



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

MARCH 13, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO MEN SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL GUN LAW

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two men were sentenced in federal court today in separate and unrelated cases for violating federal firearms laws.

***Lige Bush**, 43, of West Plains, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith today to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 1, 2002, **Bush** pleaded guilty to a two count federal information charging him with making false statements in order to illegally acquire a firearm on two occasions. By pleading guilty, **Bush** admitted that on Aug. 3, 2001 and Dec. 28, 2001, he made false and fictitious statements in order to illegally purchase a firearm from Dixon St. Pawn Shop, located in West Plains. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person convicted of a felony to possess any firearm or ammunition. **Bush** admitted that, despite his prior criminal felony convictions, he attempted to purchase a firearm at Dixon St. Pawn Shop. **Bush** has a 1981 criminal felony conviction for assault, a 1984 criminal felony conviction for burglary, a 1984 criminal felony conviction for stealing, a 1988 criminal felony conviction for burglary and a 1990 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance in a correctional institution.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, the West Plains, Mo., Police Department and the Howell County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

***Gary G. Russell**, 32, of Springfield, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith today to one year and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On July 16, 2002, **Russell** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Russell** admitted that on April 4, 2002, in Greene County, Mo., he was in possession of a Kel-tec 9 mm pistol, together with ammunition. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Russell** has a 1992 criminal felony conviction for possession of a

controlled substance.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow