
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln

TWO CHARGED WITH FEMA FRAUD

BIRMINGHAM, AL - KENNETH EDWARD McCAIN AND GLADYS MAE WHITT are charged in unrelated cases of FEMA fraud in Indictments filed today in U.S. District Court.

In response to Hurricane Katrina, FEMA made available to eligible households \$2,000 in expedited disaster assistance to be followed by additional funds if needed. The expedited disaster assistance was intended to help Katrina evacuees with immediate food, shelter and clothing needs. To be eligible for FEMA assistance based on housing needs, the damaged home in the disaster areas must be where the applicant usually lives and where the applicant was residing at the time of the disaster.

McCAIN, 48, of Birmingham is accused of posing as a Hurricane Katrina evacuee and lying about his place of residence in order to obtain financial assistance from FEMA. He is charged federally with mail fraud and theft of government property.

WHITT, 43, of Birmingham is also accused of posing as a Hurricane Katrina evacuee, with adopting another woman's identity, and forging that woman's name to obtain federal funds. She has been charged federally with mail fraud, theft of government property, and uttering a forged U.S. Treasury check.

"Even now, more than five months after Hurricane Katrina, law enforcement remains vigilant for fraud against the U.S. Government on behalf tax payers," stated U.S. Attorney Alice H. Martin. "Individuals who use fraud and deceit to obtain federal funds will be prosecuted."

Special Agents of the Office of the Inspector General, the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Secret Service investigated these matters with the assistance of the Birmingham Police Department and the University of Alabama at Birmingham Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Tamarra Matthews Johnson is prosecuting these cases on behalf of the U.S. Government.

Both McCAIN and WHITT face maximum sentences of five years in prison for Mail Fraud and ten years in prison for theft of Government Money or Property with fines of up to \$250,000. WHITT faces an additional ten years in prison for forgery.

"Members of the public are urged to report fraudulent activity relating to Hurricane Relief to law enforcement," stated U.S. Attorney Alice H. Martin.

Members of the public are also reminded that an indictment contains only charges. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

- END -

[Back to Northern District of Alabama Main Page](#)