



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**KETCHIKAN MAN INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY
FOR VIOLATING STOLEN VALOR ACT AND MISUSING FEDERAL DOCUMENTS**

Anchorage, Alaska - United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced today, March 18, 2009, that Thomas A. Dye, a resident of Ketchikan, Alaska, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Anchorage on four charges. Two counts charge violations of the Stolen Valor Act which criminalizes false claims to military medals and two counts allege misuse of federal documents including use of an altered military discharge certificate and the false use of United States Coast Guard Merchant Mariner licenses.

The four count indictment named Dye, age 53, as the sole defendant.

According to the indictment, Dye lied about his military service for financial gain and for other reasons. The indictment also alleges that Dye posed as a decorated member of the Armed Forces of the United States and wore medals and decorations he was not entitled to, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Lieutenant Commander John C. Reardon, a Special Assistant United States Attorney, who presented the case to the grand jury, indicated that the law provides for a maximum total sentence of five years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed will be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

The Coast Guard Investigative Service, the United States Department of Veteran Affairs Office of Inspector General and the United States Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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