



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED FOR BANK ROBBERY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield man was sentenced today for robbing a federally insured bank.

Dennis L. Sypolt, 41, of Springfield, Mo., was sentenced this morning by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright to a maximum 20 years in prison without parole for robbing the Empire Bank, located at 2501 North Kansas Expressway in Springfield.

Sypolt was found guilty by a federal jury of one count of robbery of a federally insured bank on May 23, 2002. **Sypolt** stole \$8,229 from the bank on October 12, 2001. He was charged with the crime the same day and all of the money was recovered.

Graves said that **Sypolt** carried out the robbery by presenting the victim teller a note that warned, "Don't push any ALARMS or buttons. I've got a bomb. Give me all your money."

Sypolt was arrested about two hours after the robbery when he was stopped near his home in north Springfield driving a truck that matched a description of the bank robber's getaway vehicle.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Bunch. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Springfield 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