UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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FILED 4-30-15
WILLIAM W. BLEVINS
CLERK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	**CRIMINAL NO. 15-98**
v.	*	**SECTION: "I"**
SYLVIA CHESTNUT **a/k/a Sylvia Rosemain**	*	**VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 641**

* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

In February 2012, management of the Navy Exchange (NEX) at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, and Naval Station Mayport, Florida, both of which are located in Duval County, Florida, notified Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) that Sylvia Chestnut (Chestnut) wrote a large volume of worthless checks to those particular NEX stores. The NEX is a department store operated by Navy Exchange Service Command and owned by the United States. Specifically, between November 12, 2011, and December 18, 2011, Chestnut wrote 43 worthless checks totaling $20,549.36 to those particular NEX stores. These checks were drawn on Chestnut's accounts at BBVA Compass Bank (BBVA) and Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union (RBFCU).

A financial analysis of records from BBVA indicated that BBVA closed Chestnut's checking account on February 23, 2011, due to a number of insufficient fund charges. This was nine months before she wrote the checks to the NEX in November 2011. The NEX provided records indicating that Chestnut used these worthless checks to purchase clothing, household items, pre-paid visa cards, and other personal items.

A financial analysis of records from RBFCU indicated that Chestnut's checking account had a negative balance in December 2011 before she wrote the checks to the NEX in December

2011. RBFCU closed her account on January 19, 2012, due to a history of insufficient fund checks and minimal deposits. The NEX provided records indicating that Chestnut used these worthless checks to purchase clothing, household items, pre-paid visa cards, and other personal items.

On July 8, 2013, NCIS Special Agent (SA) Lewis Whitman interviewed Chestnut at her home in Louisiana. After being administered her *Miranda* warnings, Chestnut voluntarily waived her rights. She stated in substance and among other things that she wrote 43 checks to the NEX stores in Jacksonville, Florida and she knew she did not have the funds to cover the checks when she wrote them. When shown copies of the 43 checks written to the NEX stores in Jacksonville, Florida she indicated that she wrote each one of the 43 checks and recognized her signature on each one. In total, Chestnut acknowledged writing 43 checks to the NEX stores totaling $20,549.36.

4-30-2015

SPIRO G. LATSIS Date
Assistant United States Attorney

4-30-15

SYLVIA CHESTNUT Date
Defendant

4-30-15

GARY V. SCHWABE, JR. Date
Attorney for Defendant