Body found in Mississippi River in 1988 identified as Scott City man

Remains found in Mississippi River in 1988 identified
By Heartland News
Published: Sep. 29, 2026 at 3:34 PM EDT|Updated: Sep. 29, 2026 at 4:45 PM EDT

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, Ark. (Heartland News) - Crittenden County, Arkansas, Sheriff's Office investigators say the remains of a man found floating in the Mississippi River in 1988 belong to a missing Scott City, Missouri man.

Crittenden County investigators say a fisherman reported the body floating in the Mississippi River on April 9, 1988.

Crittenden County officials turned the body over to the Arkansas Medical Examiner's office in Little Rock a short time later. The cause of death was found to be drowning with no evidence of trauma.

According to Crittenden County investigators, a recent DNA match identified the body as Kevin Eugene Sander of Scott City, Missouri. Investigators say Sander's brother had taken a voluntary DNA test for a genealogy service and that matched to Sander's DNA results in the CODIS system.

A second DNA test confirmed the match.

Crittenden County investigators say Sander was 34 years old when he fell overboard from a barge into the Mississippi River near Dyersburg, Tennessee in 1988. Sander's body was found about 95 miles south of Dyersburg, in Crittenden County, Arkansas.

Sander's cremated will be released to the family.