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## PRESS RELEASE

**Edwardsville**—Madison County State's Attorney Thomas D. Gibbons announced a successful jury verdict in a Murder case today out of Alton, Illinois.

Jury selection began on Monday, March 5, 2012, in Edwardsville, in the March 2011 case against Ray Terrance Slack (d.o.b. 10/23/68). Slack was charged on March 17, 2011 with the murder of Robert Garrett (d.o.b. 2/1/34) whose body was found a day earlier at his home in Alton, Illinois.

Police were originally called to the home on Carl Street by neighbors who had reported a vehicle parked in front of the home shortly after midnight on March 16th. Garrett's body was found a short time later when police returned to the residence to check on the victim. Garrett, who lived alone, was found outside the back of his house. Following the initial call by neighbors, police stopped the vehicle in question. Slack was taken into custody at that time while the driver, Herbert L. Slack (d.o.b. 5/6/52), was released. Upon further investigation by the Alton Police Department, evidence was found linking Ray Slack to Garrett's murder.

Garrett and Ray Slack were previously acquainted with one another and were arguing over money around 6 p.m. on March 15th when Ray Slack hit Garrett with a concrete bird bath and strangled him. Ray Slack and Herbert Slack later returned to Garrett's home with the intention of robbing him. It was at this time neighbors contacted the Alton Police Department.

Jury deliberations began around 11:00 a.m. today following closing arguments and lasted about four hours. Assistant State's Attorneys John Fischer and Calvin Fuller prosecuted the case.

In addition to murder, Slack was also convicted of Armed Robbery (Class X). Herbert Slack's case is still pending. He faces charges of Attempt Residential Burglary (Class 2) and Unlawful Failure to Register as a Sex Offender (Class 3). He did not testify in Ray Slack's case. Maximum penalty for Murder is 20-60 years; 6-30 for a Class X felony; 3-7 years for a Class 2 felony; and 2-5 years for a Class 3 Felony.

Chief Circuit Judge Ann Callis presided over the case. Sentencing will be held at a later date following the completion of a Pre-Sentencing Investigation. Slack will remain in custody at the Madison County Jail where he has been held since his arrest.

"Mr. Garrett's violent death was senseless. He didn't deserve to die in his back yard at the hands of someone he thought he could trust," Gibbons stated. "I'm satisfied that a jury found Ray Slack guilty of this sadistic crime." Gibbons commended the work of his prosecutors, the Alton Police Department, the coroner's office and pathologist Dr. Raj Nanduri who testified at trial. He also thanked the jurors for their service and gave credit to Garrett's neighbors who were instrumental in helping lead police to Slack.

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