



NEWS RELEASE

GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DAN PATTERSON

Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061
1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

08/10/2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Defendant Guilty of 1st Degree Assault

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Phillip R. Merritt, 39, of Springfield, Missouri, was convicted today by the Honorable Thomas Mountjoy, Greene County Circuit Court Presiding Judge, of assault in the first degree and armed criminal action.

Today's verdict came after a two day bench trial held in February in which numerous exhibits and videos were introduced for the Court to review. The evidence at trial established that on the afternoon of June 4th, 2014, the victim, Collin McKenna, was giving the Defendant a ride. The Defendant unprovoked began stabbing Mr. McKenna numerous times in his chest, back and head. Mr. McKenna was able to get out of the car and away from the Defendant. The Defendant then stole the vehicle and fled. EMTs and Deputies responded to the area and were able to get Mr. McKenna to the hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. The Defendant was eventually apprehended and charged for his actions.

Sentencing has been set for February 2, 2018, at 1:30 pm. The defendant is subject to a sentence of ten years to thirty years or life on assault in the first degree and a mandatory minimum of three years imprisonment on armed criminal action.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Todd Myers and Joe Wright. It was investigated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office and Detective Joseph Fletcher was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

###