DAN DOW DISTRICT ATTORNEY

1035 Palm Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Tel. (805) 781-5800 Fax. (805) 781-4307 www.slocounty.ca.gov/DA



PRESS RELEASE

Lee V. Cunningham Assistant District Attorney

Jerret C. Gran Chief Deputy District Attorney

Sheryl M. Wolcott Chief Deputy District Attorney

William M. Hanley Chief, Bureau of Investigations

Philip Ken Trujillo Convicted of Four Counts of Vehicular Manslaughter with Gross Negligence for Deaths Caused on Christmas Eve 2014

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, May 25, 2017 – A San Luis Obispo Jury deliberated Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning before returning guilty verdicts convicting Philip Ken Trujillo (dob 7/31/1959) of all four counts of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter [Penal Code section 192(c)(1)] as alleged against him.

The criminal charges stemmed from a collision that occurred on Christmas Eve in 2014 when Mr. Trujillo pulled his big rig truck in front of an oncoming car while attempting to enter the truck stop at Wellsona Road on Highway 101 North of Paso Robles. All four occupants of the car – Crystal Lee Reuck (22), David Castillo (42), Karen Szasz (45), and Taylor Swarthout (22) – were killed in the crash.

Mr. Trujillo was remanded to the custody of the Sheriff by the Honorable Judge Michael Duffy pending his sentencing on June 22, 2017. The maximum possible sentence is 10 years in state prison.

The case was investigated by the California Highway Patrol, and prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Charles Blair.

#