



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS FELON
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was convicted by a federal jury today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

David D. Henson, 51, of Kansas City, Mo., was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Following **Henson's** trial, Graves said, the jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated for an hour before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., ending a trial that began this morning.

The federal jury found **Henson** guilty of being a felon in possession of a Mauser K98 bolt-action rifle and a Savage 12-gauge bolt-action shotgun on Aug. 24, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Henson** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for sale of a controlled substance, a 1982 criminal felony conviction for burglary, a 1977 criminal felony conviction for burglary and stealing, a 1972 criminal felony conviction for stealing and a 1971 criminal felony conviction for auto theft.

As a result of the federal jury conviction, **Henson** is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole and may be subject to a sentence up to life in federal prison without parole. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Hunt. It was

investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 524 defendants, and convictions against 444 of those defendants, including 417 who pleaded guilty and 27 who were convicted at trial. A total of 390 of the 444 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 54 currently await sentencing hearings.

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