



# PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

March 3, 2003

## **DEFENDANTS SENTENCED FOR FAILURE TO FILE TAX RETURNS**

\_\_\_\_\_ On March 3, 2003, United States District Judge Steven D. Merryday, sitting in Tampa, Florida, sentenced GEORGE KATZENBERGER and his wife, CAREN MCCORMICK, both of Chicago, Illinois, each to a term of imprisonment of five months for failure to file income tax returns. Following their release from imprisonment, the defendants will then serve a year of supervise release, a portion of which is to be spent on home detention. Judge Merryday also ordered both defendants to pay restitution to the Internal Revenue Service of \$82,215.40.

On September 3, 2002, both KATZENBERGER and MC CORMICK entered pleas of guilty to a failure to file their 1997 income tax returns. The defendants each admitted that they had each earned substantial amounts of income, while living in the Manatee County area in 1997, as distributors and salesmen for Starlight International, a multi-level marketing company which sold health and beauty products. In 1997, each defendant had

earned income from that employment which would have triggered the requirement that they report their income on a Federal Income Tax Return, Form 1040. They did not do so.

This case was prosecuted by Jay L. Hoffer, Assistant United States Attorney in the Special Prosecutions Section of the Tampa Division . This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division.