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TWO SAVANNAH MEN CONVICTED IN
ATTEMPTED ROBBERY OF MEMORIAL HEALTH CREDIT UNION

SAVANNAH, GA: Edmund A. Booth, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that Donald Floyd Brown, age 31, of Savannah, Georgia, and Charon Garray Fields, age 31, of Savannah, Georgia, were tried before a jury in U.S. District Court in Savannah on July 22 and 23, 2008 and both convicted of conspiring to rob federally-insured credit unions, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, attempting to rob a federally-insured credit union, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113(a), and possessing an unregistered short-barreled shotgun, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 5861(d). Additionally, Donald Brown was convicted of possessing a firearm by a convicted felon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g). U.S. District Judge B. Avant Edenfield presided over the trial.

The evidence at trial established that on September 25, 2007, Brown and Fields were arrested by SWAT team members of the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department just outside the front doors of the Memorial Health Credit Union, located at 1203 East 66th Street, Savannah, Georgia. At the time of the arrest, Fields had a loaded pistol in his waistband and several shotgun shells and a camouflage mask in his pocket. Brown had a matching camouflage mask in his pocket. Two loaded shotguns were located in the back of the van in which Brown

and Fields were located. One of those shotguns was wrapped in black electrical tape, and part of the stock and barrel of that shotgun had been sawed off to make it shorter.

A subsequent search of Fields's home revealed shotgun shells matching those found in his pocket and those found loaded into the shotguns at the credit union. A forensic examination of a computer seized from Fields's home revealed numerous visits on the morning of the attempted robbery to Internet websites of banks and credit unions located in the Savannah area, including visits to pages that displayed photographs and biographies of bank employees, from the bank president down to the tellers.

Booth stated that the maximum statutory penalty for the offenses of conviction are as follows: for attempted bank robbery, not more than twenty years imprisonment; for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of an unregistered short-barreled shotgun, not more than ten years imprisonment; and for conspiracy, not more than five years imprisonment. Each count also subjects Brown and Fields to a fine of not more than \$250,000 and a term of supervised release following service of any imposed term of imprisonment.

Booth said that a sentencing date will be scheduled following completion of a pre-sentence investigation and report. Brown and Fields remain in federal custody.

Booth praised the efforts of Special Agent Tim Fehmel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Special Agent Lou Valoze of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for their work in the investigation. Booth also recognized the officers of the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department who assisted in the defendants' arrest. The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorneys R. Brian Tanner and Brian T. Rafferty.