



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWELVE INDICTED FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL FIREARMS, NARCOTICS LAWS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a dozen defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury today in separate and unrelated cases of violating federal firearms and narcotics laws.

* **Robert Keith Donati**, 40, of Dixon, Mo., was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Donati** was in possession of a Remington 12 gauge shotgun in Pulaski County, Mo., on Feb. 12, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Donati** has a 1983 criminal felony conviction for murder in Phelps County, Mo.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Donati** was in possession of a shotgun having a barrel of less than 18 inches. According to the indictment, the Remington 12 gauge shotgun alleged in Count One had a barrel of about 14 1/4 inches.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Donati** was in possession of a .22 caliber Ruger pistol in Pulaski County on April 10, 2003.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose A. Barber. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Waynesville, Mo., Police Department, and the Pulaski County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

* **Brent R. Fox**, 43, of Springfield, Mo., was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Fox** was in possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in Greene County on Feb. 4, 2002.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Fox** was in possession of a Glock .45 caliber pistol, a Ruger .223 caliber rifle, an Enfield .303 caliber rifle and a Remington .22 caliber rifle, together with ammunition, in Greene County on Feb. 4, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Fox** has a 1991 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance in Webster County, Mo.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the SCDTF, and the Douglas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

* **Brandon Spoon**, 20, of Springfield, Mo., was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Spoon** was in possession of firearms and ammunition in Greene County, Mo., between May 27, 2001, and May 28, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Spoon** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for assault in Wright County, Mo.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Spoon** was in possession of stolen firearms in Greene County between May 27, 2001, and May 28, 2001.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

* **Jonathan S. Cartwright**, 24, of Springfield, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Cartwright** was in possession of a Ruger .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol and a Turkish Mauser 8mm bolt-action rifle in Greene County, Mo., on Sept. 24, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Cartwright** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for aiding and abetting to possess an unregistered destructive device in Texas.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the U.S. Marshal Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **John E. Horne III**, 20, of Branson, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Horne** was in possession of a four semi-automatic rifles and a Mossberg pistol-grip 12 gauge shotgun in Taney County, Mo., on June 30, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Horne** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance in Taney County.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the Branson, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Timothy Caudill**, 43, of Ava, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Caudill** was in possession of a New England 12 gauge shotgun, a Ruger .357 mag revolver, and a HI-Standard .22 caliber revolver in Ozark County, Mo., on April 30, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Caudill** has a 1988 criminal felony conviction for abuse of a child in Ozark County.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the Ozark County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Gerald L. Hatcher**, 57, of Licking, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hatcher** was in possession of a Harrington & Richardson 10 gauge shotgun in Texas County, Mo., on June 19, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hatcher** has three 2001 criminal felony convictions for receiving stolen property, unlawful possession of a concealable firearm and unlawful use of weapon, all in Texas County, and two 1979 criminal felony convictions for assault and assault with intent to do great bodily harm without malice, both in St. Louis County, Mo.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the Missouri Office of Probation and Parole, the Texas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Thurlow W. Johnson**, 57, of West Plains, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Johnson** was in possession of a Jing An 12 gauge shotgun in Howell County, Mo., on Jan. 17, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Johnson** has a 1973 criminal felony conviction for assault with intent to kill with a deadly

weapon under the habitual criminal act in Jackson County, Mo., a 1968 criminal felony conviction for forgery in Howell County, and a 1986 criminal felony conviction for stealing in Wright County, Mo.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Howell County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

* **Davis W. Boster**, 44, of Texas County, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Boster** was in possession of a Mossberg 20 gauge shotgun in Texas County, Mo., on July 2, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Boster** has two 1992 criminal felony convictions for sale of a controlled substance in Texas County, and a 1992 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance in Wright County, Mo.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Texas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

* **Frankie L. Doyle, Jr.**, 35, of Marionville, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Doyle** was in possession of a Savage .22/.410 shotgun/rifle combination in Barton County, Mo., on Nov. 20, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Doyle** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance in Barton County.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lamar, Mo., Police Department.

* **Victor D. Strickland**, 43, of Carthage, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Strickland** was in possession of a Taurus .357 magnum revolver together with ammunition in Jasper County, Mo., on June 18, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Strickland** has a 1985 criminal felony conviction for assault in the first degree in Jasper County.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Jasper County,

Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Carthage, Mo., Police Department.

* **Donald W. Parker**, 30, of Sheldon, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Parker** was in possession of a Jennings .380 handgun and a Norinco 7.62 X 39 caliber assault rifle and ammunition in Vernon County, Mo., on Sept. 23, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Parker** has two 1999 criminal felony convictions for attempting to manufacture a controlled substance and possession of ephedrine.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Vernon County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

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