



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Orange Park Sales Executive Sentenced for Tax Evasion

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that Rupert Dennis Bazemore, a sixty-one year old resident of Orange Park, Florida, was sentenced for felony tax evasion. United States District Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr. sentenced Bazemore to one month imprisonment, to be followed by five months of home detention and three years of supervised release. In addition, Bazemore was ordered to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service, including filing all outstanding tax returns and paying all back taxes, interest, and penalties. Bazemore also was ordered to pay costs of prosecution in the amount of \$2,626.87, as well as a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

According to the plea agreement previously entered in the case, Bazemore, who received substantial income from his employment as Vice-President of Sales for Wescom Products, Inc., failed to file tax returns or pay income taxes for the years 1998, 1999, and 2000. Bazemore evaded taxes for these years by submitting a false withholding exemption

certificate to his employer, on which he claimed that he was exempt from income tax withholding. When Bazemore was contacted by the Internal Revenue Service about his failure to file tax returns and pay taxes, he claimed, among other things, that he was not a citizen of the United States for tax purposes.

At his initial appearance in federal court on November 24, 2003, Bazemore refused to recognize the court's jurisdiction over him. At his plea hearing on February 13, 2004, however, Bazemore acknowledged the court's jurisdiction and admitted that he had knowingly and willfully evaded substantial income taxes that were due and owing to the Internal Revenue Service.

The case was investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Scot Morris and Department of Justice Tax Division Trial Attorney Martha McIntosh.