

July 20, 2020

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Dear Honorable Judge,

We would like to be identified as the Yolo County couple.

Yolo County Victim/Witness

I was raped by the East Area Rapist in the early morning of June 23rd, 1978.

I would like to make a Victim Impact Statement to the Court.

For 42 years we have lived with the memories of the night we were suddenly awakened by a man standing in our bedroom doorway shouting orders with flashlight and gun in hand, threatening death if we resisted. We are furious that this man ruined our innocence, angry that the memories persist, frustrated that there are triggers that still remind us of that horror, and tired of enduring forty years of fear that he might return to kill us as he threatened.

But one of the police officers who hovered around us that night said "Don't let him change your lives." So we persevered, pushed the intrusive memories away and carried on, traumatized but surviving, even thriving.

Then one morning, two years ago, my husband checked his computer for daily news, as usual, and came to me with a big hug and whispered in my ear, "They caught him!"

We both felt an instant lightness in our hearts, a lifting of the fear and rage we had felt for all those years, astonished at the news. We had not thought the East Area Rapist would ever be found.

We want to thank the whole law enforcement team, especially the Sacramento County District Attorney, for their persistence in trying to find this perpetrator who caused so much trauma and grief for us and for so many other victims. They did not let the cases be forgotten.

It is truly gratifying to have closure, to know that the East Area Rapist is finally behind bars. **Please don't ever let him out.**

Sincerely,

The Yolo County couple