

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Contact: Laurie Cramer
(330) 643-2800

MAN FOUND GUILTY OF ATTEMPTED MURDER OF VETERAN

(May 18, 2009, Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Breshaun Nichols, 21, of Akron, was found guilty by a jury today on all counts, including Attempted Murder (with a Firearm Specification), a felony of the first degree, Aggravated Burglary (with a Firearm Specification), a felony of the first degree, Felonious Assault (with a Firearm Specification) a felony of the second degree, and Having Weapons Under Disability, a felony of the third degree.

Nichols will be sentenced on June 24, at 10:00 a.m. by Judge Thomas Parker and could face as many as 42 years in prison, nine of those on the gun specification, if the sentences are consecutive.

On June 13, 2008, at approximately 5:40 a.m., Richard Dawson stopped at a Circle-K on Arlington Road, in Akron, to purchase soda and gasoline. After his purchase, he walked back to his car and saw a red Plymouth Neon pull into the gas station. The vehicle was driven by the defendant's brother, Brent Nichols. Passengers were Janet Meeks and Denny Andrews. Andrews and the defendant got out of the vehicle and got behind the victim at the pay window. When the victim went back to his truck, the defendant followed him and the victim tried to get back into his vehicle. The defendant then pulled a gun out and demanded money from the victim. When the victim refused, the defendant shot him in the stomach. He then pointed the gun at the victim again and pulled the trigger, but the gun jammed and the bullet did not fire. The defendant then ran back to the vehicle where he was driven away by his brother.

Richard Dawson, a Marine, fought in both the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars and was awarded a Purple Heart for his service.

Walsh said, "The defendant had every intention of killing the victim, Richard Dawson, that day. Mr. Dawson refused to give him his wallet and Nichols shot him in the stomach. When he went to fire again, the gun jammed. It is outrageous that a man can survive going to war for his country, yet has to be afraid to stop and pump gas in his hometown. We will be asking that Mr. Nichols be sent to prison for a very long time."

Co-defendants Brent Nichols and Andrews pled guilty to lesser charges. Meeks cooperated with police and was not charged.