

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
January 9, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
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Western District of Kentucky**

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CONVICTED BURGLAR FOUND GUILTY ON FIREARMS CHARGE

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **RICHARD WILLIAM FERRIS, SR.**, age 42, of 211 Franklin Mines Road, Marion, Kentucky, in Crittenden County, was **found guilty** by a federal jury in United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky, of knowingly possessing a firearm while a convicted felon.

The jury's verdict of guilty was returned following a one and a half day trial before Hon. Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court.

Ferris was tried for knowingly possessing a .22 caliber rifle on January 22, 2006, after having been convicted in 1990 of burglary, a felony. Crittenden County Sheriff officers had responded to a complaint from a residence, and seized the .22 caliber rifle, which was loaded. The jury was not able to reach a unanimous decision on the other charges relating to the unlawful possession of three 12 gauge shotguns, a .22 caliber rifle, a .30 caliber rifle, and a .45 caliber pistol on February 11, 2006.

The maximum potential penalties are 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Sparks, and was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Crittenden County

Sheriff's Department, and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

A sentencing date for **Ferris** will be scheduled in further orders of the Court.

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