

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

District of Maryland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 7, 2020

**Former U.S. Postal Service Carrier Facing Federal
Indictment For Making False Statements To Obtain
Disability Compensation**

Greenbelt, Maryland – A federal grand jury has indicted Ronald S. Repass, age 56, of Poolesville, Maryland, on the federal charges of false statements or fraud to obtain federal employees' disability compensation. The indictment was returned on August 5, 2020. At today's initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, U.S. Magistrate Judge Timothy J. Sullivan ordered that Repass be released under the supervision of U.S. Pretrial Services.

The indictment was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert K. Hur; Special Agent in Charge Imari R. Niles of the U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General; and Special Agent in Charge Derek Pickle, of the Washington Regional Office, U.S. Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General.

As stated in the indictment, the Department of Labor's Office of Worker's Compensation Programs ("OWCP") administered major disability compensation programs which provided wage loss benefits, medical treatment, vocational rehabilitation, and other benefits for federal government employees who became disabled during the performance of their duties.

According to the indictment, beginning in October 1989, Repass was employed by the U.S. Postal Service at the Poolesville Post Office in Montgomery County, Maryland. Repass was a rural carrier on December 5, 2014, when he filed a workers' compensation claim after he fell and hurt his right shoulder. OWCP granted his claim on February 11, 2015, for a "right rotator cuff tear" based on a finding that Repass was not able to perform any of the routine duties of his job. Repass began receiving benefits of approximately \$3,227 per month on February 22, 2015.

The Department of Labor required disabled employees to annually sign and complete a form certifying that they had not worked for the past 15 months. The disabled employees were also required to immediately report any improvement in their medical condition or any part-time or full-time employment. The indictment alleges that in 2016, 2017, and 2018, Repass signed and

submitted the form stating that he had not worked for any employer, nor was he self-employed or involved in a business enterprise. The indictment alleges that during those years Repass worked part-time as a snow plow driver, as a service advisor at an automotive repair shop, as a field supervisor for a home improvement company, as a plumber, and installed window blinds and mowed lawns, all in exchange for pay.

If convicted, Repass faces a maximum sentence of five years for false statements or fraud to obtain federal employees' compensation. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after taking into account the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

United States Attorney Robert K. Hur commended the U.S. Postal Service OIG and U.S. Department of Labor OIG for their work in the investigation. Mr. Hur thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Hollis R. Weisman, who is prosecuting the case.

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