



NamUs:
National Missing & Unidentified
Persons System

Billy Young
NamUs Senior Coordinator



Missing and Unidentified Persons

Our Nations “Silent Mass Disaster”

Where Are They?

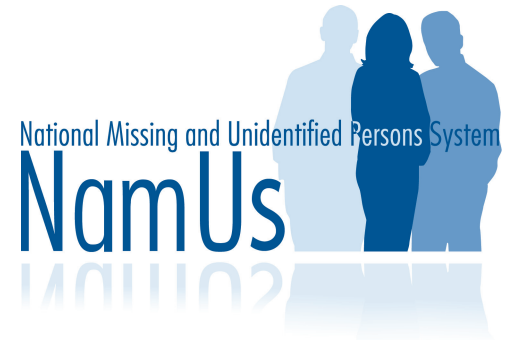


Over 100,000 Missing Persons

Who Are They?

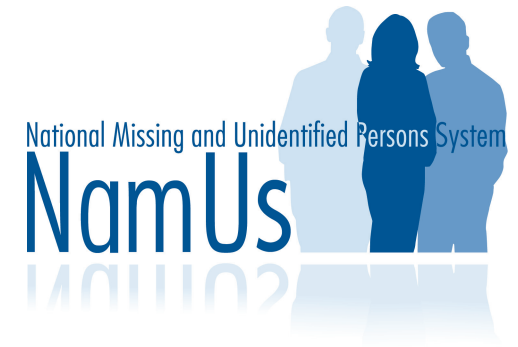


40,000 Unidentified Remains

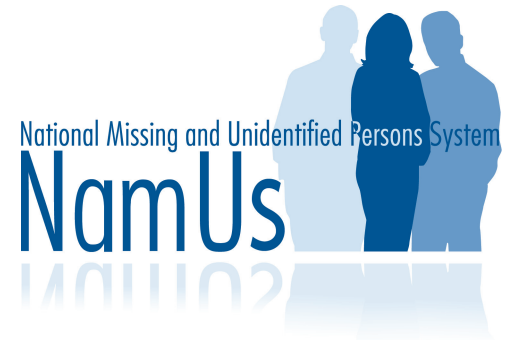


Unidentified Persons: The Number Keeps Growing

- 4,400 new unidentified decedents per year
- 1,000 remain unidentified after one year
- ME and coroners' offices recording of unidentified remains



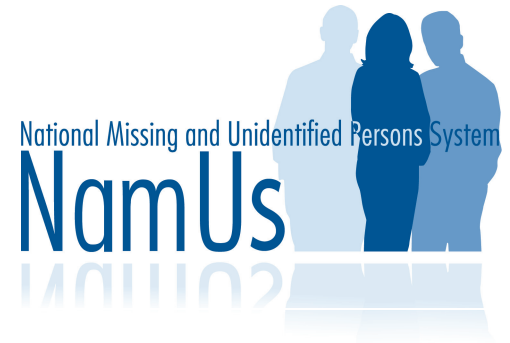
NamUs: The Plan



The Challenge:

Create a New Central Reporting System

- Cutting-edge search capabilities
- Share information between agencies
- Match unidentified records against missing persons records
- Allow public and professionals to work together



NamUs.gov



FindtheMissing.org
Missing Persons Database



IdentifyUs.org
Unidentified Persons Database





NamUs National Missing and Unidentified Persons System



- [Home](#)
- [About NamUs](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Volunteer Information](#)
- [News Room](#)



Missing Persons

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a clearinghouse for missing persons and unidentified decedent records. NamUs is a free online system that can be searched by medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officials and the general public to solve these cases.



Unidentified Persons

The **Unidentified Persons Database** contains information entered by medical examiners and coroners. Unidentified persons are people who have died and whose bodies have not been identified. Anyone can search this database using characteristics such as sex, race, distinct body features and even dental information.



Watch a 6-minute video: NamUs Behind the Scenes: How It Works, Why It Matters

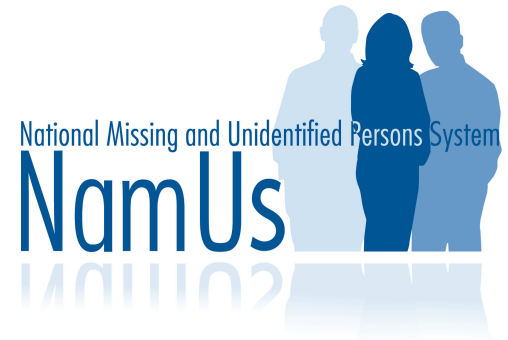
The **Missing Persons Database** contains information about missing persons that can be entered by anyone; before it appears as a case on NamUs, the information is verified. NamUs provides the ability to print missing persons posters and even map out possible travel routes in a search for a missing person. Other resources include links to state clearinghouses, medical examiner and coroner offices, law enforcement agencies, victim assistance groups and pertinent legislation.

When a new missing persons or unidentified decedent case is entered into NamUs, the system automatically performs cross-matching comparisons between the databases, searching for matches or similarities between cases.

NamUs also provides free DNA testing and other forensic services, such as anthropology and odontology assistance.

Outreach

- Law Enforcement
- Medical Examiners/Coroners
- Homicide Investigators
- Victims Advocates
- Public



Working Together

- Unidentified person cases entered by Medical Examiners/ Coroners/ Death Investigators
- Anyone can enter a Missing Persons record
 - Cases are validated by case managers

Working Together

- University of North Texas CHI
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
 - Team of administrators co-managing cases with Families and Law Enforcement of juvenile cases
- Violent Criminal Apprehension Program
 - Employee within FBI to provide analytical support, data analysis, case entry, and case management
- National Association of Medical Examiners
 - Case entry support



Free Services

Free Services for state and local agencies



- **DNA - Family Reference Sample Collection Kits**
 - University of North Texas (UNT)
 - Order kits while entering a case on NamUs with a click of a button!
- **Forensic Odontologists on staff to code dental images and records**
 - Code, digitalize and enter the dental records for missing persons
 - No cost secure courier service for use to transport dental records
- **Fingerprint Examination**
 - Assist in comparisons
- **Cross – Matching Feature**
 - Simultaneous searching of the Missing Persons cases against Unidentified Persons
 - The general public and public users will not see the possible matches
- **Case Tracking feature for ME/C cases on Unidentified Persons system**
 - Allows system to send automated emails when a case is modified

NamUs Online Training

- Video Modules are accessed on the internet
 - <http://projects.nfstc.org/namus/>
 - Note: The NamUs Missing Persons training site was used to produce the video modules. The missing person featured in the videos is not an actual missing person case.
- *The training was designed for Law Enforcement users of NamUs Missing persons and were recorded using a full view permission level of the system.*
 - Full view permission rights are reserved for sworn Law Enforcement officers, Case Managers, Medical field personnel and the Regional System Administrators
 - Each new user requesting a higher permission level is subject to the NamUs validation process
- *The interactive training modules allow Law Enforcement to learn about NamUs Missing persons at their leisure.*
 - The modules educate Law enforcement on the free forensic services NamUs offers to their agencies once their cases are entered into the system



UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS



NamUs Unidentified Persons System

[Home](#) [Search](#) [Resources](#) [News Room](#) [Help](#) [NamUs Home](#)

Search...

Member Login

E-Mail:

Password:

[Forgot your password?](#)

Links

[Missing Persons Database](#)



[DOJ Home](#)

[OJP Home](#)

[NIJ Home](#)

[USA.gov](#)

Welcome to NamUs Unidentified Persons

Welcome to the National Unidentified Persons System, a searchable database created to assist in solving cases that involve unidentified human remains. The system includes cases from throughout the United States and may be searched by demographics, physical characteristics, case numbers or other specific information. New records are added every day by medical examiners and coroners across the country, increasing the chances that these unidentified persons will be named. **Registration is not necessary to search the database, but coroners and medical examiners are required to register in order to enter case information.**

This site is part of NamUs, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. This database is designed to search for matches against the [Missing Persons System](#).

[Watch a 6-minute video: NamUs Behind the Scenes: How It Works, Why It Matters](#)

Quick Search

Sex

Race

Ethnicity

Date last known alive

Age last known alive

State last known alive

Disclaimer:

This Web site is funded through a grant from the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Neither the U.S. Department of Justice nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse this Web site (including, without limitation, its content, technical infrastructure, and policies, and any services or tools provided).

Recent Cases



[May 29, 2010](#)
[Oregon](#)



[May 27, 2010](#)
[Texas](#)

UP Case Breakdown

Total Cases: 6648

Open Cases: 6384 - 96.02%

Closed Cases: 264 - 3.97%

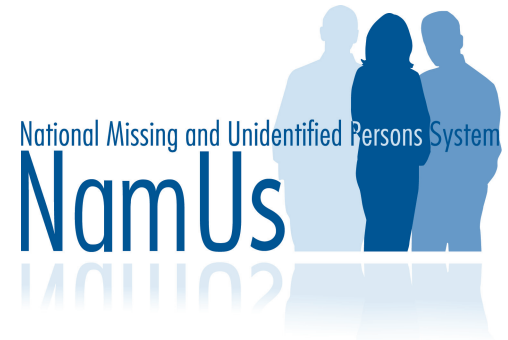
NamUs Aided: 15 - 5.68%

State Case Breakdown

Select a state to get information...

*Total cases as of
June 17, 2010*

NamUs: UP Advanced Search



+ Case Information

- Demographics (Searching for Sex, Estimated Age, Race, Probable year of death)

Estimated Age

Age Range

Race

Ethnicity

Sex

Weight

Weight Type

Height

Height Type

BI - All parts recovered

BI - Head not recovered

BI - Torso not recovered

BI - One or more limbs not recovered

BI - One or both hands not recovered

Body Condition

Notes on Body Parts Recovered

Probable year of death to

+ Circumstances

+ Physical / Medical

+ Fingerprints

+ Clothing and Accessories

+ Dental

+ DNA

+ Images

+ Documents

+ Police Information

Search

Search Results

List Search Clear

1 cases found based on Probable year of death "2004 to 2005", Tattoos "Cross",
Estimated Age "Adult - Pre 40", Sex "Male", Race "White"

View: [Case Log](#) | [Thumbnails](#) | [Map](#)

UP #	Date Found	County	ST	Case Number	Sex	Race	Age Range
613	06/17/2004	Harris	TX	ML04-1916	Male	White	20 to 30

1 / 1 10 1 Record(s) Found

[Save this Search](#)

Case Tracking Feature



National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

NamUs

Unidentified Persons System

[Home](#) [My Dashboard](#) [Search](#) [Resources](#) [News Room](#) [Help](#) [NamUs Home](#)

Law Enforcement [\[Edit Profile\]](#) [\[LogOut\]](#)

NamUs UP # 412



NamUs UP Case Number: 412
ME/C Case Number: 07-07506
Clark County, Nevada
35 to 41 Year Old White Female

Identification Potential



Low - Medium

Case Navigation

Case Information

[Demographics](#)

[Circumstances](#)

[Physical / Medical](#)

Case Information

Status Unidentified
Case number 07-07506
NCIC number N/A
Date found September 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM
Date created June 30, 2007 at 12:00 AM
Date last modified December 08, 2009 at 08:14 AM
Date QA reviewed

Disposition of Body

Cooler number
Cemetery name
Plot number
Date/time buried

Notes

Local Medical Examiner/Coroner Contact

Agency Clark Cnty Coroner Ofc

Phone 702-455-3210

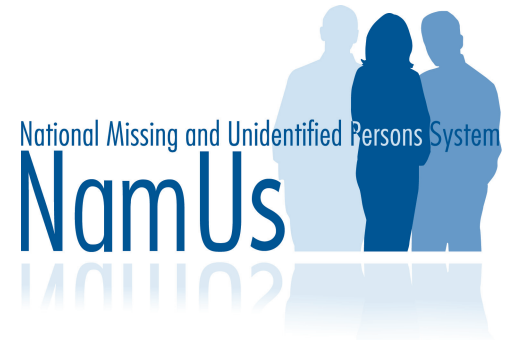
Case Manager

Name

Email

Activities Log

[\[Expand\]](#)



“To be able to enter cases into a system like NamUs is the perfect answer for my type of work.”

- Randy Hanzlick, Fulton County, GA,
Medical Examiner



MISSING PERSONS

Member Login

E-Mail:

Password:

LOGIN

REGISTER

[Forgot your password?](#)**Links**[Unidentified Decedents Database](#)[DOJ Home](#)[OJP Home](#)[NIJ Home](#)[USA.gov](#)**Welcome to NamUs Missing Persons**

This site provides an opportunity for families, law enforcement agencies and investigators to search nationwide for missing persons using a variety of powerful search features. Anyone may search the database, but by registering in the system both law enforcement professionals and the general public will also be able to:

- Add new missing persons cases
- Add physical and circumstantial details, photographs, dental contacts and other critical pieces of information to a case
- Create and print missing persons posters
- Track multiple cases as information is added to the system

With your help, we can increase the number of missing persons cases solved each year providing closure for families and law enforcement officials nationwide.

[Watch a 6-minute video: *NamUs Behind the Scenes: How It Works, Why It Matters*](#)

This site is part of NamUs, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. In the near future, this database will be linked to search for matches against the [Unidentified Decedent Database](#).

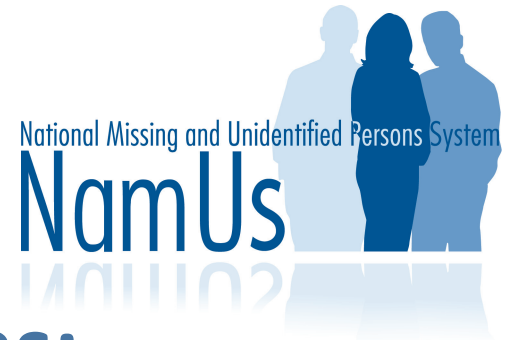
To enter a Missing Persons report into the NamUs database, please log in or register as a new user using the button to the left.

Quick SearchName Gender State **Recent Cases**John Adams
Albuquerque, NMAndrew Bliss
, WI**MP Case Breakdown**

Total Cases: 1344
Open Cases: 1339 - 99.62%
Closed Cases: 5 - 0.37%

State Case Breakdown

Select a state to get information...



NamUs Missing Persons: Empowering Families

- **Loved ones can actively participate**
- **Provides access to resources and information**
- **Government-funded, nationwide tools**
- **Missing adults**



NamUs Cross-Matching

Linking the Missing & Unidentified



NamUs Team [\[Edit Profile\]](#) [\[LogOut\]](#)

NamUs MP # 1320

April Pitzer



Profile Strength



Case Navigation

- Case Information
- Circumstances
- Physical / Medical
- Clothing and Accessories
- Electronic Communications
- Transportation Methods
- Secondary Parties
- Dental
- DNA Sample
- Fingerprints
- Images
- Documents
- Police Information
- Exclusions
- Possible UID Matches (28)
- Reports
- Contacts



Case Information

Status	<input type="text" value="Missing"/>	Age	<input type="text" value="30"/> to <input type="text" value=""/> years old *
First Name	<input type="text" value="April"/> *	Age Now	35 years old
Middle Name	<input type="text" value="Beth"/>	Race	<input type="text" value="White"/>
Last Name	<input type="text" value="Pitzer"/> *	Ethnicity	<input type="text"/>
Maiden Name	<input type="text" value="Coggins or Campbell"/>	Sex	<input type="text" value="Female"/>
Nickname(s)	<input type="text"/>	Height	<input type="text" value="69"/> to <input type="text" value="71"/> (inches) *
Date Of Birth	<input type="text" value="February"/> <input type="text" value="19"/> <input type="text" value="1974"/>	Weight	<input type="text" value="125"/> to <input type="text" value=""/> (pounds) *
Place Of Birth	<input type="text"/>	Blood Type	<input type="text"/>
NCIC Number	<input type="text" value="M314239727"/>		
NCMEC Number	<input type="text"/>		
Date LKA	<input type="text" value="June"/> <input type="text" value="28"/> <input type="text" value="2004"/> <input type="text" value="00"/> : <input type="text" value="00"/>		
Date Entered	<input type="text" value="December 18, 2008"/>		

Activities Log [\[Expand\]](#)

When you open an MP case, the system automatically checks the UID cases for possible matches; in this case there are 28 possible matches in the Unidentified Persons side of NamUs.



Possible UID Matches

[Adjust Sensitivity](#)

NamUs UP #	Date Found	NCIC #	Location	Sex	Race	Age
27	02/25/2005	U870018356	, GA	Female	Unsure	25 to 45
28	02/01/2005	U310006772	Atlanta, GA	Unsure	Unsure	20 to 50
127	02/11/2005		Miami, FL	Female	Unsure	18 to 99

Navigation: 1 / 10 3 28 Record(s) Found



Clicking on one of the "possible" matching cases from the log opens that case and displays the same basic information for a side-by-side comparison.

NamUs MP #
NCIC Number
Date LKA
Age
Race
Ethnicity
Sex
Height
Weight

White
Female
69.0 to 71.0 inches
125.0 pounds

Possible UID Matches

[Adjust Sensitivity](#)

[Show Case Log](#)



NamUs MP # 1320
NCIC Number M314239727
Date LKA June 28, 2004 - 00:00
Age 30 to years old
Race White



NamUs UP # [4968](#)
NCIC Number
Date Found 2008-11-03 00:00:00
Age 30 to 50 years old
Race White

Clicking on one of the "possible" cases from the log opens that case and displays the same basic information for a side-by-side comparison.

return to her mother's address in Oklahoma. She told her mother that

[Exclude this UID Case](#)



UP # 4968



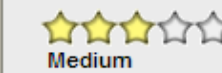
Case # 2008-05401
Rio Arriba Co. NM
30 to 50 year old
White Hispanic/Latino

Case Information

ME/C Contact Information

Name Peter Loomis Phone
Agency NM Office of the Medical Investigator E-mail

Identification P



Case Navigation

Case Information

Demographics

Date Modified	2009-03-26 15:17
QA Reviewed	2009-03-24 05:27

If you feel you'd like to see more detailed information on the UID case, you can click on the NamUs UP case number and you'll be taken to the "full" case in NamUs UP.

Tracking



NamUs UP #	4968
NCIC Number	
Date Found	2008-11-03 00:00:00
Age	30 to 50 years old
Race	White
Ethnicity	Hispanic/Latino
Sex	Female
Height	66 inches (estimated)
Weight	Could not be determined

Possible UID Matches

[Adjust Sensitivity](#)

[Show Case Log](#)



If you'd like to "narrow" or "widen" the default case matching criteria, just click the "Adjust Sensitivity" link or you may return to the case log by clicking the "Show Case Log" link.

NamUs ID	
NCIC Number	
Date LKA	
Age	
Race	white
Ethnicity	
Sex	Female
Height	69.0 to 71.0 inches
Weight	125.0 pounds
City	Newberry Springs
State	California

Race	white
Ethnicity	Hispanic/Latino
Sex	Female
Height	66 inches (estimated)
Weight	Could not be determined
City	Coyote
State	New Mexico

Possible UID Matches

Race Sex Age Height Weight Date Jun 28 2004

[Show Case Log](#)



Adjusting the default case matching criteria is easy - simply "off-check" a criteria or expand it by clicking the "up or down" arrows and click "search."

NamUs M	
NCIC Num	
Date LKA	
Age	
Race	White
Ethnicity	
Sex	Female
Height	69.0 to 71.0 inches
Weight	125.0 pounds
City	Newberry Springs
State	California

Race	White
Ethnicity	Hispanic/Latino
Sex	Female
Height	66 inches (estimated)
Weight	Could not be determined
City	Coyote
State	New Mexico



NamUs MP # 1320
 NCIC Number M314239727
 Date LKA June 28, 2004 - 00:00

NamUs UP # [4968](#)
 NCIC Number
 Date Found 2008-11-03 00:00:00

Users with the proper access may "exclude" the case as a possible match to this MP case by clicking the "Exclude this UID Case" link.

Age
 Race
 Ethnicity
 Sex
 Height
 Weight
 City
 State
 County
 Circumstances

Newberry Springs
 California
 San Bernardino
 April Pitzer was preparing to return to her mother's address in Oklahoma. She told her mother that

City Coyote
 State New Mexico
 County Rio Arriba
 Circumstances

[Exclude this UID Case](#)

Exclusion

NamUs UP #	<input type="text" value="4968"/>
Reason	<input type="text" value="Circumstances"/>
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CircumstancesDentalDNAFingerprintsOther
<input type="button" value="Add to Exclusions"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>	

Proposing an "exclusion" requires additional information, which will be reviewed by the case manager for follow-up and "approval" or "denial."

Exclusion

NamUs UP #	<input type="text" value="4968"/>
Reason	<input type="text" value="Fingerprints"/>
Description	<input type="text" value="MP1320 prints on file with San Bernardino PD, returned no match with prints in MN PD."/>
<input type="button" value="Add to Exclusions"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>	

Once details of the "exclusion" are added the "Add to Exclusions" button is clicked and - once approved - this UID case will added to the exclusions for this MP case and excluded from future searches (involving this MP case).

Case Navigation	
Case Information	
Circumstances	
Physical / Medical	
Clothing and Accessories	
Electronic Communications	
Transportation Methods	
Secondary Parties	
Dental	
DNA Sample	
Fingerprints	
Images	
Documents	
Police Information	
Exclusions	
Possible UID Matches (27)	
Reports	
Contacts	



NamUs MP #	1320
NCIC Number	M314239727
Date LKA	June 28, 2004 - 00:00
Age	30 to years old
Race	White
Ethnicity	
Sex	Female
Height	69.0 to 71.0 inches
Weight	125.0 pounds
City	Newberry Springs



Now, for MP1320 there are 27 possibles. If you click on the "Exclusions" button, you'll see the exclusion (once approved).

April Pitzer



Profile Strength



High

Case Navigation

Case Information

Circumstances

Physical / Medical

Clothing and Accessories

Electronic Communications

Transportation Methods

Exclusions

NamUs UP #	Last Name	First Name	Reason	Description	
4968	Unknown	Unknown	Fingerprints	MP1320 prints on file with ...	Delete

Add Exclusion

<< Previous Page

Next Page >>

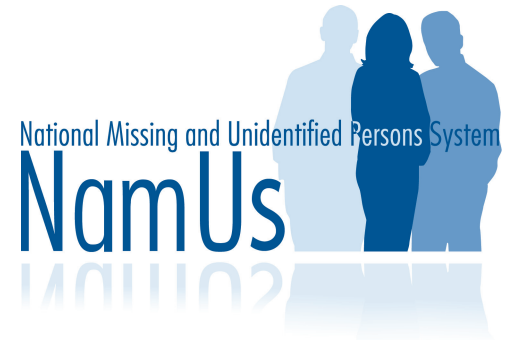
Activities Log

[\[Expand\]](#)

The exclusion has been added to the list of excluded UIDs for this MP case.



Success



Missing Persons Matched with Unidentified Remains:

Name: Luis Fernandez

NamUs case #: MP #1768

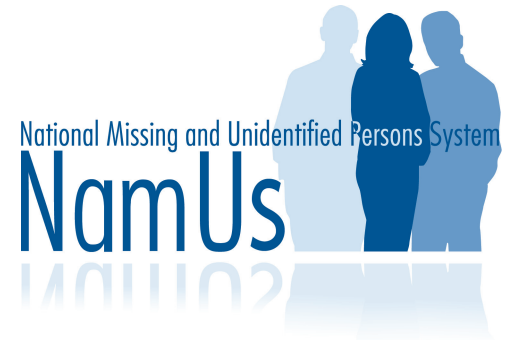
UP #1870

Person Missing: July 2007

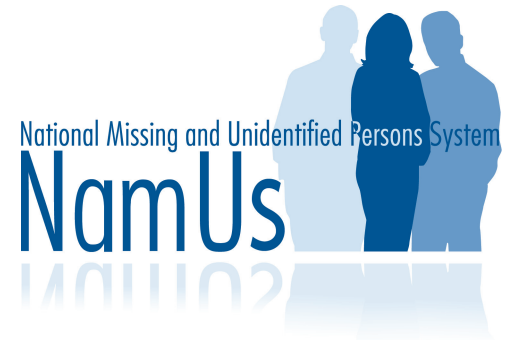
Body Found: December 3, 2007

Location: Ringgold County, Iowa

Body Identified: January 11, 2010



- July 2007 Luis Fernandez went missing in Omaha, NE
- Family reported him missing in June 2008
- Case was entered into NamUs in March 2009 after Officer Jim Shields of the Omaha Police Department learned about NamUs at a conference at the *University of North Texas Center for Human Identification*



- April 6, 2009 a civilian from Iowa contacted Officer Shields and alerted him of a possible match between Luis Fernandez – MP #1768 and UP #1870
- The ME in Ringgold County, Iowa was pulled into the case and began comparing dental records, which were ultimately inconclusive
- DNA family reference samples were taken from Fernandez’s family members and on January 11, 2010 the UP in Iowa was positively identified as Luis Fernandez



Missing Persons Case Solved:

Name: Jody King

NamUs case #: MP #1992

Person Missing: April 20, 2009

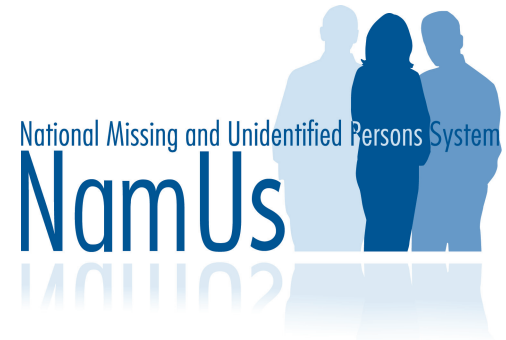
Body Found: June 18, 2009

Location: Enfield, CT

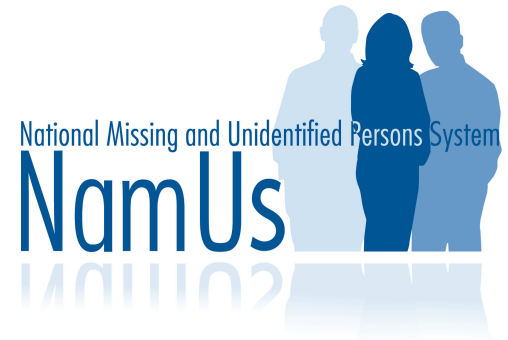
Body Identified: June 19, 2009



- April 20, 2009 Jody King went missing in Enfield, CT after the vehicle he owned (and was believed to be driving) had been in a motor vehicle accident
- Family reported him missing on April 21, 2009 to local police in NY (Jody's home town)
- Case was entered into NamUs in May 5, 2009 by his family



- Body was found June 18, 2009 by a security guard on private property near the accident site in a maze of pipes in a culvert
- Autopsy conducted June 19, 2009 in CT
 - OCME CT reached out to NamUs Odontologist for dental records
 - NamUs Odontologist emailed Jody's dental records to the CT OCME, plus a link to Jody's file on NamUs so they could view the images of Jody's tattoos and wedding band if they felt those images would be helpful
- CT OCME had notified Odontologist that they had positively identified the body as that of Jody King using the NamUs dental records.
 - Body Identified within 2 ½ hours from the time Odontologist sent records to OCME



Missing Persons Case Solved:

Name: David Brennesholtz

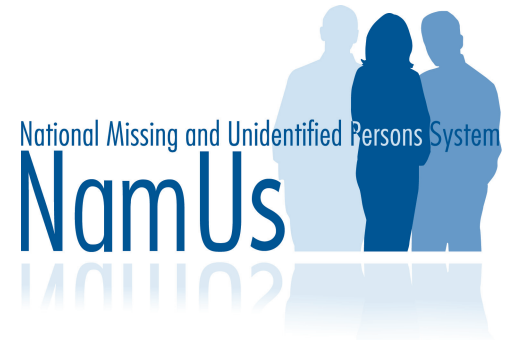
NamUs case #: UP #2297

Body Found: March 8, 2008

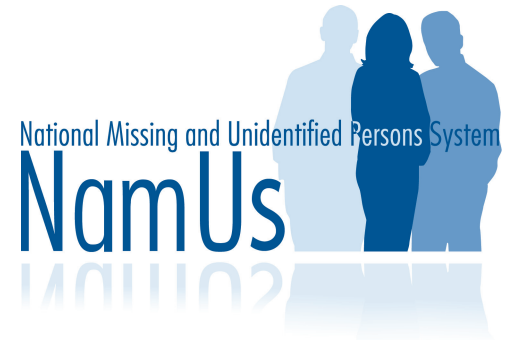
Body Entered Into NamUs: July 2008

Location: Clearwater, FL

Body Identified: May 10, 2010

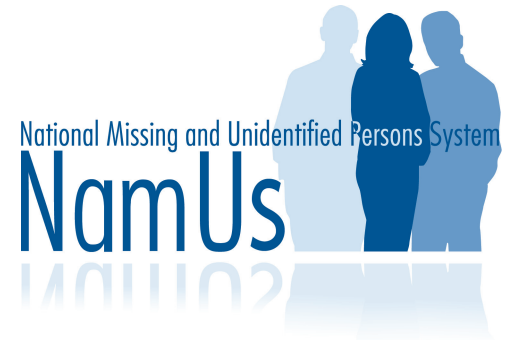


- Unidentified Persons case entered into NamUs
- TV Show “The Forgotten” airs public service announcement from Christian Slater talking about NamUs
- Sue D’Agostino – has not heard from her brother in several years
- Registers for NamUs
- See’s a photo
- NamUs has contact information for the medical examiners office who has the remains
- Sister contacts, utilizes free DNA testing through UNTCHI
- Identity restored



“Solving the case is totally dependent on identifying the victim.”

--Emily Craig, Forensic Anthropologist & Medical Examiner



What was Accomplished?

1. One less open case for Law Enforcement
2. One less body in the Medical Examiner's Office
3. Closure for a family
4. Giving a person their identity back



Questions?



Thank You

Billy Young

NamUs Senior Coordinator

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