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### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY LYKOS ANNOUNCES ARREST IN 1981 MURDER**

(Houston, Texas) Harris County District Attorney Patricia Lykos announced the arrest of a fugitive on the lam for nearly 30 years. David Gonzales, 63, was arrested Friday in Plains, Montana by US Marshals. He was charged with killing Bulfrano Ramirez in Houston in September of 1981. DA Investigator Chuck Lowery located Gonzales in Montana and directed US Marshals to his whereabouts to make the arrest. Gonzales had been living under another name, Antonio Martinez Meraz, for several years.

This is the third arrest in less than a month by the DA's Cold Case and Fugitive Apprehension Section, an initiative envisioned and then implemented by DA Lykos when she took office in January 2009. For years, fugitive felons were not actively sought by the office; prosecutors relied solely on law enforcement to locate and arrest them. Lykos formed the section, having a prosecutor gather, collect, and review files in which murder and capital murder defendants had either fled from justice or never been arrested. Then DA Investigator Chuck Lowery began searching public databases, confirming and entering additional information, and scrutinizing records to locate the fugitives. Approximately 45 cases have been resolved since the section was formed, including more than 20 defendants arrested and returned to Harris County on murder and capital murder warrants.

Lykos credits the hard work of Extradition Administrator Kim Bryant and Investigator Lowery for the return of the dangerous felons. "We anticipate even more arrests over the next few weeks," she stated. "You'd better watch out—we're coming for you."

Extradition proceedings against Gonzales have begun. Once returned, he will face prosecution in the 232nd District Court. (END)

