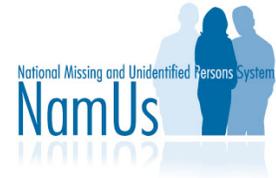




NamUs National Missing and Unidentified Persons System



NamUs Success Stories



Name: Ronald Lee Norman
NamUs case#: MP# 829 and UP #8484
Person Missing: December 8, 1991
Body Found: April 24, 1992
Body Identified: February 28, 2011

Location: Detroit, MI

On December 8, 1991 Ronald Norman, 42, went missing from the foster care home where he lived in Detroit, MI. He went for a walk and was never seen again. His case was entered into NamUs as MP #829 in December 2008 with a number of other Michigan State Police (MSP) cases.

On April 24, 1992 two fishermen came across a body floating in Lake Erie. The medical examiner determined the victim's cause of death was drowning. The unidentified man was buried as "John Doe" in a local cemetery, but his case was not connected with Norman.

Nearly 19 years later in February 2011, MSP began entering their unidentified cases into NamUs and the unidentified man found in Lake Erie became UP #8484. As soon as the UP case was entered, the NamUs automated cross-matching feature flagged UP #8484 and MP #829 as a potential match and presented it to the investigator for a closer look. The UP case had similar features to Norman's – specifically missing teeth, a skull injury and the type of clothing he was last seen wearing. The cases were pulled and an identification was ultimately made from the skull injury, although location, teeth and circumstances were also factors. On February 28, 2011 the Monroe County medical examiner positively identified UP #8484 as Ronald Norman.

NamUs Role: A law enforcement officer entered cold unidentified cases into NamUs in hopes of obtaining leads. The system's automated cross match feature immediately flagged Ronald Norman's missing person case and he was eventually identified because of the distinctive physical characteristics noted in the cases files -- a skull injury, missing teeth, as well as the clothing he was last seen wearing. This was first resolved case as a result of the NamUs automated cross-matching feature. After nearly 20 years with no new information on Norman's missing persons case, he was identified within a few weeks of being entered into the NamUs system, resolving a missing persons case, an unidentified case and returning a long-lost brother to his family.

Name: Jody King
NamUs case #: MP #1992
Person Missing: April 20, 2009
Body Found: June 18, 2009
Body Identified: June 19, 2009

Location: Connecticut

In April 2009, a man involved in a car accident in Connecticut disappeared from the scene. Police and dogs searched the area, finding the man's wallet and some clothing, but not the driver himself. A few weeks later, the man's aunt entered very thorough information — including dental records and images of tattoos and a wedding band — into NamUs. The following month, a body was found near the accident scene and, in June 2009, with the help of the dental records that were readily accessible in NamUs, the body was identified as Jody King, the man who had disappeared following the car accident.

NamUs Role: Dental records that had been loaded into NamUs were used to positively identify the body of Jody King.

Name: Sonia Lente

NamUs case #: UID#2726 and MP#597

Person Missing: October 03, 2002

Body Found: 2004

Location: Albuquerque, NM

Body Identified: June, 2009

In June 2009, a citizen searching NamUs noticed a possible match between a woman who had been missing since 2002 and an unidentified body found near Albuquerque two years later. Although authorities initially thought the cases might be the same person, a DNA test was not close enough to make a definitive match and the case grew cold. When the citizen cyber-sleuth saw a potential match in NamUs, she alerted the NamUs contact on the case. A forensic odontologist, available through NamUs at no charge to agencies, assisted in the identification of remains. Two days later, the family of woman who had been missing for over six years was notified that their loved one's remains had finally been identified.

NamUs Role: NamUs allowed a private citizen to access information through a single system, where records from across the nation are now stored in one place. Providing public access to the data was critical to the success of solving the Sonia Lente case.

Name: Paula Beverly Davis

NamUs case #: UP #985

Person Missing: August 9, 1987

Body Found: August 10, 1987

Location: Englewood, Ohio

Body Identified: December 11, 2009

(Montgomery County)

On August 9, 1987, Paula Davis went missing from, Kansas City, Missouri. Fourteen hours after she was reported missing, a body was found in Montgomery County, Ohio, but the two cases were never compared. In October 2009, Davis' sister, Stephanie Clack, was watching an episode of "the forgotten" and saw the NamUs public service announcement. She went to NamUs.gov and searched the UP side with the information she had about her sister's case. After looking at a number of records, she found a person she suspected may be her sister through descriptions of her sister's unique tattoos – a unicorn and a red rose – that the NamUs record contained. Family DNA reference samples were taken and on December 11, 2009, Paula Davis was positively identified. She has been returned to her family and buried next to her mother.

NamUs Role: A family member was able to view the unidentified records that are publicly accessible. Because her sister had knowledge of unique identifiers like the tattoos, she was able to identify her sister's remains.

Name: Leonard Bariana

NamUs case #: MP #1701

Person Missing: January 1, 1999

Found: February 24, 2010

Location: Minnesota

Leonard Bariana's family had not heard from him since 1999. They had lost touch and it had been longer than usual since they last heard from him. Emily Hanson, who knew Leonard, saw a NamUs public service announcement on "the forgotten", visited the website and saw his profile. Emily contacted the NamUs regional service specialist associated with the case and told him she knew Leonard. She then connected the RSS to a nurse who was caring for Leonard in a private facility, who then put the family and nurse in touch. Leonard and his sister were reunited over the phone. Leonard was the first missing person in NamUs who was found alive.

NamUs Role: An acquaintance of Leonard's was able to view the missing person records that are publicly accessible and notify the case manager of his location.

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

In July 2007, Luis Fernandez went missing in Omaha, NE, and his family reported him missing in June 2008. Fernandez's case was entered into NamUs in March 2009 after Officer Jim Shields of the Omaha Police Department learned about NamUs at a University of North Texas Center for Human Identification conference. On 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 medical examiner in Ringgold County, Iowa, was contacted and began comparing dental records, which were ultimately inconclusive. Family DNA reference samples were taken from Fernandez's family members and on January 11, 2010, the UP in Iowa was positively identified as Luis Fernandez.

NamUs Role: A law enforcement officer entered his missing person cases into NamUs in hopes of obtaining leads on some of his cold cases. Because a coroner in another state had also used the system on the unidentified remains side, the two agencies were able to work together to identify Luis Fernandez.

Name: David Brennesholtz

NamUs case#: UP #2297

Body Found: March 8, 2008

Location: Clearwater, Florida

Body Identified: May 10, 2010

On March 8, 2008 an unidentified deceased male was found in Clearwater, Florida. The case was entered into NamUs in July 2008. In November 2009, Sue D'Agostino from Islip, New York learned of NamUs while watching "the forgotten". D'Agostino and her family had not heard from her brother, David Brennesholtz, for several years and began searching the unidentified side of NamUs. She found that NamUs was full of potential and she continued to search over the next several months.

On April 14, 2010 she finally came across UP #2297 and thought the face in the photo could be her brother. D'Agostino contacted the Pinellas County Medical Examiner's office and told them she thought one of their cases could be her brother. Family DNA reference samples were taken and on May 10, 2010 a completed DNA report positively identified the Clearwater man as David Brennesholtz, D'Agostino's missing brother .

Name: Leland Torrey

NamUs case #: MP #3934

Person Missing: July 28, 2009

Body Found: October, 29 2010

Location: Maricopa County, Arizona

Body Identified: November 3, 2010

On July 27th, 2009 Leland Torrey left his home in Maricopa County, Arizona, taking only his vehicle and a handgun. He left his cell phone and wedding ring behind, and did not pack any clothing or personal property. Leland's case was entered into NamUs as a missing person on December 12, 2009 by the Phoenix Police Department with assistance from NamUs personnel.

On October 13, 2010 a hunter found a vehicle nearly buried in the Woolsey Peak Mountain Wilderness. The hunter searched online for the license plate on the vehicle and was directed to Torrey's case on the NamUs website and the Phoenix Police Department (PPD) missing person bulletin.

On October 29, 2010 the PPD and Phoenix Fire Department searched of the area near where the vehicle was found and discovered human remains including a skull with teeth, clothing, and a wallet with Leland's Arizona drivers license. Dental records on file for Torrey were compared to the teeth on the remains. On November 3, 2010 it was verified that the skull was Leland Torrey's.

NamUs Role: Dental records that had been loaded into NamUs were used to positively identify the remains of Leland Torrey.

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