

# Moro man sentenced for role in staged bank robbery

by Dan Brannan, Content Director  
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**Eugene Babcock**, 58, of **Moro**, was sentenced Wednesday in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois to 28 months in federal prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay remaining restitution in the amount of \$165,862 (Babcock had returned \$115,000 prior to his plea of guilty), on charges stemming from a staged bank robbery at **Liberty Bank in Bethalto**, that occurred on Dec. 13, 2014.

Evidence showed that on Dec. 13, 2014, Liebheit, a bank manager at Liberty Bank, called police to report a bank robbery, indicating that a masked individual forced him into the bank at gun point prior to the bank opening. He gave a description of the suspect's vehicle as being a tan station wagon or crossover style vehicle. He stated that he was forced to give the individual over \$280,000 from the bank's vault.

Further investigation revealed that Liebheit's truck was used as a getaway vehicle and Liebheit was involved in the planning of the staged bank robbery. The masked individual was identified as Babcock. Liebheit recruited Babcock to orchestrate the robbery with an agreement that they would split the proceeds afterwards.

The case was investigated by the **Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bethalto Police Department**. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Laura V. Reppert.