

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
April 12, 2005**

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

**Contact: Hancy Jones III
Assistant United States Attorney
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**FEDERAL DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO
FIREARMS CHARGES**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **HAROLD E. BESS**, age 28, of 370 Native Circle, Benton, Kentucky, **pled guilty** on April 11, 2005, to possession of a firearm affecting interstate commerce by a person convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

The maximum penalties are not more than 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and supervised release after incarceration for not more than 3 years.

Bess admitted that on or about and between March 5, 2003, and May 24, 2003, he possessed a Beretta 9 mm handgun which he obtained from an area pawn shop. He also admitted that in April 2002 he was convicted in the Calloway County District Court in Murray, Kentucky, of Fourth Degree Assault after an incident of domestic violence.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Sparks, and it was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Marshall County Sheriff's Office.

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The plea was entered before Edward H. Johnstone, Senior Judge, United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky.

Bess is scheduled to appear for sentencing before Senior Judge Johnstone on July 11, 2005, at 1:15 p.m., in Paducah, Kentucky.

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