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AURORA MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN 30-YEAR-OLD MURDER 1981 DEATH OF 20-YEAR-OLD AURORA WOMAN FINALLY SOLVED

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An Aurora man has pleaded guilty to his role in the 1981 death of a woman, a crime that went uncharged until 2008.

Larry J. Galloway, 50 (d.o.b. 10-8-1961), of the 700 block of Meadowsedge Lane, Aurora, today agreed with the Kane County State's Attorney to a sentence of 10 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections in exchange for a guilty plea to one count of voluntary manslaughter, a Class 1 felony.

Circuit Judge David R. Akemann accepted the plea.

Galloway was scheduled to stand trial on murder charges in the case starting today.

Sometime after 3 p.m. Sept. 9, 1981, Galloway entered an apartment in the 1600 block of Shamrock Court, Aurora, and strangled 20-year-old Cheryl Lynn Hall with the cord from a clothes iron.

In the months prior to Hall's death, Hall and her husband had been friendly with Galloway and his wife at the time. The couples often would get together to play cards. At about 2 p.m. Sept. 9, 1981, Hall's husband had returned to the apartment to have lunch with her, and left sometime before 3 p.m. Galloway knew that Hall was off work that day, and had gone to the apartment unannounced, as he had approximately two months prior, knowing that she would be alone. When Hall was found by her husband at about 6 p.m., she was partially clothed and hanging by her neck from a cord that was wrapped around a door knob in a second-floor bedroom. Although Hall had not been sexually assaulted, authorities believe that Galloway choked Hall to death because she had refused Galloway's sexual advances.

Galloway was a suspect immediately, but authorities were unable to draw a solid connection between the crime scene and Galloway until 2008, when they obtained evidence that placed Galloway at the scene of the crime.

"This plea today confirms our belief that Mr. Galloway killed Cheryl Hall," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said. "Given the evidence, the recent death of an important witness and legal guidelines that were in place in 1981, we believe that

this guilty plea is the right thing to do. It might not be a perfect outcome, but it's a good outcome. Mr. Galloway is going to prison and he will have a felony conviction on his record for the rest of his life. That is no small thing.

"Our office has consulted with Cheryl Hall's family frequently since Galloway was charged. We have explained to them that collection and analysis of evidence is much more sophisticated today than it was in 1981, when Mr. Galloway committed this crime.

"Thanks to the Aurora Police Department – in particular Sgt. Matt Thomas and Inv. John Munn – for the hard work that went into this investigation and for not giving up after three decades. Thanks also to Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Greg Sams and Jamie Mosser, who prosecuted this case."

According to Illinois laws in place at the time of the homicide, Galloway is eligible for day-for-day sentencing. He was given credit for 22 days served in the Kane County jail. Galloway had been free on \$25,000 bond.

Immediately after Monday's court proceedings, Galloway was taken into custody.