

Re: Victim Impact Statement

Date: 16May2024

Re: Loretta Paluszynski Case: 02080514

In loving memory of Loretta "Lori" Paluszynski

Thank you, your Honor, for giving me this opportunity to hear my voice.

By: Joe Paluszynski, Brother of Loretta Paluszynski

I remember this like it was yesterday. On 8Aug2002 at approximately 0515, there was a knock on my front door. I couldn't imagine who would be at the door so early. There were two Salinas Police Detectives, Detective Gunter and Detective Bohannan showing me badges, looking for Joe Paluszynski. I told them I'm Joe and asked what this was about. They came in and asked me if Loretta was my sister, I said yes. Then asked me when was the last time I spoke with her. I told them I gave her some money for pizza at round table for her and kids a few days ago. I was not prepared for what was next, they sat me down and told me they found my sister dead in her apartment. I couldn't

believe it, I asked if they were sure it was my sister and was advised they had a positive ID. I had all kinds of questions, I didn't know where to start. I asked about my niece and nephew, who were 1 and 3 at the time, they said they were then placed into protective custody for their safety. I had run-ins with Juan at times, many times my sister came to my house, day and night to get away from him. At one point she was hospitalized and Juan even tried to enter the hospital through the side entrance. My sister had numerous restraining orders too. He just seemed to be inconsiderate to obey them and respect them or let alone have respect for my sister and her children. Throughout this time from 8Aug2002-present time, I've had nothing but anger, frustration and nightmares. Wondering, why? Why did Juan take my sister's life? why was he such a coward that he had to fight with a woman; hurt her physically, mentally. That wasn't enough, he had to take her life. When he took her life, he took a part of my life and my families too. I had so many unanswered questions. Why? How? Who did this? What happened? Why did my sister die? I had looked after my sister, I was big brother, her protector. She was my baby sister, she was a

mother, a hard worker to support her children working 2 full-time jobs and still found time to go to the beach with her kids. Lori had potential to do anything, always worked hard to support her children and herself, and was too proud to ask for help. Always loved helping others, was loved by everyone, always had a smile on her face, was so ambitious, the sky was the limit with her. She would go above and beyond in all aspects for herself, her children and others. It caused me so much pain, I lost a piece of my heart, there was a big hole that was just gone. I will never be able to celebrate birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, 4th of July Barbecue at my house without wishing my sister was here to make everyone laugh. All these years have gone by and it only became harder knowing Juan was still running around and wondering if he had harmed anybody else. When you, Juan, took my sister's life, you took a part of my life and my family's life that will never be able to be replaced. You put a hole so large in our family that it will never be able to be repaired. I've always wondered while you were on the run, if you hurt anyone else out there like you did my sister. I also wondered what your family thought about you; the questions

they had as well. Till this day, personally my heart has never healed. I still have a void that I can't fix, not with therapy, medication or anything. I told the victim advocacy that I'd like to have an opportunity to go on a zoom call and look you in the face while you are looking at me and ask you, why did you take my sister away from me? Now all I can do is look at the sentence you're facing, and say to myself that with this sentence it will not bring my sister back, but it will give Juan time to realize he can't do this to anybody else.

Joe Paluszynski