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April 17, 2008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Detroit, Michigan

**U.S. COAST GUARD OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH
BRIBERY AND EXTORTION**

A two count indictment was unsealed in U.S. District Court charging a U.S. Coast Guard petty officer with bribery and extortion, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

U.S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Armando Lopez, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago, Illinois office of the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General, Rear Admiral John E. Crowley, Jr., Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District, Neal Marzloff, Special Agent in Charge, Coast Guard Investigative Service Central Region and Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Named in the Indictment was:

BENJAMIN BOSTIC, age 35 of Macomb, Michigan.

The indictment charges that, from September of 2006 through the present, BOSTIC used his position as a public official and a federal law enforcement officer to demand, seek and receive in excess of \$35,000.00 in funds in return for colluding in and allowing a fraud on the United States. BOSTIC was also charged with using his position to extort in excess of \$1,000.00 in funds. The subject charges arose out of BOSTIC's agreement to accept more than \$35,000 in cash from the family of an illegal immigrant who was seeking to avoid deportation and removal from the United States.

BENJAMIN BOSTIC enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1996 and holds the rank of Boatswain's Mate First Class Petty Officer. Since 2003, the U.S. Coast Guard has been designated as a service of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

U.S. Attorney Murphy announced that the charges unsealed today followed an

intensive investigation conducted by agents from the Department of Homeland Security-Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service.

U.S. Attorney Murphy stated, "These charges allege a serious breach by a member of our armed forces. Protecting our waterways and enforcing immigrations laws is an essential duty of the U.S. Coast Guard. This betrayal of the public's trust will not be tolerated. I commend the Department of Homeland Security-Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service for their outstanding work on this investigation."

Special Agent in Charge Lopez stated, "The Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General will relentlessly pursue allegations of criminal misconduct concerning DHS employees at all times to protect the integrity of the department and to ensure that public trust is maintained. Bostic's indictment is not indicative of the hard working men and women of the US Coast Guard, who risk they lives everyday to ensure the safety of our homeland."

Rear Admiral John E. Crowley, Jr., Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District stated "The Coast Guard is disappointed that one of its members may have violated the public trust. The Coast Guard exists to serve the public. Our core values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty are deeply rooted in our service's heritage and guide our performance, conduct and decision making every minute of every day. The Coast Guard requires all of its members to embrace our core values and to place loyalty to the Constitution, the laws of the United States and ethical principles above private gain." Rear Admiral Crowley added that, pending the outcome of this case, Petty Officer Bostic had been reassigned to duties that do not involve law enforcement activities or routine interaction with the public.

The charges returned against defendant BENJAMIN BOSTIC carry total penalties of up to 18 years in prison and fines of up to \$500,000.00.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service. The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Larry Kennedy of the Coast Guard and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce C. Judge.