



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Convicted Murderer Found Guilty of 2005 Double Shooting

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Robert Cummings, 63, of Tulsa, Oklahoma was found guilty by a Greene County jury of two counts of first degree assault and two counts of armed criminal action following a three day jury trial. The charges stemmed from a 2005 double shooting in downtown Springfield.

On March 16, 2005 at approximately 1:30 a.m., Cummings was in Kristy's Cabaret, a bar. Witnesses testified that Cummings became upset with bar employees at closing time. He approached an employee of the bar, demanding another beer. Several other bar patrons listened as the employee told him that he could not have another beer. Cummings pulled a .22 caliber pistol out of his pocket and shot one customer twice in the abdomen, and another customer in the chest. Both victims were treated in a local hospital, and both survived their injuries.

Cummings was found guilty of one count of first degree assault and one count of armed criminal action with respect to each of the victims. Cummings is a prior and persistent felony offender, and is therefore subject to a range of punishment of 10 years to 30 years in the Department of Corrections on each count of assault. Armed criminal action carries a minimum of 3 years in the department of corrections, and has no maximum limitation.

Cummings has prior felony convictions which include a New Mexico conviction for second degree murder with a firearm, federal convictions for distribution of cocaine and unlawful use of a weapon, and a California conviction for first degree robbery.

The Honorable Calvin Holden presided over the trial. A sentencing hearing has been set for May 14, 2011 at 1:45 p.m. following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case was tried by Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Emily Carlstrom and Jonathan Barker. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Brian Crum was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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