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November 6, 2012

STATEMENT FROM PROSECUTION ON SHELEY CONVICTION

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan and State's Attorney Gary Spencer today praised a Whiteside County jury for finding Nicholas T. Sheley guilty of the murder of Russell Reed, 93, of Sterling. Sheley was convicted of first-degree murder, home invasion and residential burglary. His sentencing is set for January 16, 2013.

In response to today's conviction, Attorney General Madigan made the following statement:

"My heart goes out to the family and friends of Russell Reed. It is my hope that this verdict brings them some closure and peace of mind in knowing that justice has been served in the senseless murder of their loved one. I want to thank the members of the jury for their service, and commend the prosecution team for their hard work and dedication in seeing this case to a successful conclusion."

Whiteside County State's Attorney Spencer added:

"The family of Mr. Reed has waited over four years for justice in this case. All of the attorneys who worked on the case throughout that lengthy period of time have come to know the Reeds and the other witnesses well, and we thank them for their patience and support throughout this long and arduous process. My thanks go out to all of the law enforcement officers and agencies, the civilian witnesses, and to the Attorney General and the Criminal Prosecutions & Trial Assistance Bureau of the Attorney General's office, without whose involvement justice would not have been achieved."

State's Attorney Spencer requested the assistance of Attorney General Madigan's office in prosecuting Sheley. Working with State's Attorney Spencer, Assistant Attorneys General Michael Atterberry, Bill Elward, Steven Nate and Stephen Plazibat handled the case for Madigan's Criminal Enforcement Division.

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