



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of New York*

James T. Foley U.S. Courthouse

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PRESS RELEASE

Glenn T. Suddaby, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York, William G. McMahon, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U.S. Marshal James Parmley, New York State Police Field Commander Pedro J. Perez, and Surete du Quebec Director General Normand Proulx, announced today that **RICHARD VALLEE**, age 49 of St. Jean, Quebec, Canada was sentenced to life imprisonment for the car bombing murder of Lee Carter, Jr. on July 28, 1993 in Rouses Point, New York. Vallee was sentenced to [life imprisonment] on both counts on which he was convicted, use of an explosive to destroy a vehicle used in interstate commerce, and murder of a federal witness to prevent communication of information to federal law enforcement. In addition, Vallee was ordered to pay restitution to the family of Lee Carter Jr. in the amount of \$971,000.

The evidence at trial established that Vallee, a member of the Three Rivers chapter of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, was the head of a cocaine smuggling and distribution network. Carter, a resident of Rouses Point, came forward to police to report that he had

been approached to assist in smuggling narcotics into Canada. Carter volunteered to assist law enforcement, and ultimately, was introduced to Vallee, the head of the smuggling network. Due to Carter's efforts, five people were arrested, including Vallee. The other four pled guilty, two in the U.S., and two in Canada, but Vallee remained free on bail pending a trial in Canada scheduled for September of 1993. Vallee committed the murder by causing a bomb to be placed in Carter's vehicle. The bomb exploded when Carter unknowingly activated a triggering mechanism placed in the car. Due to Carter's death, the prosecution in Canada had to be dismissed.

Vallee was arrested in Canada, but escaped at gunpoint on June 5, 1997, after he had been taken to a local hospital for treatment of an injury received while in prison. Vallee remained a fugitive for seven years under the assumed name of a toddler who had died in 1961, Guy Turner. Vallee was arrested in Montreal on April 11, 2003 for drunk driving, but using the assumed identity Guy Turner, he was released. A routine fingerprint check showed that Turner was Vallee, and the Surete du Quebec set in motion a massive manhunt, and finally cornered Vallee on April 17, 2003.

Vallee fought extradition, but was finally returned to the United States in November, 2006. The jury heard from more than 30 witnesses, and examined more than two dozen exhibits in reaching its determination.

U.S. Attorney Glenn T. Suddaby, said, "While nothing can bring Lee Carter Jr. back, we hope that sentencing his murderer to life imprisonment will bring some small measure of comfort to his family. I am proud of the work that law enforcement put into the investigation of this case, and the efforts made to find and apprehend Vallee after he escaped from custody. We again would like to extend special thanks to the Surete du

Quebec and the Service de Police de Montreal for the tremendous effort and support they gave to this prosecution.”

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the New York State Police, and the Surete du Quebec. The Assistant United States Attorney handling the case is William C. Pericak.

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