



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian  
Northern District of New York

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**FORMER VETERANS AFFAIRS FIDUCIARY SENTENCED  
FOR STEALING OVER \$57,000 IN VETERANS BENEFITS DESIGNATED FOR  
TWO SYRACUSE-AREA DISABLED VETERANS**

RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, announces that **SHARON WILSON**, age 61, a resident of Syracuse, New York, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Utica by Judge David N. Hurd. Wilson previously pleaded guilty to stealing and converting to her own use monies belonging to the United States, which monies were veterans benefits to be paid to two elderly disabled veterans. The Court sentenced her to 3 years probation, including 6 months of home confinement, 100 hours of community service and a \$100 special assessment. Wilson was also ordered to pay \$57,604.16 in restitution, which amount she previously had deposited with the Court.

**WILSON** had been appointed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to serve as a legal custodian (fiduciary) for two Syracuse-area veterans. In that position, she was to oversee and manage financial accounts for these two veterans, and had agreed to use all the monies paid to them by the VA for their benefit. Instead, she stole over \$57,000 in veterans benefits designated for them, conducting hundreds of transactions to take money out of the savings and checking accounts of these veterans, and altered required paperwork in an attempt to cover up her thefts.

In entering her guilty plea, **WILSON** admitted the following: (1) she had been appointed by the VA beginning in June of 2000 as a legal custodian (fiduciary) for two veterans residing in the Northern District of New York; (2) these two veterans were receiving benefits from the VA; (3) beginning with the accounting period ending July 31, 2005 and continuing through at least July of 2007, and utilizing her position as an appointed legal custodian on behalf of these two veterans, she knowingly and wilfully embezzled and converted to her own use funds of the VA intended for the use and benefit of those veterans; (4) that she accomplished and carried on these thefts by withholding funds, withdrawing funds from the veterans' accounts without authorization, paying to herself money far above authorized fiduciary fees, and by submitting false and altered documents to the VA to cover up her thefts; and (5) the amount she stole was at least \$57,604.16.

This prosecution resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Office of Inspector General. Further questions may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Stephen C. Green, the prosecutor handling the case, at (315) 448-0696, or Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John Duncan at (315) 448-0687.