

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF KERN

ARL SPARKS
Sheriff - Coroner
Public Administrator

(12)
Telephone (661) 391-7500



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

July 31, 2000

Ms. Charlotte A. Kahler-Traylor
5455 Primrose Lane
Missoula, MT 59808

Dear Ms. Kahler-Traylor

Subject: Thomas Richard Traylor, Coroner Case Number C-1870-98

In response to both congressional and senatorial inquiries into the death of your husband, Thomas Richard Traylor, a review committee assembled on July 5, 2000 to exam the facts surrounding Mr. Traylor's death. The committee was comprised of Assistant Sheriff Richard McCathron, Homicide Detective Sergeant Glenn Johnson, Forensic Pathologist Donna L. Brown, and Supervising Deputy Coroner John Van Rensselaer with the Kern County Sheriff's Department and Senior Criminalist Greg Laskowski with the Kern County District Attorney's Crime Laboratory.

The following documents were reviewed: Investigator Madelaine Kaiser's Coroner investigative report and subsequent case notes; Deputy Roger Clark's on-scene investigative report; Dr. Donna L. Brown's autopsy protocol and case notes; toxicology report; body diagram; and fourteen 35 mm color scene photographs.

After the committee members reviewed the documents, the following facts were established:

1. On December 6, 1998 at 0835 hours Mr. Traylor was found by neighbors deceased in his pickup truck which was parked on a dirt road near his residence.
2. The pickup truck was found with the ignition in the "on" position, the gas tank empty and the gear shift level in the park position, eliminating the possibility the weapon accidentally discharged while the vehicle was in motion.
3. A Stevens Model 94 single shot 410 shotgun, serial number B031710, belonging to Mr. Traylor was found inside the vehicle.