

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon.
: :
: Crim. No. 21-
v. : :
: 18 U.S.C. § 641
MELVIN GREENSPAN : :

INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by indictment, the Acting United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

COUNT ONE
(Theft of Government Funds)

1. At all times material to this Information:

BACKGROUND

a. The Department of Veteran's Affairs ("VA"), an agency of the United States, administered certain government benefit programs, including the Survivor's Pension program, pursuant to Title 38, United States Code, Sections 1501 – 1562.

b. The VA Survivor's Pension program furnishes support for surviving spouses of veterans who had ninety (90) days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, and whose discharge from active duty was under conditions other than dishonorable. Surviving spouses may be eligible to receive a VA death pension based on economic need if they meet applicable income standards. Pension payments are made to qualified surviving spouses in order to bring their total income to a

support level established by Congress. This benefit is paid to a surviving spouse who has not remarried and terminates upon the death of the beneficiary.

c. The mother of defendant MELVIN GREENSPAN, identified here as "D.G.," was an adult woman who was a surviving spouse of a military service member, identified here as "I.G." D.G. qualified for Survivor's Pension benefits from the VA during her lifetime, based on the service of I.G. No other individual was entitled to the benefits designated for D.G. and the benefits were to terminate upon D.G.'s death.

THE SCHEME

2. The VA provided the Survivor's Pension benefits to D.G. through an electronic funds transfer to a Chase bank account owned and controlled by D.G. beginning on or about September 1971 and continuing after that date.

3. On or about September 16, 2006, D.G. died.

4. The VA did not receive any notification of D.G.'s death at that time. As a result, it continued to issue Survivor's Pension benefits through an electronic funds transfer to D.G.'s Chase bank account.

5. Defendant MELVIN GREENSPAN, a resident of Monmouth County, New Jersey, who had access to D.G.'s Chase bank account, continued to collect the benefit payments from D.G.'s Chase bank account for his own use beginning at the time of D.G.'s death and continuing through in or around June 2018. While doing so, Defendant GREENSPAN knew that he was not entitled to D.G.'s Survivor's Pension benefit but continued to collect it anyway for his own use.

6. From in or around September 2006 to in or around June 2018, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant

MELVIN GREENSPAN,

did embezzle, steal, purloin, and knowingly convert to his own use money of the United States in excess of \$1,000, that is, approximately \$201,166.13 in Veterans Affairs benefits to which he knew he was not entitled.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

Upon conviction of Theft of Government Funds, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641, as charged in this Information, the defendant, MELVIN GREENSPAN, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), all property, real and personal, the defendant obtained that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of the said offense, the value of which totaled \$201,166.13.


SUBSTITUTE ASSETS PROVISION

If any of the above described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty,

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it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the above described forfeitable property.


RACHAEL A. HONIG
Acting United States Attorney

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INFORMATION FOR

18 U.S.C. § 641

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