



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Man Convicted of Attempted Felony Murder, Other Charges

**Date:** October 3, 2018

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On 06-22-17 at approximately 11:30 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to calls of a female in distress on Brook Drive in Brooksville.

Upon arrival, deputies located an injured female. The female was bleeding from her face and her shorts were torn off. The scene was secured and the injured female was transported to the hospital.

Witnesses in the area told deputies they heard the female calling for help, so they entered her residence in an attempt to render aid. Upon entry, witnesses observed a male, later identified as Lee Roy Rettley, climbing out the bedroom window.

Detectives interviewed the victim at the hospital. The victim told deputies that she had been outside earlier in the morning, had gone to a neighbor's for a short time, then returned home. While the victim was near the neighbor's residence, she observed Rettley looking at the neighbor's air conditioning vents.

Back inside her own residence, the victim observed that Rettley was also in her residence. The victim picked up her phone to call 9-1-1 and Rettley attacked her. During the extensive struggle, the victim hit Rettley in the head with a box. Rettley told the victim, "I'm going to kill you because you are going to call the cops when I leave."

During the struggle the victim continued calling for help. She was unable to scream or speak loudly, as Rettley was choking her.

When the victim's friends entered her residence, Rettley fled out the bedroom window. Before he fled out the window, Rettley stole \$900 from the top of the dresser.

Patrol deputies, detectives, and K-9 teams scoured the area, searching for Rettley. He was located, soon after the attack, hiding in a nearby storm drain.

The victim and the witnesses were shown photo packs. All parties identified Lee Roy Rettley as the attacker.

When detectives interviewed Rettley at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Rettley advised he "snapped." Rettley admitted to portions of the attack and to stealing the money from the dresser. He also told detectives the victim hit him in the head with something.

Detectives recovered a portion of the money from Rettley's sock.

Rettley was taken to the Hernando County Detention Center.

On 10-02-18, after a jury trial, **Lee Roy Rettley B/M 2-13-1964** was convicted of the following crimes:

- Attempted Felony Murder
- Burglary of a Dwelling with Battery
- Sexual Battery with Force – Likely to Cause Injury
- Robbery by Sudden Snatching
- False Imprisonment.

Lee Roy Rettley will be sentenced on 11-05-18.

This case highlighted the excellence of an immediate response by patrol deputies and K-9, who arrived quickly and located the suspect.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the citizens in the area who checked on the victim, likely saving her from further injury or death. Those same citizens also provided deputies with a description of the suspect and his direction of travel. This is another example of outstanding community involvement, which thwarted a violent criminal offense and brought a suspect to justice.

Additionally, we would like to recognize our partners at the Office of the State Attorney, who work so diligently to successfully prosecute cases such as this one.

#### **The Office of Sheriff:**

**The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.**

**Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.**