



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Ohio

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## **JURY CONVICTS NEWARK GUN STORE OWNER OF LYING TO GET FEDERAL BENEFITS**

COLUMBUS – A U.S. District Court jury here convicted Lawrence E. Waldren, age 55, of Newark of making false statements in order to receive federal work injury compensation from May 2005 until September 2008.

Carter Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; James Vanderberg, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Labor, Lawrence R. Porte, Special Agent in Charge, Transportation Security Administration, Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Steven Sarver, Chief of the Newark, Ohio Police Department, announced the verdict returned at 5:30 p.m. yesterday at the conclusion of a trial that began January 25, 2010 before U.S. District Judge Algenon L. Marbley.

According to testimony presented by witnesses during the trial, Waldren was receiving more than \$2,000 a month in tax-free benefits, plus college coursework paid for by the Department of Labor, as a result of a disability sustained while he was employed by TSA at the Port Columbus International Airport. As a condition of Waldren receiving the benefits, he had to disclose any work activity and other sources of income he had. Waldren owned Waldren's Hunting Supplies in Newark, yet he concealed and did not disclose the ownership of the gun store in paperwork filed with the Department of Labor, which administers federal workers' compensation disability benefits.

Waldren collapsed during his trial cross-examination last Thursday. He was taken from the courtroom by Columbus paramedics to a local hospital. He subsequently waived his right to be present at the trial, and was not present when the jury returned its verdict of guilty.

Following a bond hearing for Waldren at 2:00 p.m. today, Judge Marbley ordered Waldren released pending sentencing, on express conditions that he and his family members remove all weapons from their home, and that Waldren cannot use his federal firearms license to dispose of any firearms.

Making false statements to obtain federal employees compensation is punishable by up to five years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and up to three years of supervised release. A sentence upon the conviction may include an order of restitution. Judge Marbley will set a date for sentencing. The sentence may include an order of restitution.

“Federal law prohibits anyone convicted of a felony from owning or possessing firearms, so Waldren will also be required to divest himself of any firearms he has,” Stewart said.

Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by Special Agent Brian J. Acklin of the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, and Special Agents Joseph Viviano and Lawrence Shovar of the TSA Office of Inspections, along with Assistant U.S Attorney Dale E. Williams, Jr., who prosecuted the case.

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