



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 30, 2009**

**FORMER RANKIN COUNTY BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED FOR
FAILING TO FILE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS AND CRIMINAL CONTEMPT**

Jackson, Miss – Wiley Randolph “Randy” Kuyrkendall of Pearl, Mississippi, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan to 46 months in prison, followed by one year of supervised release, for failure to file federal income tax returns and fleeing from his criminal trial, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter and Michael J. De Palma, Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, New Orleans Field Office, announced today. Kuyrkendall was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$443,806.45 to the Internal Revenue Service and \$3,113.00 to the U.S. District Court.

Kuyrkendall, formerly a State Farm insurance salesman in Brandon, Mississippi, was indicted in February, 2009, and found guilty by a federal jury in August, 2009 of failing to file income tax returns for the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, although he received almost \$800,000 in gross income during those four years. The evidence during trial disclosed that the defendant was a tax protestor who had previously filed a federal civil lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service seeking \$1.1 billion and claiming that Congress did not have authority to tax. Kuyrkendall had previously pled guilty in Hinds County Circuit Court in 2000 to state tax evasion.

The court scheduled a pre-trial conference in the case for August 14, 2009, and the trial was set to begin on August 17, 2009. Kuyrkendall failed to appear on both dates and was arrested shortly thereafter by the U.S. Marshal Service. Based on these actions, the court charged Kuyrkendall with two counts of criminal contempt for fleeing and failing to appear for those two court-scheduled events. He pled guilty to those charges in October 2009.

Michael J. De Palma, Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation stated, "We are pleased with today's sentence. Failing to file an income tax return is not a victimless crime and all Americans have a duty to pay their fair share. Honest, hardworking Americans pay the price when others choose not to file their tax returns and pay their tax obligations. Special Agents of IRS Criminal Investigation will continue to work with the United States Attorney's Office in an effort to protect the public's confidence in our tax system. If you suspect someone of committing fraud, do the right thing ... contact your local IRS office."

U.S. Attorney Burkhalter commended the investigative efforts of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mike Hurst.

###