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For Immediate Release
May 11, 2009

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Smyrna Man Sentenced on Federal Firearms Charges

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Horace W. Salley, III**, 34, of Smyrna, was sentenced on May 11, 2009, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, to 63 months of imprisonment and three years supervised release for the federal crime of possession of a firearm after conviction for a domestic violence misdemeanor. Salley was convicted after a jury trial that ended on November 9, 2007.

Court records reveal that in 2003, Salley was convicted of misdemeanor assault against his then live-in girlfriend. That conviction prohibited Salley from possessing firearms.

Late in 2005, Salley swapped an antique vehicle for a Bushmaster .223 caliber rifle, after advertising the vehicle in Uncle Henry's magazine. In November 2006, when the Maine State Police responded to a 911 domestic violence call from Salley's wife, they learned that Salley had a gun in the house, and had owned it since he had acquired it in 2005. The rifle was turned over to them at that time by Salley's wife.

Salley is currently serving a 14-year state sentence imposed on August 21, 2008, after he was convicted in Maine Superior Court in Houlton on charges of gross sexual assault, assault and tampering with a witness. The victim of the state offense was Salley's wife.

The federal case was a part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative which coordinates the efforts of federal and state agencies in order to increase successful prosecution of firearms cases and educate potential offenders on the serious consequences of illegal gun use and possession. Domestic abuse is a significant problem in the State of Maine. Possession of firearms by domestic abusers is against federal law.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Eastern Maine Violent Crime Task Force, and the Maine State Police.

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