

EDITOR'S PICK

## Bank robber picks up two more life sentences

GEORGIA MAN, 62, NOW HAS FOUR LIFE TERMS—ONE FOR EACH LOCAL BANK THAT HE HELD UP

Keith Epps

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**A** Georgia man whose long criminal career included four bank robberies in the Fredericksburg area in 2014 has now received life sentences for every one of them.

Wayne Maurice Byrd was sentenced Monday in Spotsylvania County Circuit Court by Judge Sarah Deneke to two life sentences plus three years for robberies at PNC Bank on Jefferson Davis Highway and Union First Market Bank on Plank Road in Spotsylvania.

He was previously given two other life sentences for bank robberies in Stafford County.

According to the evidence, the 62-year-old Byrd entered the PNC Bank on Sept. 30, 2014, and demanded money after displaying a gun in his waistband. He got a large amount of cash and left.

Byrd had robbed the BB&T at 760 Warrenton Road in Stafford a short time earlier that day.

The Union First Market robbery occurred on Nov. 3 of that same year. The same BB&T in Stafford had been robbed earlier that day as well.

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Byrd was arrested in Florida a few days after the Nov. 3 robberies. He was arrested in connection with two bank robberies in Georgia and was quickly connected to the Fredericksburg area robberies.

Spotsylvania Commonwealth's Attorney Travis Bird said Byrd clearly deserved the life sentences.

“He needs to be warehoused for the rest of his life,” Bird said. “[Bank robbery] is his chosen profession and he has repeatedly proven that he’s not going to stop committing them.”

Bird said Byrd’s criminal history dates to 1970 and he has since been convicted of six bank robberies. He still has cases pending for the latest Georgia robberies.

Bird noted that even after serving lengthy prison terms in the past, Byrd quickly resumed robbing banks.

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**By Keith Epps**

**Covers crime for Fredericksburg region**

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