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**RUSTON MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR
DEFRAUDING AN ELDERLY VICTIM OF \$212,000**

James Cedric Parker, Sr. will serve 46 months in prison

Shreveport, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today that James Cedrick Parker, Sr., age 56, formerly from New Roads, now residing in Ruston, was sentenced on Monday, June 4th, by U.S. District Judge Robert G. James to 46 months in prison for defrauding an elderly victim. **Parker was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$212,000.**

Parker devised a scheme to defraud the elderly victim by convincing the victim that Parker and Parker's family were in need of financial assistance and support due to dire medical and financial problems. Over a period of time, Parker obtained over \$212,000. When the victim asked when he would get his money back, Parker told the victim that in order to get his money back, the victim would have to pay additional money for fees and expenses. The Secret Service was then notified of Parker's actions and began an investigation.

Unaware that he was under investigation by the Secret Service, Parker again requested the victim to send wire transfer of funds to him in Ruston. Parker picked up the first wire transfer of funds on January 11, 2012. A second wire transfer of funds was sent on January 17, 2012. When Parker attempted to pick up this second wire transfer of funds, Parker was arrested by members of the U.S. Secret Service Financial Crimes Task Force.

U.S. Attorney Finley stated, "The United States Attorney's Office will continue to vigorously prosecute those who prey upon the elderly and senior citizens and take advantage of their kindness. The elderly are some of the most vulnerable members of our community. My office will not tolerate those who commit fraud against them."

There are many more schemes to defraud that target the elderly and senior citizens. More information on these schemes can be found on the internet at FBI site: <http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud/seniors>.

If you believe you or another person may be a victim of a scheme to defraud, you should immediately contact your local law enforcement agency. Also, there are various "hotlines" to report these crimes. For example the Louisiana State Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline number is 1-800-351-4889. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission's hotline to report identity theft is 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). The Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline to report misuse of a social security number and other fraud is 1-800-269-0271. There is also an internet site to report crimes: <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>.

This case was investigated by the Secret Service Financial Crimes Task Force which includes the Secret Service, the Ruston Police Department and the Louisiana State Police, and other law enforcement agencies. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert W. Gillespie, Jr.

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