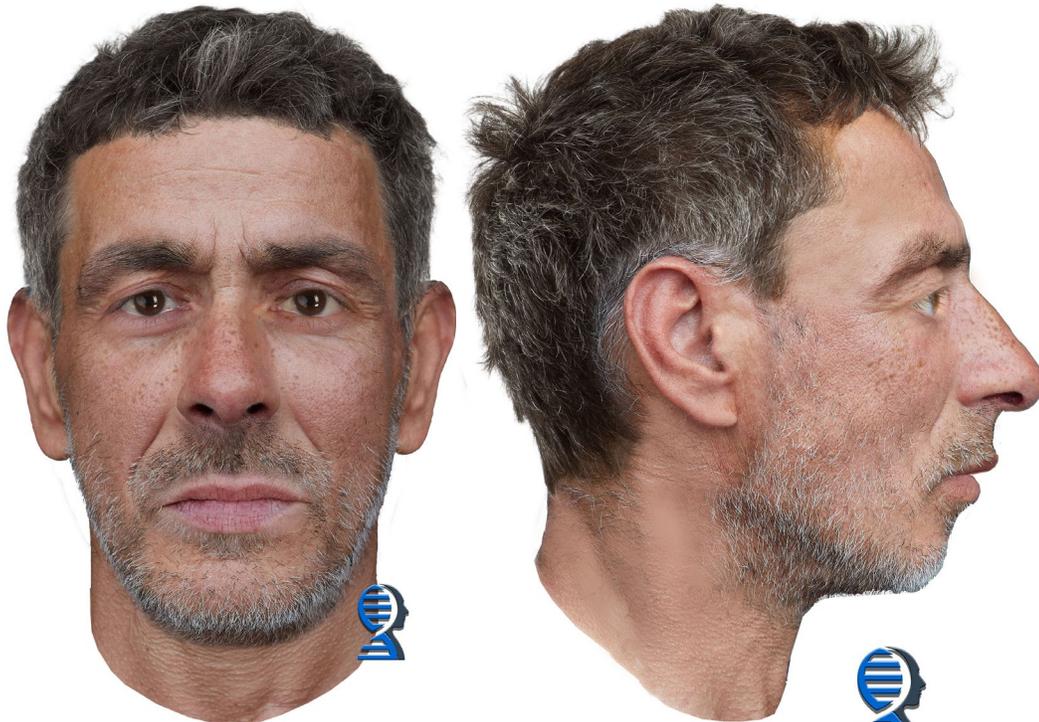




January 24, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lower Moreland Township Skeletonized Remains of 2009



FACIAL RECONSTRUCTION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CORONER, PA
CASE #2009-00451

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Images of what this individual may have looked like using DNA phenotyping science.

On 15 March 2009, nearly skeletonized remains were discovered in a wooded area behind the 2500 block of Pine Road in the Huntingdon Valley section of Lower Moreland Township. A multi-agency investigation was initiated, and is ongoing.

The Coroner's Office collected, cleaned and preserved the bones. Almost all were recovered. Three anthropologists have been consulted over the years, and all agree that there is no antemortem skeletal trauma. Toxicological analysis was successfully done on some remaining soft tissue, which revealed methamphetamine. The cause of death is undetermined. Time since death was estimated to be between 18 and 24 months. The height is approximately 5' 6", with an age range of 35-60 years old. In addition to the skeleton, clothing was recovered: Polo brand brown trousers size 32x30, and Dexter brand dress shoes.

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A forensic artist produced a clay bust in 2009, which was used in press releases. The teeth are straight and well cared for, with several silver fillings, however without a presumptive ID, there are no antemortem records to compare. DNA has been submitted to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), and this case has been uploaded to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS).

In 2018 the Montgomery County District Attorney used DNA phenotyping science to produce what a suspect might look like in a criminal case where DNA was left behind. This provided a new option for the Coroner's Office to pursue. DNA was extracted and submitted, as well as the skull. Submitting the skull helped to define the shape of the face, and certain features. The result is a snapshot of what this individual possibly looked like. This is not an exact science, but it is something worth exploring. In addition to the photo, it was discovered that this individual had strong ethnic origins in the Mediterranean, southeastern Europe, and northwestern Middle East.

Since 2009, the Lower Moreland Police Department investigated multiple leads regarding the identity of the person but no positive identification has ever been discovered. The Lower Moreland Police Department seeks any information that might help to identify the person. If you have any information, please contact the Lower Moreland Police Department at (215) 947-3132.

Michael Milbourne, M.D.
Coroner
Montgomery County

David J. Scirrotto
Chief of Police
Lower Moreland Twp.