

## Investigator in Einhorn case savors a victory long delayed

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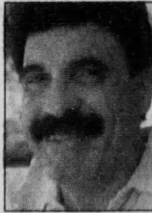
After Ira Einhorn vanished in January 1981, just before his murder trial, one man in Philadelphia dogged his trail for 20 years.

Richard DiBenedetto was a 32-year-old investigator for the District Attorney's Office when the hunt started.

Today, with Einhorn finally in a Pennsylvania prison, he is a 52-year-old retiree who got his man at last.

DiBenedetto savored that victory by reopening a carefully saved bottle of Bordeaux. He first uncorked the French wine in 1997, to celebrate Einhorn's capture in France. He vowed to finish it when Einhorn was on Philadelphia soil — never dreaming how long that would take.

On Saturday, he shared that bottle with the siblings of Holly Maddux, Einhorn's former girlfriend, whose



body was found in a trunk in his closet in 1979.

Buffy Hall, Holly Maddux's younger sister, who joined in the weekend toast, calls DiBenedetto her hero.

"He's stubborn, and he's a very moral man. He's a John Wayne kind of guy — a white hat," Hall said.

**Richard DiBenedetto joined the hunt for the fugitive in 1981.**

"We never lost faith in Rich, because I thought if anyone was going to find this guy, it was going to be Rich," she said. "He knew everything about this

guy."

That was DiBenedetto's strategy from the beginning.

"I wanted to know everything about him and what he was doing," he said. "I didn't say I was going to profile this guy — there wasn't even a term for that then. Just find out as much as you can about the guy, talk to people, find

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Sun, Dec 15, 2019