



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**CHUCK ROSENBERG, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

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Jim Rybicki  
Public Information Officer  
Phone: (703) 842-4050 Fax: (703) 549-5202  
E-Mail: [usavae.press@usdoj.gov](mailto:usavae.press@usdoj.gov)  
Website: [www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae)

Further Information Contact:  
Deanna Warren  
Phone: (757) 441-6331

## **Chesapeake Resident Sentenced for Filing Fraudulent Hurricane Katrina Damage Claims with FEMA**

**(Norfolk, Virginia)** – Tamico J. Morgan, age 37, of Chesapeake, was sentenced today in United States District Court to five years probation for filing false and fraudulent claims to obtain disaster assistance relief money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in connection with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She was also ordered to make restitution to the Government in the amount of \$14,744. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after the sentence was imposed by United States District Judge Walter D. Kelley, Jr. Morgan pled guilty in January to theft of government funds and making false statements.

According to court records, between September 2005 and January 2006, Morgan filed seven applications with FEMA to obtain disaster assistance relief money for property damage to residences in Louisiana claimed to have been caused by either Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. The applications were submitted by Morgan on-line over the internet in the names of other persons. In fact, none of the applicants had sustained any property damage in Louisiana or elsewhere as a result of the hurricanes.

As a result of the false applications, Morgan received a total of \$14,744 in disaster assistance relief monies from the Government in the form of electronic fund transfers into a credit union account designated by her in the applications, or by checks payable to the persons in whose names the false applications were made. The checks were sent to a mailing address listed in the applications which, in fact, was Morgan's residence in Chesapeake. Morgan forged the endorsement of the payee and deposited the checks in her credit union account.

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, and the Postal Inspector. Assistant United States Attorney Alan M. Salsbury prosecuted the case for the United States.