper arm and a tattoo of a female with head dress and feathers holding a sword on the front right forearm. At the time of discovery, the man was wearing a short sleeve tee shirt, black denim jeans over burgundy cut-off trousers with a brown leather belt, two pairs of black socks, and black leather zipper shoes.

Since the discovery of the remains, the Monterey County Sheriff's Department has diligently pursued various leads about the unknown man's identity. Despite efforts to identify the unknown man, the case went cold. In January of 2023, the case was entered into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) as UP99259.

In 2023, the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, along with the District Attorney's Cold Case Taskforce, partnered with Othram to determine if advanced forensic DNA testing could help establish an identity for the man or a close relative. Anyone with information that could aid in this investigation is encouraged to contact Investigator Bell with the Cold Case Taskforce at [831-759-6647](tel:831-759-6647) and referencing NamUs ID UP99259.

A DNASolves crowdfund has been created to raise funds for the remaining casework costs. Anyone can contribute [here](#).

