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**UNITED STATES FILES ACTION TO FORFEIT TWO BRONZE
EAGLES STOLEN FROM WAR MEMORIAL IN CENTRAL PARK**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the filing of a civil Complaint seeking forfeiture of two bronze eagles which were formerly attached to the City Employees War Memorial in Central Park. Federal agents seized the eagles on May 29, 2008 from a New York City office. The Memorial, which was dedicated in 1926 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is located at the northwest end of the Mall in Central Park, opposite the Naumberg Bandshell. The Memorial was designed by sculptor Georg John Lober (1892-1961), who also designed the statue of author Hans Christian Andersen in Central Park and the statue of composer George M. Cohan in Duffy Square. According to the civil Complaint filed today in Manhattan federal court:

In the mid-1970s, narcotics trafficking took place in Central Park in the area around the Memorial, and the eagles themselves were used to store narcotics or the proceeds of narcotics deals. At some point during this period, the eagles were removed from the Memorial and stolen from Central Park. The eagles were stored at a private residence until the mid-1990s, when they were sold to an individual with an office located in New York City. Federal law enforcement agents recently learned of the eagles' whereabouts from a confidential source, and a warrant was issued by a United States Magistrate Judge for their seizure as property used as a container for controlled substances and as appurtenances to land used to facilitate controlled substances violations. It is the Government's ultimate intention to return the stolen property to the City of New York, under the Department of Justice's authority and practice to return forfeited property to the victims of federal crimes.

The matter is being handled by the Asset Forfeiture Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United

States Attorney AMY LESTER is in charge of the prosecution.

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