



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENTON WOMAN SENTENCED FOR STEALING FROM VETS

(Sherman, Texas) A 55-year-old Denton woman has been sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for embezzling over \$86,000 from four disabled veterans. United States District Judge Richard Schell also ordered **JUDY VENABLE** to pay restitution of \$86,736.94 to the victims.

According to information prosecutors presented in court, Venable served as a paid Federal Fiduciary for four disabled veterans from 1992 to 1999. In this capacity, she received their Veteran's Administration and Social Security Administration benefit checks and was required to spend the funds only on the veterans. However, Venable converted the funds to her own personal use and attempted to hide the embezzlement by filing false accountings. In 2002, a Federal Grand Jury Indicted Venable for embezzlement, theft, and false statements. Venable plead guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment.

United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig said the sentence was well deserved, "This person willfully stole from disabled Veterans, the very people who have sacrificed to protect our freedom. We will do everything possible to protect our Veterans from this form of treachery."

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The conviction resulted from a joint investigation conducted by South Central Field Office, located in Dallas, TX, the Social Security Administration OIG (SSA OIG), the VA OIG Office of Audit, and officials from the VA Regional Office, Waco, TX.

Assistant US Attorney Terri Hagan, Plano, TX, prosecuted the case.

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