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BRADENTON MAN FOUND GUILTY OF ARMED ROBBERIES

Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that a federal jury today found Charles Bernard Tolson, Jr. (age 19, of Bradenton) guilty on all six counts of an Indictment, which included three counts of robbery and three counts of brandishing a firearm during each robbery. Tolson faces a maximum penalty of life in federal prison with a minimum term of 57 years. His sentencing hearing has been scheduled for June 13, 2011.

Charles Tolson was indicted on July 22, 2010. His four day trial occurred before the Honorable James D. Whittemore, United States District Judge.

According to evidence presented at trial, Tolson and an accomplice robbed the clerk at the Circle K/Shell station at 5100 East Adamo Drive, Tampa, at gunpoint on October 25, 2009 at approximately 2:00 a.m., then traveled to Manatee County and robbed the clerk at the Uppy's BP gas station located at U.S. 41 North in Palmetto approximately one hour later. Testimony presented at trial revealed that Tolson attempted to shoot the Uppy's store clerk, and when his gun misfired, instructed his accomplice to pistol whip her. Two days later on October 27, 2009, Tolson and an accomplice robbed the Chevron gas station located at State Road 70 East in Bradenton. Each of these robberies interfered with

interstate commerce.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Tampa Police Department and Manatee County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Walter E. Furr, III and Simon A. Gaugush.