



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PICKENS WOMAN CONVICTED OF GOVERNMENT THEFT

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that MEGAN NICHOLE HANSON MOSTELLER, age 26, of Pickens, was convicted following a jury trial in federal court in Florence, of stealing more than \$37,000.00 from the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs. United States District Judge Terry L. Wooten of Florence presided over the trial and will impose sentence after he has reviewed the presentence report which will be prepared by the U.S. Probation Office.

Evidence was presented during the trial to establish that MOSTELLER married a young Marine named Jeremy Mosteller but separated from him a few months later. Approximately three (3) months after the separation Jeremy Mosteller

died March 7, 2008. On March 10, 2008, Megan Mosteller filed for Department of Veteran's Affairs Survivor Benefits claiming to have continuously lived with Jeremy Mosteller until his death. Five (5) months after Jeremy's death, Megan Mosteller married re-married, and purchased a house in Easley. After the marriage, Megan Mosteller continued using the name "Mosteller" to hide the fact that she re-married and continued to collect VA benefits. In addition, she applied for and received Education Benefits from the Department of Veteran's Affairs. 2 and ½ years after Mosteller began receiving VA benefits, an investigation revealed her fraud, at which time the benefits were stopped. By that time, Mosteller had received over \$37,000.00. Based on her life expectancy, she would have received over \$800,000.00 if her fraud had not been detected.

Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty MOSTELLER can receive is a fine of \$250,000.00 and/or imprisonment for 10 years, plus a special assessment of \$100.00.

The case was investigated by agents of the Veteran's Administration - Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney William E. Day, II of the Florence office handled the case.

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