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Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

July 7, 2004

DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO 51 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR GUN CHARGE AND TAX CHARGE

RE: UNITED STATES v. RICHARD VELTRE

Michael A. Battle, the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, announced today that Richard Veltre, age 50, of 423 Cedarwood Terrace, Rochester, New York, was sentenced by the Honorable Michael A. Telesca, United States District Court Judge, to 51 months in prison and ordered to pay \$226,534.05 in restitution in connection with his guilty plea on April 19, 2004 to being a convicted felon in possession of firearms in violation of 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(1), which carries a maximum of three years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine, and to making false statement to the Internal Revenue Service in violation of 26 U.S.C. §7206(5), which carries a maximum of three years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who is handling the case, stated that Richard Veltre had previously been convicted of felonies on October 3, 1978, in the United States District Court, District of Connecticut, and on December 8, 1986, in the 15th Judicial District, State of Florida. From April 2001 to July 2003, Veltre then knowingly possessed five firearms.

Further, on November 13, 2001, Veltre submitted an offer of compromise which was accepted to the Internal Revenue Service regarding federal tax liabilities he owed for the years 1988 and 1989. In his offer of compromise, Veltre intentionally failed to disclose various assets he owned, including a house located at 423 Cedarwood Terrace, a 1989 Ferrari, and a substantial amount of cash.

When Veltre was arrested in August 2003, the Rochester Police Department seized \$328,000. Judge Telesca ordered that the defendant's restitution be paid from this amount. Specifically, Veltre was ordered to pay \$206,162.05 to the IRS, \$17,197 to the Social Security Administration, and \$3,175 to Veltre's accountant.

The Indictment and guilty pleas were the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Michael Lawandus, the Internal Revenue Service under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Anne Marie Coons, Criminal Investigation Division, and the Rochester Police Department, under the direction of Police Chief Robert Duffy.

