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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Convicted in Fatal Arson Fire Sentenced to Life

State v. Shawn Albertson 2018-CR-1312/1

DAYTON, OH (01/27/2020) – Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **SHAWN ALBERTSON**, 50, was sentenced to a total of 17 years-to-life in prison after being convicted of causing a fatal fire on Merrimac Avenue that occurred on April 1, 2018.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018, the Harrison Township Fire Department responded to a reported house fire at 4240 Merrimac Avenue. Once the fire was extinguished, the firefighters discovered the deceased body of the victim, 75-year-old Gerald Lee Manns. Initially, no foul play was suspected, and detectives were not called. However, items belonging to the victim, including the victim's truck, were missing, and an investigation was initiated.

The victim's truck was eventually located, abandoned in a residential neighborhood in Harrison Township. Video surveillance and eyewitness statements described the vehicle the defendant left in when he abandoned the victim's vehicle. That vehicle was eventually located at the Days Inn on Miller Lane in Butler Township later that same day. Deputies identified the room the driver was staying in and went to that room. Inside the motel room, deputies located the defendant. Also, inside the motel room were illegal drugs and numerous items belonging to the deceased victim.

Further investigation determined that the fire was the result of arson. Forensic evidence linked the defendant to the arson.

On August 31, 2018, the defendant was indicted on counts of Murder, Aggravated Arson, Aggravated Burglary, Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Possession of Drugs, Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle, and Grand Theft of a Firearm.

On January 10, 2020, after a trial, the jury found the defendant guilty as charged on all counts.

Today, the defendant was sentenced to life in prison. He will not be eligible for consideration of parole until he has served at least 17 years.

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For more information contact Greg Flannagan, Public Information Officer, at 937.225.5610 or flannagang@mcoho.org.