

## **MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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### **Man found guilty of shooting Air Force Airman, Iraq Veteran**

(April 20, 2010 Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Travonte Davis, 19, of Akron, was found guilty by a jury late yesterday afternoon of Aggravated Robbery, a felony of the first degree, and Felonious Assault, a felony of the second degree (both with gun specifications). The jury was hung on an Attempted Murder charge.

Davis was sentenced by Judge Cosgrove to a total of 18 years: 10 years for the Aggravated Robbery, five years on Felonious Assault, consecutive, plus three mandatory years on the gun specifications.

Early on the morning of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, Air Force Airman Vincent Taylor and his brother Preston Harris went out to celebrate Taylor's 23rd birthday by going to Whisper's Night Club E. South Street in Akron. The two had a drink and stayed only a few minutes. They left the bar and stood outside talking when a late model gray car, with Davis and another man in it, pulled up in front of them. The brothers talked with the men in the car for a few minutes and the car left, parking at the Apple Jax bar across the street.

Davis came back to speak to the brothers and followed Airman Taylor back to his car. Travonte Davis approached the driver's window and asked Airman Taylor for money. When Airman Taylor told him he didn't have any, Davis asked him something that caused Airman Taylor to indicate that he wasn't from around here and directed Davis' attention to his Georgia license plate. Davis walked toward the rear of the car and returned to the driver's side window with a loaded small caliber automatic handgun. As Airman Taylor struggled to put the car in gear to pull away, Davis fired the gun, hitting Airman Taylor in the left eye. Davis and the other man ran.

Preston Harris pulled Airman Taylor from the driver's seat, placed him in the back seat and drove the car to Akron General Hospital. Airman Taylor underwent emergency surgery that morning. The bullet entered his left eye, traveled down his left cheek and stopped just below his left ear. Airman Taylor suffered the loss of his left eye and partial hearing in his left ear.

Airman Taylor was stationed in Valdosta, Georgia, following a 2009 tour in Iraq. Taylor continues his service in the U.S. Air Force.