

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

FINAL DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO RACKETEERING CHARGES INVOLVING MURDER, ROBBERY, EXTORTION, ARSON, KIDNAPPING, FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING

St. Louis, Missouri: Henry George Rehmert, Sr., 54, of Montgomery City, Missouri, pled guilty this morning to a violation of the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) statute. United States Attorney James G. Martin and Jeffrey Fulton, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the St. Louis office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced today. The racketeering acts included murder, robbery, extortion, arson, kidnaping, fraud and money laundering.

This case was originally investigated by the Boone County Sheriff's Office with assistance from the Missouri State Highway Patrol. In 2000 when the site of the murders became known, the Osage County Sheriff Carl Fowler and Osage County Prosecuting Attorney Amanda Grellner became the lead agencies for the homicide investigation. By 2001, it became apparent there was a criminal pattern crossing many jurisdictions in Central Missouri. At this time, the local prosecutors sought federal assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Dean Hoag and Special Agent Tad Heitzler of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) coordinated a joint State/Federal investigation which included the Franklin and Gasconade County Sheriffs and Prosecuting Attorneys, the Missouri Attorney General as well as the Osage and Boone County authorities. During the course of the investigation this Task Force spent hundreds of hours running down leads and information. They searched the farm where the murders occurred as well as the Missouri River where the bodies were dumped. During the numerous searches, the team recovered solid physical evidence needed to prosecute the case. The tireless efforts of all the investigators led to the discovery of evidence of both shootings even though the crimes had been committed almost five years earlier. As late as last month, dredging efforts on the Missouri River have unfortunately failed to recover the victims bodies.

According to the facts filed with the court, from 1989 to 2002, Henry George Rehmert, Sr., Henry George Rehmert, Jr., Bobby Allen Rohrer and Wayne J. Jaegers were involved in a criminal enterprise whose members and associates were involved in a multitude of schemes and flim-flam operations designed to deceive and defraud individuals of large and small sums of cash. What began as a small-time operation swindling primarily narcotics dealers eventually escalated into hardcore crime involving multiple crimes of violence, including murder.

There were two murders committed by the enterprise. First in September 1998, the enterprise led Ricky Simpson to believe that they would give him marijuana if he brought them \$30,000. Simpson was killed by the enterprise when he showed up with the money. Second, in June of 1999 the enterprise killed Sheri Lynn Montague as a result of a scheme to defraud her of \$30,000.

Three other defendants have previously pled guilty: BOBBY ALLEN ROHRER, 39, of Columbia, Missouri, and WAYNE J. JAEGER, 47, of Bonnots Mill, Missouri, each pled guilty on July 1. HENRY GEORGE REHMERT, JR., 27, of Belle, Missouri, pled guilty June 23. Defendants Rehmert, Sr., Rohrer and Jaegers face up to life in prison and/or fines of \$250,000. There is no parole in the federal system. Sentencing for Henry Rehmert, Sr. has been scheduled for January 14, 2005.

HENRY GEORGE REHMERT, JR., 27, of Belle, Missouri, pled guilty in June and is awaiting sentencing.

All defendants pled guilty to one felony count of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) and one felony count of conspiracy to commit RICO. Additionally, Rohrer pled guilty to one felony count of perjury. All defendants appeared before United States District Judge Catherine D. Perry.

Additionally today, DONNA JAEGER, 47, of Bonnots Mill, Missouri, pled guilty to one felony count of perjury. She faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000. She is scheduled for sentencing January 14, 2005.

“Missouri state and local agencies handle murder investigations in an outstanding fashion. However, this murderous scheme implicated multiple jurisdictions over an extended period of time. Therefore, local authorities sought the assistance and the resources of federal law enforcement. Our office and ATF gladly responded. As a result of the diligence and resources of the ATF, coordinated with the efforts of no less than ten state and local agencies, we successfully dismantled one of the most nefarious enterprises in this State. This investigation was a text-book example of local, state and federal law enforcement cooperation which resulted in the successful prosecution of those responsible for the commission of numerous crimes. It is also a text book example of the incredible skills of Assistant U.S. Attorney Dean Hoag in following every lead to convict the District’s most dangerous criminals,” United States Attorney James G. Martin stated.

Jeffrey Fulton, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the St. Louis Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) added, “This investigation involved creative and innovative investigative techniques.” He commended the investigators for their tenacity in working

on this case.