



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006
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TWO MORE PLEAD GUILTY IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, TO FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that two more Louisiana residents pled guilty in federal court to violations related to Hurricane Katrina relief funds.

DEBBIE A. FOSTER, age 34, a resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty yesterday, and RONALD A. GUIDRY, age 32, a resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty today before District Court Judge Frank J. Polozola to Count One of Indictments charging each with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster relief benefits.

As a result of their guilty pleas to Count One of the Indictments, FOSTER and GUIDRY each face a sentence of imprisonment of a maximum of five (5) years and a \$250,000 fine, or both. As part of the plea agreements, the U.S. Attorney's Office will dismiss Count Two of the Indictments when FOSTER and GUIDRY are sentenced on Count One.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Postal Inspector's Office, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, among others. This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General.

The total number of defendants who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to Hurricane Katrina relief funds stands at fifty-four.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443.

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