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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney
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RE: Press Release

BRANDON BANKS, CAPE GIRARDEAU, SENTENCED ON MURDER CHARGES

Jackson County State's Attorney announced today that Brandon L. Banks, 31, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, was sentenced to serve 103 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the murder of Marsha Brown, also of Cape Girardeau.

On September 22, 2016, a Jackson County Jury found Banks guilty of First Degree Murder, three counts of Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, and Possession of Weapon by a Felon.

On January 14, 2014, Jackson County deputies were dispatched to Potters Road in Makanda, Illinois, in response to the discovery of a female body found in a grassy embankment on the side of that road. The body was identified as Marsha Brown, 40, through a driver's license and other identification found in her pocket.

Brown's family and acquaintances reported that Marsha was last seen on January 13, 2014, between the hours of 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., when she left her home in Cape Girardeau enroute to Carbondale, Illinois, with Brandon Banks and two others. Subsequent interviews with witnesses revealed that the group traveled to Carbondale to attend a party at a local Motel. During the party, an argument ensued between Banks and Brown and at one point the altercation became physical. Brown placed a 9-1-1 call to the Carbondale Police Station and reported that she was being held against her will, but did not know the name or location of the hotel. She terminated the call before her location could be determined by the police department. Banks became suspicious that Brown had called police and he instructed the group to get in the car to leave Carbondale immediately.

Banks and Brown continued to argue in the car and Banks became irate with Brown. He ordered the driver to stop the car on Potters Road and demanded that everyone exit the vehicle. Once outside the vehicle, Banks shot Brown in the face and then fired at least two more shots which struck her body. Banks then ordered everyone back in the car and left the scene leaving Brown's body in the embankment to be discovered the next morning by a passerby.

Bank's has been in custody since his arrest in St. Louis two days after the shooting. He will be given credit for the time he has served in jail, which is 967 days. Since there is no good time allowance for First Degree murder, Banks will have to serve a total of 97 years in prison.

This case was investigated by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Carbondale Police Department, and Murphysboro Police Department with assistance from the Cape Girardeau Police Department, the St. Louis Police Department, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the U.S. Marshal's Office, and the U.S. Secret Service.

State's Attorney Michael C. Carr and Assistant State's Attorney Abigail Dinn handled the prosecution.