

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Solicitor
W. WALTER WILKINS
PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

March 1, 2013

Pickens Man Convicted of Assault & Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins stated that RUSELL EDWARD NIX, age, 41 was convicted on March 1, 2013 of Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature by a Pickens County Jury, and was sentenced to eleven years, eight months in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable G. Edward Welmaker. Nix will have to serve at least 85% of the sentence before he is eligible for parole. After serving his sentence Nix will be on probation for five years..

Evidence presented at the trial by Assistant Solicitors Baker Cleveland and Graham Buckner established that on August 25, 2011, Nix assaulted the victim, a 59 year-old Vietnam combat veteran, after the victim confronted Nix, who was trespassing on his family's property. The victim had observed Nix trespassing on the rural Pickens County property where his daughter and his two grandchildren lived. When asked to leave, Nix refused and struck the victim multiple times, shoved him into a ditch, and continued to strike him about the face and head, resulting in a broken jaw, a fractured orbital bone, and a deep brain hemorrhage. Nix was uninjured during the altercation. The victim's wife, who could hear the assault, described the sound of her husband being attacked as "nauseating." The emergency room doctor who treated the victim described the injuries he suffered as life threatening. The victim described the incident by stating, "This was not a fight. This man beat me." Testimony was presented Thursday and Friday, and the jury returned a verdict of guilty after less than an hour of deliberation.