



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa                      Orlando  
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## **PALMETTO WOMAN SENTENCED FOR THEFT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

Tampa, FL - U.S. District Judge Susan C. Bucklew today sentenced Lynn Weber (age 55, of Palmetto, Florida) to 5 months in federal prison and 5 months of house arrest for stealing government funds. Weber was also ordered to pay \$62,960.00 in restitution. Weber had pleaded guilty to the offense on December 24, 2008.

According to court documents, a woman named Eleanor Edwards, was a recipient of Veterans Administration Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, which is paid to eligible surviving spouses of veterans who have not remarried. Ms. Edwards died on November 25, 2003. On February 7, 2008, it was determined that \$1,324.00 in benefits were still being paid to Ms. Edwards each month via U.S. Treasury checks. The checks were being mailed to an address in Parrish, Florida, where Ms. Edwards's son resided with his girlfriend, Lynn Weber.

A query of Ms. Edwards's Veterans Administration claim folder showed that the mailed checks had been cashed with "Eleanor Edwards's" signature and the name "Weber" on the backs. The back of the checks also contained information regarding a local check cashing establishment which showed that Weber had presented identification and cashed the checks. Law enforcement went to the store listed on the checks and store employees

at the store identified Weber as the person who had cashed Ms. Edwards's checks. Weber had stolen approximately \$62,960.00 belonging to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This case was investigated by Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Inspector General. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda C. Kaiser.