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**ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 25 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR ROCKFORD AND OGLE COUNTY ARMED ROBBERIES**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PHILLIP J. NICOLOSI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; BEN ROE, Ogle County State's Attorney; RICHARD A. MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; GREGORY A. BEITEL, Ogle County Sheriff; and CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Today, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **BRIAN K. LOVEN**, 30, formerly of Rockford, Illinois, to a total of 25 years and 8 months in federal prison, without parole, for two armed robberies and one count of using a firearm during a crime of violence. The court also ordered Loven to serve 5 years of supervised release following his release from prison. Loven pled guilty in federal court on May 30, 2007.

At the time of his guilty plea, Loven admitted the following with respect to a March 30, 2006 armed robbery at the Kid Cars automobile dealership, located at 4046 11th Street in Rockford:

Loven arrived at the car dealership at approximately 5:30 p.m. and met with an employee of the business to discuss the purchase of a Ford F-350 pickup truck. As the employee began filling out paperwork for the purchase of the truck, Loven produced a nickel-plated revolver and pointed it at the employee, insisting that the employee give him cash. Loven then tied the employee up using zip ties which he had brought with him, and forced the employee outside the business at gunpoint. Loven led the employee to the Ford pickup truck and forced the employee into the back seat of the truck. Loven left the employee in the truck while he went back into the business to retrieve an identification card he had left behind. While he was doing so, the employee was able to get out of the truck and began running away from the business. Loven saw this and gave chase, pulling out his gun and firing at least two shots at the employee as he ran away, damaging a neighboring residence. Loven then drove off in the 2001 Ford F-350 pickup truck.

Also at the time of his guilty plea, Loven admitted he robbed the Hilltop Gas Station, located at 17810 East Route 72 in Ogle County, Illinois, on April 2, 2006. Specifically with respect to the Hilltop Gas Station robbery, Loven admitted the following:

At approximately 9:30 p.m., he was in the area of the gas station waiting for the owner of the business (“the owner”) to leave. Loven intended to rob the owner of the business’s proceeds. As the owner left, Loven followed him a short distance until the owner stopped due to a flat tire, which Loven had slashed earlier that evening. While the owner and another person were working on changing the flat tire, Loven approached them from behind, pointed a handgun at them, and told the owner to give him all the money. The owner then gave Loven a bank bag containing the previous week’s proceeds from the sale of gasoline and other products at the Hilltop Gas Station. Prior to fleeing, Loven hit the person who had been helping the owner change his tire on the head with his firearm, causing a laceration which required stitches.

First charged by the Winnebago County and Ogle County State’s Attorney’s Offices under state law, Loven was transferred to federal court where he was charged under tough federal firearms laws as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every defendant charged in state court for an offense involving a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at www.psn.gov.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Rockford Police Department, the Ogle County Sheriff’s Department, and the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael F. Iasparro.

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