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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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Parole Denied to Man Who Murdered Ex-Father-In Law
CDCR #P36344; Kern County Court Case #SC065347A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer Mark Tedeschi, age 65. On January 7, 2026, BPH found that Tedeschi continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On November 10, 1995, Tedeschi murdered his ex-father-in-law, Robert Glynn Leisten, in front of his 10-year-old daughter. On Friday November 10, 1995, the victim and the victim's daughter (Tedeschi's ex-wife) drove the minor to his house for a weekend visit. When Tedeschi saw his daughter, he immediately began questioning who was in the car with her mother. Not long after, Tedeschi started making threatening calls to his ex-wife. He demanded that she come back to his house and get their daughter. In complete fear, Tedeschi's ex-wife left her home in case Tedeschi showed up. She went to her father's, the victim, house around the corner.

When Tedeschi's ex-wife arrived at her father's house, he was not there. Unbeknownst to her, Tedeschi ordered their 10-year-old daughter to call the victim and tell him she needed to be picked up. Mr. Leisten left his home to pick up his granddaughter. When he arrived, Tedeschi stopped his daughter from leaving with her bags and told her to go outside and tell her grandfather to come inside. Immediately after the victim entered, Tedeschi shot his daughter's grandfather from a ten-foot distance, killing him. Tedeschi's daughter fled the house and called 9-1-1. Tedeschi barricaded himself inside his home. After approximately 4 hours, the SWAT team made forcible entry inside Tedeschi's home.

On February 4, 1999, the Kern County District Attorney's Office proceeded to trial for Tedeschi's murder of the victim. On February 26, 1999, a Kern County Jury found Tedeschi guilty of murder in the second degree and found true that he personally used a firearm to commit the murder. On April 9, 1999, a Kern

County Judge sentenced Tedeschi to 25 years to life in state prison.

On January 7, 2026, the BPH conducted Tedeschi's seventh parole hearing. At the parole hearing, the commissioners focused on Tedeschi credibility, history of domestic violence, and the facts surrounding the murder. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Tedeschi was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Tedeschi's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Tedeschi's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Tedeschi committed an unspeakable crime, escalating a domestic violence situation into a fatal act of family violence. His actions reflected the most extreme abuse of control and power, and his release would pose a serious risk to our community. I am relieved that after seven hearings, the Board of Parole has continuously agreed with our position."

Mark Tedeschi:

