



U.S. Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

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April 14, 2008

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Karya Freddie Lee Hunt

**DETROIT MAN SENTENCED FOR THEFT OF
VETERAN'S IDENTITY FOR CASH AND MEDICAL BENEFITS**

A Detroit man who never served in any branch of the United States Armed Services was sentenced late Friday, April 11, 2008 to serve 75 days in custody for theft of government money from the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Murphy was joined in the announcement by John W. Brooks, Special Agent in Charge, Central Field Office, Office of Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Karya Freddie Lee Hunt, 61, of Detroit, Michigan, entered the guilty plea in United States District Court before Judge Gerald E. Rosen on January 9, 2008.

Judge Rosen also sentenced the defendant to serve one year on supervised release, ordered him to undergo both mental health and substance abuse treatment during that period, and ordered him to pay \$59,765.58 in restitution to the Veterans Administration.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that from March 1998 through November 2005 the defendant, Karya Freddie Lee Hunt, obtained and used the social security number and other identifiers belonging to an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Marine Corps and Oklahoma native, to obtain both military pension benefits

totaling \$32,702 and healthcare benefits from the United States Veterans Administration valued at \$27,063, to which he was not entitled.

“The Office of Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs has coined the term ‘Stolen Valor’ to describe cases such as this, in which the identities and records of our valiant men and women who honorably serve their country are stolen by people undeserving of the benefits and recognition we give our veterans,” Murphy said. “These ‘Stolen Valor’ offenses, trading as they do on the service, sacrifice and good name of our veterans, will not be tolerated.”

Murphy also commended the work of the Special Agents from The Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, whose investigation resulted in this successful prosecution.