

09-26-06 -- Gilbert, Nathaniel -- Sentencing -- News Release

### **Third Defendant Sentenced to 60 months in Federal Prison For Robbing Postal Truck at Glendora Post Office**

CAMDEN – A Camden man was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison today for robbing a U.S. Postal Service contractor of a registered mail pouch that contained \$28,517 worth of U.S. currency, checks, money orders and Civil War medals, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Nathaniel Gilbert, 26, to pay \$35,651 in restitution.

On June 2, 2006, Gilbert pleaded guilty before Judge Kugler to one count of robbing a post office. At his plea hearing, Gilbert admitted that Khayyan Williams, 28, of Camden recruited him to help Williams and Bryon Walls, 30, of Camden, to rob a post office. Gilbert admitted that on Nov. 23, 2004, he used an imitation gun, supplied by Williams, in committing the robbery.

Gilbert admitted that while he, Walls and Williams sat in a vehicle outside the Glendora Post Office, Walls told him that there would be money on a postal truck and that all he had to do was snatch a locked bag from the truck. Gilbert admitted that he then exited the vehicle and robbed a truck of a locked pouch. The three then fled in a Dodge Stratus and traveled to Wall's residence where they split up the proceeds.

On Nov. 24, 2004, law enforcement officers spotted Walls driving a Dodge Stratus that was used in the robbery at the Glendora Post Office. It was later learned that the vehicle was leased to a girlfriend of Walls. Having waived his Miranda rights, Walls told officers he committed an earlier theft on Nov. 4, 2004, of the Blackwood Post Office, in which he took postal bags containing \$25,555 in U.S. currency, \$17,049 in checks and Civil War medals. In addition, he admitted to being a participant, and being in the getaway car, during the Glendora Post Office robbery, along with Williams and Gilbert.

Williams pleaded guilty in federal court on Nov. 1, 2005, to one count of robbing a post office. On June 9, 2006, U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler sentenced Williams to 36 months in prison and ordered him to pay \$35,000 in restitution.

On March 9, 2006, Walls pleaded guilty to a three-count Information charging him with the Nov. 23, 2004, armed robbery of a registered mail pouch from a U.S. Postal Service contractor at the Glendora Post Office. Count Two charges that on Nov. 4, 2005, Walls committed a theft from the Blackwood Post Office by stealing four registered mail pouches containing approximately \$42,604 in currency, checks, money orders and Civil War medals. Count Three charges Walls with the Dec. 29, 2003, theft of four registered mail pouches containing \$30,457 in currency, checks and money orders from the Blackwood Post Office. On June 14, 2006, Judge Kugler sentenced Walls to a prison term of 40 months and ordered restitution in the amount of \$110,783.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Kugler consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, New Jersey Caribbean Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Thomas C. Van De Merlen.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Richardson of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

– end –

Defense Attorney: Harold Shapiro, Esq. Vineland