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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville—Madison County State's Attorney Thomas D. Gibbons announced that Ray T. Slack was sentenced to 40 years in prison for his role in a 2011 murder in Alton, Illinois.

A Madison County jury convicted Slack, 43, on March 8, 2012 after about 4 hours of deliberations. 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.

In addition to murder, Ray Slack was also convicted of Armed Robbery. He received a 7 year sentence for that charge. Slack is required to serve 100% of his sentence on the murder and 85% on the Armed Robbery. The sentences run consecutively.

Herbert Slack pled guilty to Unlawful Failure to Register as a Sex Offender on March 22, 2012. He was sentenced to 18 months periodic imprisonment with credit for time served. He had been in custody since the murder of Garrett. He did not testify in Ray Slack's case.

Assistant State's Attorneys John Fischer and Calvin Fuller prosecuted the case. Chief Circuit Judge Ann Callis sentenced Slack. Prosecutors asked that Judge Callis sentence Slack to 55 years on the murder and 25 years on the armed robbery. Maximum penalties for murder are 20-60 years and 6-30 years for armed robbery.

"I'm pleased that Ray Slack will no longer be free to prey on and victimize our citizens," stated Gibbons. "He is paying the price for committing a senseless, violent act."

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