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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Roseville man pleads guilty to preparing false tax returns

A 58-year-old Roseville man pleaded guilty today in federal court to one count of aiding in the preparation and presentation of a false tax return and claim.

John Roger Bartels entered his plea May 19 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge David Doty. Bartels, who operated as a tax return preparer as John's Tax Service, was indicted on April 16.

According to his plea agreement, Bartels admitted that between March 3, 2003, and April 2, 2005, he willfully aided and assisted in, and procured, counseled and advised, in the preparation of U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns. Specifically, he filed a return on March 18, 2003, that was fraudulent and falsely claimed a "Head of Household" or "Single" filing status when in fact the taxpayer was not a "Head of Household" or "Single" for income tax purposes.

Bartels faces a potential maximum penalty of three years in prison. Judge Doty will determine Bartels's sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division and the Minnesota Department of Revenue. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Genrich.