



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Leura G. Canary
Middle District of Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Retta Goss

Telephone (334) 223-7280

Fax (334) 223-7560

www.usdoj.gov/usao/alm

LUVERNE CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED TO 220 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING FIREARM

Montgomery, Alabama – Willie Gene Davis, age 53, of Luverne, Alabama, was sentenced to 220 months in federal prison for illegally possessing a pistol while a convicted felon, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Davis was convicted by a federal jury of being a felon in possession of a firearm on May 13, 2008, following a trial in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama in Montgomery.

Davis was found guilty of possessing a .38 caliber revolver on April 27, 2007, despite having multiple prior felony convictions. Federal law makes it illegal for a convicted felon to possess a firearm. Davis has felony convictions in Alabama for Burglary, 2nd Degree; Burglary, 3rd Degree; Escape, 2nd Degree; and 5 counts of Distribution of a Controlled Substance. Davis was found in possession of the revolver during a traffic stop conducted by Greenville Police Department officers in Greenville, Alabama, on April 27, 2007. Davis was a passenger in a car that had been stopped by the officers. During the traffic stop, police arrested the driver for DUI and then searched the vehicle. Police located a loaded .38 caliber revolver in the pocket of the jacket Davis was wearing. Davis was on parole at the time.

Under federal law, convicted felons who possess firearms and have previously been convicted of three or more violent felonies or serious drug offenses are subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison as an Armed Career Criminal. At sentencing, the

United States District Court Judge found that Davis had three or more qualifying convictions because of his prior convictions for Burglary 2nd, Burglary 3rd, Escape 2nd, and Unlawful Distribution of a Controlled Substance. Davis faced a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years. After considering the circumstances of the offense, Davis' long criminal history, and other factors, the judge sentenced Davis to 220 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

The case was investigated and prosecuted as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which seeks to prevent violent crime through enforcement of the federal firearms laws, such as the law prohibiting convicted felons from possessing firearms. The program is known as Alabama ICE in the Middle District of Alabama. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "The Alabama ICE program is aimed at convicted felons who have literally made a career out of criminal behavior. These career criminals who possess firearms illegally can expect to receive long prison sentences in the Middle District of Alabama."

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of officers and agents from the Greenville Police Department, the Alabama Board of Pardons and Parole, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.