

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Man convicted today in rape trial, sentenced to at least 60 years in prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, a jury found Roger Dale Honeycutt, 62, guilty in connection with the 1981 rapes of two women in Charlotte. The trial began February 18, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Superior Court Judge.

Honeycutt was tried for 1) two counts of second-degree rape, 2) two counts of second-degree sex offense, and 3) two counts of first-degree burglary. The jury convicted Honeycutt of all charges.

Because the offenses occurred in 1981, Honeycutt had to be sentenced under the Fair Sentencing Act, which preceded the current sentencing system in North Carolina that was established by the Structured Sentencing Act. Judge Caldwell sentenced Honeycutt as follows for each offense:

Second-degree rape: 10 to 20 years
Second-degree rape: 10 to 20 years
Second-degree sex offense: 10 to 20 years
Second-degree sex offense: 10 to 20 years
First-degree burglary: 10 to 30 years
First-degree burglary: 10 to 30 years

On January 24, 1981, Honeycutt entered the first victim's home, covered her mouth with his hand and then raped her.

Less than a month later, on February 21, 1981, Honeycutt entered another victim's home and raped her while her family slept upstairs. The victim was pregnant at the time of the assault.

Honeycutt told both women he wouldn't hurt them if they didn't scream.

Honeycutt was connected to the crimes decades later when the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit found that DNA evidence in the sexual assaults matched Honeycutt's DNA, which had been entered into a national database.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office appreciates the courage the victims showed in facing their attacker during trial. Prosecutors would also like to thank the Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit for helping to finally bring justice for these victims.



Roger Honeycutt

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA

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