

JEFFREY S. ROSELL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**



Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 200
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2400
dao@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Website

<http://datinternet.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

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Contact: Jason Gill, (831) 454-2519

Deborah Lynn Thompson Denied Parole for 1997 Vehicular Manslaughter

District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today that parole was denied for Deborah Lynn Thompson, who was convicted of gross vehicular manslaughter in 1997 for the drunk driving death of Edward Lee Traster. On March 18, 1997, Thompson lost control while driving, struck a tree and chain link fence, and overturned her car, killing her passenger, 42 year-old Edward Traster. Mr. Traster is survived by a son who serves in the armed forces. This was Thompson's fourth DUI. At the time of the accident, she was on parole for a DUI that caused injury. Judge Ariadne Symons, who now sits as a Superior Court Judge in Santa Cruz County, originally prosecuted the case against Thompson.

Thompson, now 64, has served 20 years of a 15 year to life sentence. Santa Cruz Prosecutor Jason Gill traveled to Corona State Prison to argue against parole for Thompson. He stated that she should be denied parole because she demonstrated a complete lack of insight into her alcoholism, and has never expressed any true remorse for the death of Edward Traster. The Parole Board denied Thompson's request for parole, also citing lack of insight and her continued risk to public safety.

Gill reiterated the District Attorney's Office's commitment to public safety and to victims of crime, stating, "On behalf of all victims of crime, the District Attorney's Office will continue to actively participate in the parole process and will use every reasonable measure to ensure that victims of crime have a voice and that dangerous people are kept behind bars so that our community remains safe."