

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



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Veterans' activist sentenced for theft from friend suffering from dementia

The founder of a Suffolk County veteran's organization today who pleaded guilty to stealing thousands of dollars from his one-time friend and fellow veteran was sentenced to five years' probation and the payback to the victim of nearly \$90,000.

John Lynch of Wantagh pleaded guilty to grand larceny charges in July. State Supreme Court Justice Fernando Camacho told the 76-year old Lynch today that had he not returned the money he stole, he would have been sentenced to jail, describing Lynch as a "Phony" and a "Thief".

The defendant is the founder and former executive director of Suffolk County United Veterans.

Lynch today provided restitution to the victim, returning the \$87,260 that he stole, as well as forfeiting the sports car he bought with his friend's money.

The victim's sister delivered a victim's impact statement before sentencing and told Lynch that "jail or prison time for you would not approach the deprivation" her brother now suffers while hospitalized with dementia in a nursing home.

She said "All of your accomplishments for veterans are cancelled out by your careful and complete exploitation of a supposed friend and fellow veteran", and that, as the victim's sister, her "only desire has been to expose Lynch's dishonesty to the world".

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