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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BANK ROBBER SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announces that today U.S. District Court Judge J. Frederick Motz sentenced James George Velnosky, III, age 56, of Baltimore Maryland to 7 years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea to bank robbery.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court, on October 31, 2002, Velnosky entered the Hamilton Federal Bank, 5600 Harford Road, Baltimore, Maryland, and presented a demand note to a bank employee, threatening to detonate a bomb. Witnesses observed Velnosky place a package on the counter. This package was left behind and had to be "deactivated" by the Baltimore Police Bomb Squad. The teller provided \$917 to Velnosky.

On November 4, 2002, Velnosky entered the Hamilton Federal Bank, 6301 Bel Air Road, Rosedale, Maryland and presented a demand note, threatening to detonate a bomb. The teller handed \$1,496 to Velnosky. Velnosky entered the Allfirst Bank, 6267 Kenwood Avenue, Baltimore, and again presented a demand note threatening to detonate a bomb. Velnosky left a bag of Epsom salt on the counter. The teller handed Velnosky \$3,724.

Velnosky was arrested on November 19, 2004.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bonnie S. Greenberg.