



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias  
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

## **CRUTCHFIELD SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR SHOOTING POSTAL WORKER**

### *Defendant Claimed He Wanted To Go To Federal Prison*

Atlanta, GA -WILLIAM CLAYTON CRUTCHFIELD, also known as "Bill Crutchfield," 60, of Snellville, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Charles A. Pannell, Jr. to life in federal prison on three charges related to the shooting and attempted murder of a federal employee.

United States Attorney David Nahmias said, "This defendant ambushed and nearly killed a federal employee who was just doing his job. The Postal Inspection Service and this office have been committed to achieving justice for this victim, and we believe this sentence is justified."

According to Nahmias and the evidence in court: On June 29, 2005, CRUTCHFIELD attempted to kill United States Postal Service Letter Carrier Earl Lazenby, 52, while the letter carrier was engaged in the performance of his official duties. CRUTCHFIELD also pleaded guilty to forcibly assaulting Lazenby with a deadly weapon; causing bodily injury while Lazenby was engaged in the performance of official duties; and with discharging a firearm during a crime of violence. CRUTCHFIELD pleaded guilty to the charges on September 9, 2005.

The evidence showed CRUTCHFIELD shot Lazenby as the letter carrier was delivering CRUTCHFIELD's mail to his Snellville home. CRUTCHFIELD shot Lazenby five to seven times with a .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun, and then left the scene before turning himself in to the Snellville Police Department a short time later. CRUTCHFIELD later told investigators that he was in debt due to medical bills and would rather be in federal prison than on the streets. The firearm used in the shooting was recovered from the vehicle that CRUTCHFIELD drove from his house to the Snellville Police Department.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

Assistant United States Attorney Todd C. Alley prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or F. Gentry Shelnett, Chief, Criminal Division, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>.