

**\* NEWS RELEASE \***

**MAN SENTENCED FOR SIX  
ARMED ROBBERIES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Judge Carrie Panetta sentenced James Kevin Johnson, age 55 of Los Angeles, to twenty-four years and six months in prison for armed robbery.

On February 8, 2013, Johnson and an associate entered Hesselbein Jewelry Store in Carmel, dressed as PG&E workers, claiming they were there to investigate a gas leak. Once they got the owner and three employees in a back room, they pulled out handguns and ordered all to the floor and bound them with duct tape and zip ties. Two customers who entered the store while the robbery was in progress were forced to the back room. Johnson then emptied the display cases, stealing over one million dollars in watches and rings, in addition to personal items from each victim.

Both robbers got away and the crime went unsolved for over one year until Johnson's DNA was detected on a roll of duct tape left behind. Further investigation developed additional circumstantial evidence including Johnson's partial fingerprint on a clip board. One victim, who although could not identify Johnson's face, was able to pick out his voice from a recorded interview.

The case was investigated by Detective Marty Opseth (now retired) of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

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