

Massa Remains Identified



(Tunica County)- A year long search for 66 year old Norma Massa is now officially over. "He has positively identified those remains through Ms. Massa through dental records", Tunica County Sheriff's Chief Randy Stewart says.

The Tunica County Sheriff's Department started working the case in December of 2004 when Massa disappeared from Fitzgerald's Casino. Several searches since then turned up nothing. But over the weekend, local hunter Ricky Farmer literally stumbled on Norma Massa's remains in this wooded area off the banks of the Mississippi River. "When I dropped the chair to grab my gun that's when i seen the skull," Farmer says.

Investigators don't beleive foul play was involved. Massa suffered from short term memory loss from several strokes. So they believe she may have just wandered away from the casino thay day. But just to make sure her bones are now in the hands of forensic specialists. "We're asking them to look to see if there's anything the state medical examiner may have missed being there may have been a small hole," Chief Stewart says.

Meanwhile, until then there is some closure for Norma Massa's daughter who put up these billboards determined to find out what happened to her mother. Now, thanks to this hunter, she knows. "I'm proud that I gave her closure," Farmer says.

Massa's daughter has been laying low over the last few days. But Wednesday morning she plans to speak out with her attorney by her side. The attorney who represents her in the lawsuit she filed against St. Peter's Retirement Home for negligence. The home that took Massa and others from the home to the casino that December day.

The body of Norma Dale Massa, an elderly Memphis woman who disappeared over a year ago while on a casino trip in Tunica County, is believed to have been found. Skeletal remains were discovered by a deer hunter between Fitzgerald's Casino and Sam's Town Casino. Authorities believe the remains belong to the woman; an autopsy is pending. Tunica County Chief Deputy Randy Steward was quoted as saying that, after examining the scene, there is no reason to conclude foul play. Massa who suffered from memory loss might have wandered into the area and become lost. The body was found carrying a bag from the Fitzgerald's casino souvenir shop.

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