



Department of Justice

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NEWARK GUN STORE OWNER SENTENCED TO A YEAR AND A DAY IN PRISON FOR LYING TO GET MORE THAN \$148,000 IN FEDERAL DISABILITY BENEFITS

COLUMBUS –Lawrence E. Waldren, age 55, of Newark was sentenced in U.S. District Court here today to 12 months and one day in prison for making false statements in order to receive more than \$148,000 in federal benefits between May 2005 until September 2008. He was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$148,160.92 to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Carter Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, James Vanderberg, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Labor, Lawrence R. Porte, Special Agent in Charge, Transportation Security Administration, Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Steven Sarver, Chief of the Newark, Ohio Police Department announced the sentence handed down today by U.S. District Judge Algenon L. Marbley.

A U.S. District Court jury convicted Waldren on February 1, 2010 of one count of making false statements. According to testimony presented by witnesses during the trial, Waldren was receiving more than \$2,000 a month in tax-free benefits, plus college coursework paid for by the Department of Labor, as a result of a disability sustained while he was employed by TSA at the Port Columbus International Airport.

As a condition of Waldren receiving benefits, he had to disclose any work activity and other sources of income he had. Waldren owned Waldren's Hunting Supplies in Newark, yet he did not disclose the ownership of the gun store in paperwork filed with the Department of Labor, which administers federal workers' compensation disability benefits.

Waldren has been on bond pending sentencing. Judge Marbley will recommend that Waldren serve his sentence in a federal medical center because of Waldren's medical conditions. He collapsed during his trial and was hospitalized at the time the jury returned its verdict.

Judge Marbley ordered Waldren and his family members to sell the building housing Waldren's Hunting Supplies at 315 E. Main Street in Newark along with five undeveloped lots he and his wife own in St. Louisville, Ohio and use the proceeds to pay restitution. As a convicted felon, Waldren is also prohibited from owning or possessing any firearms.

"Federal benefit programs rely on an element of trust in order for them to function effectively," Stewart said. "Those who abuse or violate that trust must be held accountable."

Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by special agents of Department of Labor Office of Inspector General and the TSA Office of Inspections, along with Assistant U.S Attorney Dale E. Williams, Jr., who prosecuted the case.

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