



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 16, 1984

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REAGAN PROCLAIMS CRIME VICTIMS WEEK

WASHINGTON -- To commemorate April 15-21 as the fourth annual Crime Victims Week, President Reagan has honored four victims for their outstanding service on behalf of fellow victims.

During a White House ceremony Friday with Attorney General William French Smith, Reagan commended each victim for "turning your anguish into constructive action -- by establishing programs to aid your fellow citizens who have suffered as you did at the hand of criminals."

Assistant Attorney General Lois Haight Herrington, who introduced each victim to the President, emphasized "These courageous people represent the many victims who're moved on to become compassionate counselors and catalysts."

Mrs. Venice Justice, of Denver, catalyst for change in their Co., was honored for counseling victims as a volunteer in the Denver District Attorney's office. Mrs. Justice survived a brutal rape and assault during which one of her daughters was killed.

An Albuquerque, New Mexico man was commended for his efforts following an attack in which he was severely beaten and shot in the face. In addition to becoming a leader for the victims movement in New Mexico, Mr. Robert Romero offers counseling to victims at any time of the day or night.

Dr. William Kosiak, a Minneapolis, Minn. physician who was robbed at gunpoint twice in less than one year, was lauded for successfully lobbying the Minnesota legislature to enact a victims bill of rights last year.

A rape victim from Virginia, Anne Dawson, was recognized for her service as president of the statewide coalition of rape crisis centers a group which brought major changes in Virginia law, court rules and procedures for sexual assault. She is now working to reform the treatment of child sexual assault victims.

Upon presenting the honorees with the first Presidential awards to victims, Reagan said, "It wasn't too long ago that I, too, was a victim of crime. I was fortunate enough to receive special care and a great deal of attention."

Noting that many victims do not receive just, compassionate treatment, Reagan urged Congress to pass the Victims of Crime Assistance Act of 1984, a bill proposing that federal criminal fines be channelled into a fund for state victim compensation programs and victim/witness services.

The President also commended the initiatives of the first federal crime victims unit, established within the Justice Department this year.

Its activities have included a judges' training conference, the first federal sexual assault symposium, and conference on the sexual victimization of children. Groups working with the unit include the National Organization for Black Law Enforcement Executives the Center for Women Policy Studies, and the National Sheriffs' Association.



## **Crime Victims' Rights Week Awardees 1985**

Ms. Carol Deluca  
Tuscon Victim/Witness Unit  
Tuscon, AZ

Ms. Cecile Laurinitis  
Interval House  
Manchester, CT

Ms. Caren Robinson  
Executive Director of AWARE, Inc.  
Juneau, AK

Ms. Theresa Saldana  
President, Victims for Victims  
Studio City, CA

Ms. Patti Linebaugh  
Director, Society's League Against Molestation  
Camarillo, CA

Sharon Komlos  
Boca Raton, FL

## National Crime Victim Rights' Week Awardees 1986

1. **Denver Mock, Sheriff of Williams County, Ohio**, has directed one of the most successful efforts in the country to educate sheriffs and their deputies on the needs of crime victims. Spurred by the National Sheriffs' Association Victim Assistance Project with the Justice Department, Mock was able to get additional support from his own state association to launch a major project in January 1985.

One year later, the Ohio State Sheriffs' Association has educated its members and citizen groups in almost 65 percent of the state's counties. In the past two years, the legislature has enacted 16 laws on behalf of crime victims, and five more are expected to pass.

These new laws and training projects have made a difference. Rape victims, for example, used to be brought to the hospital, questioned, their clothes taken as evidence, and given the bill to pay for the medical examination. Afterwards they were left on their own to find a way home. Now the county pays for rape forensic exams, and officers make certain the victim has transportation home.

Mock says, "When you talk to people and make them aware of how the law has changed, they just glow. They know they're going to have their day in court. We're showing people we really care about them. And I think that means more people will start reporting crime and be willing to testify."

Ronald Dean of West Union, OH, can personally testify to Mock's success. He was shot five times by an armed assailant and as a result suffered serious medical, financial, and emotional troubles. At all hours of the night, Mock personally counseled Dean and his wife, and saw to it they saw a professional counselor. Ultimately, the assailant was convicted, and Dean's health, career, and marriage endured this crisis.

2. **Robert Gallagher, District Attorney of Littleton, CO**, a Denver suburb, created his own task force on crime victims, using the President's Task Force as a basis for action. "My copy of the President's Task Force report is dog-eared from use," he told us. His commission's recommendations helped provide impetus to pass major laws requiring professionals to treat victims with more respect and compassion. For example, prosecutors now carefully consider the effect on the victim of postponing a case. The public defender now permits therapists to take the witness stand with a child victim. And victims have the opportunity to present a statement describing the crime's consequences before the prosecutor may accept a plea bargain or the judge may impose a sentence.

Stacey Johnson, a 19-year-old girl, can recognize Gallagher. When she was 16 years old, she stopped to help a man having car trouble in a local shopping center parking lot. Turning on her, he stabbed her repeatedly. He was convicted but appealed many times. Stacey endured several appeals and received vital support from Gallagher's victim assistance project.

3. **Morton Tice, a South Dakota judge**, underwent a metamorphic change in his behavior toward victims after he attended a national conference on crime victims sponsored by the Justice Department. He says, "As judges, we almost never, think of the victim. This was the first time in my life I'd ever listened to a victim. Always before I had regarded them as someone who had a story to tell in order for me to make a decision. There I saw them as people - not just pieces of evidence."

When he returned home from the conference, Tice saw that a committee was formed to promote reforms for victims in South Dakota. It succeeded in passing a massive legislative package. For example, now addresses of victims or witnesses cannot be released to the public. Property must be promptly returned to victims. Victims may speak at an offender's parole hearing.

Having taken such a visible role in bringing victim reforms to South Dakota, Tice says he has been criticized by his brethren for compromising his judicial independence and denying the rights of defendants. But he firmly believes that victim reforms take nothing from the accused; they simply make it easier for victims to cooperate.

Kevin Twidt's brother was killed last summer when a woman convicted of four previous drunk driving offenses barreled into his car. The Twidt family's grief was significantly ameliorated by the new laws and programs in South Dakota. The state's first victim service unit called to offer counseling. The advocate kept them informed about their case, and helped them prepare a victim impact statement, permitted for the first time. In the future, the family will receive restitution, and be notified of the assailant's release on parole, all as a result of reforms spurred by Judge Tice.

4. **Suzanne McDaniel Wilms, Director of the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse**, said that when the President's Task Force came to Houston in 1982, it forced state leaders to assess what consideration they have given to victims - and what they had not. At that time, there was only one victim advocate in a district attorney's office for the entire state. The victim compensation program, although enacted, was operating in the red. County officials were not collecting the revenues for the fund, and victims didn't know enough to apply to receive them.

Since the President's Task Force and thanks to Suzanne's diligent efforts, the transformation in Texas has been dramatic. Now there are 18 victim advocates in prosecutors' offices. More than 75 grassroots self-help groups exist, where very few did before. Texas has a statewide hotline for crime victims, which has responded to more than 11,000 calls during the past two years. The state legislature passed a comprehensive package of laws on behalf of victims.

In general, Suzanne says, "The President's Task Force gave validity and recognition to a movement that was long overdue. Most important, it studied the problem and gave a recipe for solutions." At a time when she was personally frustrated by the lack of interest in crime victims, Suzanne says the federal leadership inspired her to continue striving to serve them.

Hope Arnum of Houston is an elderly woman who was beaten by two intruders burglarizing her home. As a result of a smashed hip, Hope has incurred high medical bills, endured therapy for six months, and lost her job because of the time that was necessary to heal her injury and help hold the assailants accountable. Due to permanent discomfort, Hope will never be able to work again. As well as helping her deal with the trauma of the crime, Suzanne saw to it that Hope received some financial aid from the state victim compensation fund, which is operating in the black for the first time.



# Department of Justice

ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 12:30 P.M., EDT  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1987

OJP  
202/724-7782

Attorney General Edwin Meese III today honored ten people who have made outstanding contributions in assisting victims of crime. Today's awards ceremony commemorated National Victims of Crime Week (April 26 through May 2.)

In a recent message to the nation, President Reagan urged all citizens and government officials during Victims of Crime week to reiterate their commitment to victims of crime, to highlight the progress made on behalf of victim concerns across the country and to honor individuals working to protect the interests of crime victims.

"I commend the men and women, inside and outside the justice system, in government and the private sector, and in communities throughout the nation, who are dedicated to the fair treatment of the innocent victims of crime," the President declared. "In so doing, they affirm our nation's promise of liberty and justice for all."

The honorees were greeted by the Attorney General and the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, Richard B. Abell, at the Department of Justice ceremony. They included criminal justice professionals, service providers and individual victims who have contributed to efforts to support victim issues.

In presenting the awards, the Attorney General stated: "This Administration has made significant progress in restoring balance to the criminal justice system so that the victims of crime receive the fairness and respect they deserve. With the help of those we honor during Victims of Crime Week, we are reaching that goal."

Those honored were:

Denver Mock of Bryan, Ohio. Mock has been an elected sheriff in Williams County, Ohio, for 20 years and has organized victim rights conferences in the state. He directed one of the most successful efforts in the country to educate sheriffs and their deputies on the needs of crime victims, and served as a training consultant to the National Organization for Victim Assistance. Sheriff Mock was named the VFW Sheriff of the Year for 1980, and received the Ohio Attorney General Award for Distinguished Service.

Bob Owens of Oxnard, California. Owens served as Oxnard's chief of police for 16 years and made an outstanding commitment to the training of his police officers in how to respond to victims of crime, particularly in the area of domestic violence and crisis intervention. He consistently worked to implement other victim-related policies such as property return and special child interview techniques.

Chief Owens was named the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer in 1984 by the California Trial Lawyers Association, received the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce trophy for bringing

national recognition to the city, and was honored in 1985 for Outstanding Achievement in Crime Prevention by the Governor of California.

Merton B. Tice, Jr., of Rapid City, South Dakota. As a circuit court judge for the Seventh Judicial District of South Dakota, Judge Tice has made the people of his home state acutely aware of the needs and problems of crime victims. He established a Committee on Victims and Witnesses that became an aggressive promoter of victim rights, ranging from the appointment of guardians ad litem for certain child victims to consultation between a state's attorney and the victim prior to plea bargaining.

Norman S. Early, Jr., of Denver, Colorado. Denver District Attorney Norman Early has combined victim advocacy with his career in criminal justice. As a Deputy District Attorney, he established the Victim/Witness Assistance project in that city, one of several original prosecutor-based programs. He is responsible for the project's emphasis on criminal justice training, interagency coordination, technical assistance and the use of volunteers.

Among the honors bestowed upon District Attorney Early for his contributions to the community and the judicial field are the Park East Community Mental Health Center Award of Appreciation and the Distinguished Faculty Award of the National College of District Attorneys. He is President of the National Organization for Victim Assistance.

Charlotte Hullinger of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Hullinger and her husband, the Reverend Robert Hullinger, are founders of Parents of Murdered Children. They established this self-help organization after their 19-year-old daughter was killed by an ex-boyfriend while the two of them were exchange students in Germany. Parents of Murdered Children maintains a national hotline for survivors of homicide victims, publishes a national newsletter and an annual directory, and provides education and literature for survivors and for professionals in various helping fields about the needs of survivors of homicide victims.

Mrs. Hullinger was named one of the ten "women of the Year" by the Cincinnati Enquirer for the year 1984. She has served on the Ohio Advisory Board On Victims.

Virginia E. Mahoney of Baltimore, Maryland. As the Federal Victim-Witness Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney, District of Maryland, in Baltimore, Mrs. Mahoney was recognized for her efforts on behalf of crime victims and victim services. She has provided time, leadership and commitment to the implementation of the Attorney General's guidelines for the Victim and Witness Protection Act Of 1982 through her own program and as a resource to the Department of Justice and to other victim-witness coordinators. Mrs. Mahoney received the first President's Award from the Maryland Victim Assistance Network in 1984 and the Maryland Governor's Victim Assistance Award for professional service providers.

Constance C. Noblet of West Chester, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Nobler has served as the executive director of the Crime Victims Center of Chester County, Pennsylvania, for 13 years. As one of the pioneers in the victim's movement, Mrs. Noblet has been involved in numerous workshops and seminars, sharing her skills and expertise with new victim service providers and criminal justice professionals. She serves as an advisor to communities developing sexual assault or comprehensive crime victims centers and volunteers her time to the National Organization for Victim Assistance and the National Institute of Mental Health as a conference planner and facilitator. Mrs. Noblet is the recipient of the First Woman of the Year Award from the Women's Coalition of Pennsylvania.

Rita Koppinger of Glendale, Arizona. As the human services director for the city of Glendale, Miss Koppinger directs the activities of the Victim Assistance unit. Her unit received an award from the National Organization for Victim Assistance for its comprehensive services to victims and its special assistance to Hispanic, elderly, and domestic violence victims and homicide survivors. Miss Koppinger also oversees a Youth Services Program, an Employee Assistance Program, and a noteworthy Neighborhood Mediation Service that helps residents resolve neighborhood and domestic disputes that would otherwise tie up countless police hours.

Robert Preston of Boynton Beach, Florida. Preston abandoned his career as an electronics engineer after the murder of his 21-year-old daughter in 1977, to serve full time as a volunteer for JUSTICE FOR SURVIVING VICTIMS. This organization is devoted to elevating the status of all victims in the criminal justice system. Preston was a primary force in the successful passage of Florida's Victim-Witness Protection Act of 1984 and worked actively on tort reform legislation and the 1981 exclusionary rule reform in the state. He has received recognition for his work from such organizations as the Florida Network of Victim Witness Services, the National Organization for Victim Assistance, Palm Beach County and the Florida Trial Lawyers Association.

Barbara Kaplan of Newton, Massachusetts. In 1981, Mrs. Kaplan became a victim of violent crime while at her office at a mental health center in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. A man opened the door of the meeting room and fired four shots, murdering the staff psychiatrist and psychologist and sending two bullets into the head of Mrs. Kaplan. The assault caused her to lose the sight of one eye. Drawing on her experience as a victim of violent crime, Mrs. Kaplan conducts workshops and training sessions to increase the knowledge of others on the emotional impact of violent crime. She is the author of "Survivors Story: Aftermath of a Shooting," as well as other publications, and serves on the Board of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance.

"The efforts of these individuals have generated significant changes in their communities in the way the justice system and society are responding to the needs of crime victims," Acting Assistant Attorney General Abell said. "Because of their work and that of others like them, action has been taken upon nearly 75 percent of the recommendations of the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime."

The Office for Victims of Crime within the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice was established to help the states implement the Task Force recommendations on how to improve and expand the criminal justice system's response to victims of crime. The Office is providing training for law enforcement officials to inform them about the needs of crime victims and how to better serve them.

The Office collects and disseminates information and resources vital to those involved in assisting victims and administers the Victims of Crime fund which awards Federal dollars to state victim compensation and assistance programs. "Across the nation," Abell said, "victims, service providers and criminal justice personnel exemplified by those honored today are working for legislative reforms, monitoring court proceedings, riding to the scenes of crimes with police and offering emotional support to one another."

"The concerted efforts of these honorees and the many other dedicated citizens across the country have led to the establishment of local victim/witness assistance programs, homicide survivor groups rape crisis centers, shelters for battered wives and abused children, and programs to locate and protect missing and exploited children."

"The progress is indeed encouraging," the President stated in his message to the nation on Crime Victims Week. "The tide of support for victims is swelling and will continue to move forward into the future...For the sake of justice and human dignity, it is imperative that we treat victims of crime with respect, compassion, and fairness."

87-108

After hours contact: Paula Felt, 703/836-0490





# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1988

OJP  
202-724-7694  
Contact: Kathy Baranski

President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation designating April 17-23 as Crime Victims Week 1988. Attorney General Edwin Meese III joined President Reagan in honoring six individuals who have made outstanding contributions in assisting victims of violent crime. The President and the Attorney General kicked off National Crime Victims Week in a White House ceremony at 3:45 p.m. today.

The honorees included:

Clementine Barfield of Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. Barfield founded SOSAD (save Our Sons and Daughters) after the murder of her son in 1986. The organization has since prospered in its mission to aid victims of crime and other young people. Since its inception, SOSAD has aided mothers and families of victims in starting their own groups to save their sons and daughters. SOSAD operates a 24-hour hotline for families of victims that need advise and support. It also operates a youth leadership training program which brings together young people and volunteer police officers, and conducts rallies to encourage youth to avoid trouble. SOSAD actively lobbies local and national public officials to focus attention on crime and its innocent victims. As SOSAD's leader and motivational force, Clementine Barfield's goal for the organization is to broaden its base to help prevent violence and compassionately serve those victimized by crime in cities across the country. Clementine Barfield has risen above personal tragedy to become a model of determined activism and outstanding citizenship.

Frank Barnaba of Westbrook, Connecticut. Frank Barnaba established Paul & Lisa, Inc. in 1980 to aid child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. The organization is named in part after a Connecticut teenager, Lisa, who's death at the hands of the sex industry propelled Mr. Barnaba to action. Paul & Lisa's objectives reveal very practical approaches to street rescue, prevention, counseling/ referral, and rehabilitation. Mr. Barnaba has literally risked his life in his efforts to get young people off the streets and away from prostitution, pornography and drugs. Many of these young adults are often held captive, both physically and psychologically, by the violence and hostility of street life that threatens their lives constantly. Prevention program volunteers, often including former victims of exploitation on the street, take their message into the schools and to the public. Many young people with whom the volunteers come into contact are brought to stark realizations about the tragic realities of life on the streets as a result of these meetings, thereby fostering prevention. A victim of abuse himself, Mr. Barnaba is attuned to the special needs of these victims, who range in age from young children to adults in

their twenties. The long term goal of Paul & Lisa is to open a treatment center to address the unique problems of sexually abused and exploited children. At present, Mr. Barnaba has been known to welcome these troubled individuals into his own home in his selfless effort to rehabilitate them, demonstrating his heartfelt devotion to the cause of child victims.

Col. Earl Pruitt of Louisville, Kentucky. Citizens and Victims for Justice Reform is a grass-roots organization which was founded in 1984 by a group of citizens who, frustrated by the treatment of crime victims in their community, wanted to improve their criminal justice system. Several of these individuals were survivors of victimized loved ones, including Col. Earl Pruitt, a founding Board Member, who will be representing the organization." Citizens and Victims for Justice Reform has been a motivational force behind passage of legislation to aid victims of crime in Kentucky, including the Crime Victim's Bill of Rights and the Truth in Sentencing Bill. In addition, the organization provides many services for victims of crime and their families. These activities include offering support during trials of offenders, sharing experiences and research with other groups and individuals, a Courtwatch Program for sentence monitoring, educational programs and referral services. Citizens and Victims for Justice Reform is a powerful example of activism and achievement, and of turning personal adversity into progress for all citizens.

Kenneth Eikenberry of Olympia, Washington. Kenneth Eikenberry was elected Attorney General of Washington state in 1980. He has had a distinguished career in government and the criminal justice system, including service in Washington's House of Representatives and as a deputy prosecuting attorney for King County, while simultaneously promoting victims rights. Attorney General Eikenberry was instrumental in securing passage of Washington's Victim's Bill of Rights, and in convincing media Representatives to be more compassionate in their treatment of victims in the press. In 1982, he was appointed to the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime. Attorney General Eikenberry's outstanding contributions to the work of the Task Force are typified by inclusion of a recommendation to enact a Constitutional Amendment, which would give victims a right to be present and heard at all critical stages of judicial proceedings, in its final report. He has continued to actively promote this idea throughout the nation and in his home state of Washington. Attorney General Eikenberry is an outstanding example of the active and significant role government leaders can have in improving the plight of citizens victimized by crime.

Jan Emmerich of Phoenix, Arizona. Jan Emmerich is the LECC/ Victim Witness Coordinator in the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona. Her work in developing an effective victim witness program has earned her national acclaim and respect and has contributed greatly to improved prosecution and better victim protection. She has truly charted innovative directions in redressing the tremendous needs of victims of federal crime. Mrs. Emmerich has structured a model program which has made a special effort to serve Indian reservations in addition to meeting the needs of other victims of violent crime. Her work with Indian victims is most notable as she has assisted them in obtaining counseling services and state compensation. Through her determination and creativity, Mrs. Emmerich has helped rebuild the shattered lives of many, many Federal crime victims. Jan Emmerich is an outstanding leader in the victims rights movement and serves as a

wonderful example of the potential for accomplishment in aiding innocent victims of crime at the federal level of government.

Sara O'Meara of Woodland Hills, California. Sara O'Meara is Co-founder and Chairman of CHILDHELP USA/International, and a national leader in the field of child abuse prevention, treatment and research. CHILDHELP USA is the largest private, non-profit organization in the country aiding victims of child abuse. The organization, under Mrs. O'Meara's vivacious direction, has instituted a number of innovative programs to assist the special needs of child victims. These activities include the Village of CHILDHELP USA, a Comprehensive Long-term Residential Treatment Program and Aftercare; a national toll-free child abuse hotline, staffed by crisis counselors and volunteer professionals, that responds to over 140,000 calls per year; and development of national research and professional training programs focusing primarily on prevention. Mrs. O'Meara is also Vice Chairman of the International Alliance on Child Abuse and Neglect, which allows professionals throughout the world to share their expertise. Sara O'Meara has been a dynamic and influential source of aid to child victims of crime, and an outstanding leader in her profession.

President Reagan and the Attorney General continue to provide national leadership to redress the imbalance in the scales of justice of crime victims. The President stated in his 1988 Message to Congress that, "My Administration has put into effect a number of the Task Force [on Victims of Crime] recommendations. The most important of these has been the development of model legislation mandating the protection and fair treatment of crime victims, which by 1986 had become the basis for legislative action in nearly two-thirds of the States. I am directing the Attorney General to press forward on the remaining Task Force recommendations."

Several accomplishments are noteworthy regarding Victims of Crime:

(1) Since its inception in 1984, the Crime Victims Fund has collected over \$208 million in Federal criminal fines and penalties which has been redirected to victims assistance and compensation programs operated by the Federal and state governments. These federal funds, entirely from criminals, not law abiding taxpayers, have enabled States to expand and improve their victim assistance and compensation programs.

(2) A public awareness of the plight of crime victims has dramatically increased. Forty-five states now operate victim compensation programs; all States operate victim assistance programs; most States have enacted a victims Bill of Rights, ensuring fair treatment of crime victims in the criminal justice system; and, victim/witness assistance guidelines for the treatment of crime victims is being implemented by Federal prosecutors and law enforcement officials.

(3) A national Victims Resource Center was established to create an inventory of programs for and research concerning crime victims. The Center disseminates this information upon request to Victims, law enforcement, health professionals, and the public.

## Crime Victims Week Awardees 1989

Tillie Black Bear  
White Buffalo Calf Women's Society  
Mission, South Dakota

Ellen Griffin Dunne  
Justice for Homicide Victims, Inc.  
Beverly Hills, California

The Honorable Charles D. Gill  
Litchfield, Connecticut

Louis and Patricia Herzog  
Fairfax, Virginia

Stephen M. McNamee  
United States Attorney  
District of Arizona  
Phoenix, Arizona

Dr. Jack S. Russell  
Potomac, Maryland

Tillie Black Bear White Buffalo Calf Women's Society  
Mission, South Dakota

Tillie Black Bear has been a long time advocate for victims of domestic violence. In 1979, she was a founder of the White Buffalo Calf Women's Society and then helped the Society open the first shelter for battered women in the State of South Dakota on the Rosebud Sioux Indian reservation. The shelter serves approximately 200 women and 1500 children each year.

Tillie Black Bear serves as Director of the Shelter and has helped others to start two other shelters in South Dakota. She is a strong advocate of education to help victims. She counsels victims, conducts classes with batterers to help them end their violent behavior, works with law enforcement to improve their response to domestic violence calls and believes in the importance of spiritual healing to aid in the recovery process.

Tillie Black Bear's pioneering efforts are indeed laudable. The Attorney General of the State of South Dakota has described her as "epitomizing the dedication required to help crime victims -- young and old -- who live in every corner of the state."

Ellen Griffin Dunne  
Justice for Homicide Victims, inc.  
Beverly Hills, California

After her only daughter was murdered, Ellen Griffin Dunne founded the California Center for Family Survivors of Homicide in Los Angeles County. She set out to convince people that homicide is the ultimate offense against humanity, that its punishment must reflect the gravity of the crime, and that the scales of justice must be balanced, not weighted in favor of the accused leaving the victim with little or no representation. Her innovative philosophy extends the notion of victimization and

energizes the community-at-large to join in to tackle the crime problem. Her favorite statement is "Justice will be served only when those who are not injured by crime feel as indignant as those who are."

The organization Mrs. Dunne created in 1984 started with six members, grew to six hundred in a year, and now the membership is approaching six thousand. Under her guidance, the group has provided a multitude of services and outstanding support to over fifteen hundred survivors of homicide. Her supporters include representatives of the crime victims advocacy community, public officials and several notable celebrities who, moved by her cause and her self-sacrifice, assist her in championing the cause of victims rights.

Due to multiple sclerosis, Mrs. Dunne has been confined to a wheelchair for several years but her physical condition has not dampened her spirit. She is a truly remarkable individual and has been an inspiration to all who have worked with her on behalf of innocent victims of crime.

The Honorable Charles D. Gill  
Litchfield, Connecticut

Judge Gill's most distinguished legal career has focused on neglected and underserved people, particularly children and youth. His concern for abused children was the result of studying the common patterns of childhood victimization. In 1965, when few attorneys represented children, he laid the groundwork for providing legal representation for juveniles. His efforts on behalf of the forgotten poor individuals in Connecticut encompassed a variety of community development, legal, health and mental health projects which challenged the professional community to do more to protect the unprotected. Moreover, he focused much attention on expanding the spirit of volunteerism to tap this great but overlooked resource on behalf of neighborhoods and individual citizens.

As a superior court judge, he appointed lawyers for children and he ordered child-comforting techniques in the courtroom long before statutes allowed for such measures. Judge Gill had social workers, psychologists, and victim assistance staff work with young victims, and thereby demonstrated how state agencies could work together to achieve a common goal of better services for child victims. Because he has felt that children have been doubly victimized by the system which was meant to protect them, Judge Gill has toiled endlessly to better the lot of children.

Throughout his career he has shown compassion and concern for the rights of all citizens. Recently, he established a multidisciplinary task force to study the feasibility of amending the United States Constitution to extend much needed protection to child victims. An important aspect of this task force's work will focus on the need to prevent childhood victimization. Judge Gill's dedication and his vision of an America where our vast resources are channelled toward helping our most vulnerable citizens, our children, deserves special recognition.

Louis and Patricia Herzog  
Fairfax, Virginia

Mr. and Mrs. Herzog were instrumental in the founding of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) after their 18 year old daughter was killed by a drunk driver on January 1, 1982. Due to their hard work and perseverance, MADD realized a major goal: Virginia officially raised the legal drinking age to twenty-one. It is largely through their efforts that the Northern Virginia Chapter of MADD has a membership of over 22,000.

The Herzogs have worked hard to transform their loss into a positive force in Northern Virginia. Their dedication has resulted in efforts focused on many community activities and at the drunk driving and drug abuse problems.

Louis Herzog has served as the President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of MADD for four years. Now, he is Chairman of the Virginia MADD Coordinating Committee which works with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Board and the Virginia Department of Education. He also serves on the Advisory Committee of the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Commission.

Patricia Herzog is Chairman of the Victim Assistance Program for the Northern Virginia Chapter of MADD. She has served on the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Problems and on the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Commission. When Virginians are killed in other states or residents of other states are killed in Virginia, Mrs. Herzog performs invaluable services; she coordinates victim assistance with other state chapters of MADD.

Mr. and Mrs. Herzog are tireless in demonstrating their particular sensitivity to the needs of other victims. They have spent countless hours in court and helped victims in many ways. The Herzogs have turned their personal grief into action and involvement for the good of others.

Stephen M. McNamee  
United States Attorney  
District of Arizona  
Phoenix, Arizona

Under the leadership of United States Attorney Stephen M. McNamee, the District of Arizona has developed a model program for assisting victims and witnesses of Federal crimes, especially Native American victims.

Because his District includes 17 Indian reservations and he has jurisdiction for prosecution of felonies, Mr. McNamee has made violent crime within Indian country a top priority, particularly the prosecution of individuals who victimize innocent Native American children. In his testimony before Congressional subcommittees he has recommended stiffer penalties for child molesters and improved treatment of victims and their families. Mr. McNamee has also done an outstanding job implementing model collection procedures for fines and penalty assessments of Federal defendants -- the source of funding for the entire Victims of Crime Act program.

Mr. McNamee has been a consistent supporter of victims of crime throughout his 4-year tenure as U.S. Attorney. His efforts clearly demonstrate how effectively a United States Attorney can help the cause.

Mr. Jack Russell  
Potomac, Maryland

Mr. Russell became an outspoken advocate for victims rights after the murder of his "best friend," his sister, in Washington, D.C. Peggy Russell Gee came from a small town in the mountains of South-West Virginia. Her dream was to become a nurse, to care for others. She spent many years at Parkside Clinic as head nurse, mentor, and big sister to area residents. Realizing that the assailant would not be adequately punished, he channeled his energy towards reforming the criminal justice system to ensure conscientious treatment for all victims, regardless of their abilities or means.

During the course of the trial, Mr. Russell became extremely concerned about the impact of D.C.'s Good Time Credit Act of 1986. He discovered that the Act can drastically affect the actual time served by applying good time credit to both the minimum as well as maximum prison term for a given offense. Mr. Russell began to speak publicly on his concerns. He joined the D.C. Crime Victims Network Legislative Committee in an effort to draft and pass a District of Columbia Crime Victims Bill of Rights. During sentencing, his letter to the Judge described the devastating effects of the loss of his sister. He called the District of Columbia crime problem a "war... causing destruction to my family and Black families in this country." His letter served as a catalyst for eventual passage of the victim impact section of the Crime Victims Bill of Rights. Mr. Russell's courage in the face of personal tragedy is commendable.

Special Note: Jack Russell, Director of Human Resources at the Appalachian Regional Commission, held this position when then Governor Thornburgh was a member of the Commission.

AWARD CEREMONY INVITATION LIST WILL INCLUDE  
REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR CONSTITUENCY GROUPS,  
A FEW HILL REPRESENTATIVES, AND DOJ PERSONNEL.  
THIS WILL BE SUBMITTED ON 4/11/89.



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1990

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President George Bush and Attorney General Dick Thornburgh today honored seven people who have made outstanding contributions in assisting victims of crime. Before the ceremony, President Bush also signed a Proclamation commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 22-28, 1990). Those honored at the White House ceremony were selected by the Office for Victims of Crime, a component of the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs, from 200 nominations submitted by Federal, state, and local criminal justice and victim assistance officials, national victim assistance organizations, and individual citizens. "I commend these outstanding men and women who have dedicated countless hours of hard work to ensure the fair treatment of crime victims," Thornburgh said. "They are some of the 'thousand points of light' President Bush keeps talking about--those who work day after day on behalf of others. These outstanding American citizens and others like them around the country give of themselves selflessly to safeguard the rights and well-being of the innocent victims of crime."

Those honored were:

-- Howard and Constance Clery, of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. The Clerys dedicated their lives to preventing future campus victimizations since the murder of their daughter, Jeanne, in her dormitory room by a fellow student at Lehigh University in April 1986. They rounded the nonprofit organization, Security on Campus, Inc., and spearheaded a national campaign to obtain passage of legislation mandating that colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher learning be required to publish their violent crime and drug/alcohol offense statistics. Four states have adopted such legislation; it is pending in 29 other states.

The Clerys also have worked for passage of Federal legislation, and obtained sponsorship for the "Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1989" in the United States Senate and the House of Representatives.

-- Milton Cole, of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Milton Cole has a long history of helping to organize victim assistance for Boston's public housing residents, and has been active for many years in crime prevention and community activities in the Boston area. He rounded a community patrol in the Bromley-Heath public housing project, which plays a vital role in protecting residents against crime and drug dealing. The patrol has become a model for other public housing anti-crime programs.

Cole also played a key role in establishing the Martha Eliot Health Center, which operates a drug treatment program at a public housing project. In addition, he has been instrumental in organizing support groups for addicts and travels extensively to conduct training workshops on preventing and controlling drug abuse in public housing.



-- Sandra Heverly, of Las Vegas, Nevada. Heverly became an activist for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in 1983 following a family tragedy caused by a drunk driver. As executive director of Clark County, Nevada, MADD, she has worked tirelessly as a volunteer directing public awareness campaigns, special events, media promotions, and court monitoring programs, raising funds, and advocating legislation. Because of her efforts, Nevada legislators have passed some of the toughest DUI (Driving Under the Influence) legislation in the country.

Heverly also founded and coordinates the Clark County MADD Speakers Bureau, and various educational, has conducted more than 500 presentations to religious, medical, and civic groups. She produced two training films for DUI schools, and appeared in MADD's "Home for the Holidays," a film shown on television and in movie theaters. She also was instrumental in establishing a Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) chapter in Nevada.

-- Dean G. Kilpatrick, of Charleston, South Carolina. Dr. Kilpatrick has been involved with the victims' rights movement since 1974, when he helped found People Against Rape, a rape crisis center in Charleston, South Carolina. From that beginning, he pioneered research studies documenting the scope and long-term psychological impact of crime upon victims. He also was instrumental in establishing the Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at the Medical University of South Carolina, which provides direct mental health treatment to victims and their families, and provides specialized training for professional mental health counselors.

As a member of the South Carolina Crime Victims Advisory Board, Kilpatrick helped set public policy for victims' services in the area of compensation and assistance, and was a founding member of the South Carolina Victims Assistance Network. In addition, he worked for the passage and strengthening of the South Carolina Crime Victims Bill of Rights to obtain more equitable compensation coverage for mental health counseling and state funding for evidentiary rape examinations. Dr. Kilpatrick has demonstrated a sustained commitment to the mission of promoting greater awareness, understanding, and effective response to crime victims.

-- Emelia "Mimi" Olson, of Fort Thompson, South Dakota. For 23 years, Olson has provided services to Native Americans on the Crow Creek Reservation. She began first as a school nurse in Stephan, South Dakota, and then became a consultant to Red Horse Lodge, a group home for emotionally-disturbed Indian children. She obtained support and funding to assist child victims of sexual abuse, and worked to establish protocols to protect child crime victims.

Olson also was instrumental in organizing the first victim assistance program on the Crow Creek Reservation, which she now manages. When the local domestic violence and sexual assault assistance program was floundering, she took over the administration of that program. Her contributions have been admirable and deserving of special recognition.

-- John Walsh, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. A victims activist since the murder of his son, Adam, Walsh has become the Nation's most visible spokesman for missing and molested children. He founded the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center, a nonprofit organization responsible for nationwide public education on child safety and dedicated to legislative reform.

Walsh vigorously lobbied for passage of the Missing Children's Act of 1982 and the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984--legislation which led to the creation of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He also travels and promotes legislation at the state level to prevent the abduction and molestation of children. To date, his efforts have resulted in passage of more than 35 state laws to protect and prevent child victimization.

"The work of the individuals honored during Victims' Rights week each year has brought this Nation a long way in restoring a balance to the criminal justice system so that crime victims receive the fairness and respect that they deserve," Thornburgh said. "This Administration, particularly the Department of Justice, and the Office of Justice Programs, through its Office for Victims of Crime, is committed to carrying on this important work in partnership at the Federal, state, and local levels."

The Office for Victims of Crime serves as the Federal focal point for addressing the needs and improving the treatment of crime victims. OVC administers the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program, which awards grants to states to expand victim compensation and assistance and supports innovative crime victim projects. OVC also provides training for criminal justice officials to inform them about the needs of crime victims and how to better serve them.

The VOCA program is primarily financed by the Crime Victims Fund. Monies in the fund come--not from taxpayers--but from fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures assessed on convicted Federal defendants.

After hours, contact: Anne Voigt, (703) 971-4871  
90-32

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 1991  
AWARD WINNERS

|  |
|--|
| Gail Abarbanel Director<br>Rape Treatment Center<br>Santa Monica, California   |
| Josephine Bass<br>Executive Director<br>Neopolitan Lighthouse<br>Chicago, Illinois   |
| Frank Carrington, Esq.<br>Crime Victims Litigation Project<br>Virginia Beach, Virginia   |
| Jayne Crisp<br>Project Coordinator for Training<br>and Community Development<br>South Carolina State Office of Victim Assistance<br>Greenville, South Carolina |
| John W. Gillis<br>Parole Commissioner<br>California Board of Prison Terms<br>Alhambra, California  |
| Nancy Stoner Lampy<br>LECC/VW Coordinator<br>U.S. Attorney's Office<br>District of South Dakota<br>Pierre, South Dakota  |
| Barbara Reed<br>Coordinator for Remove Intoxicated Driver (RID)<br>Oak Ridge, Tennessee  |

Gail Abarbanel

Director  
Rape Treatment Center  
Santa Monica, California

For the past 20 years, Gail Abarbanel's life work has been focused on bringing justice and effective care to rape victims. In so doing, she has helped to raise the nation's consciousness about the crime of rape and the way in which rape victims are treated. Ms. Abarbanel is credited with the founding of the Rape Treatment Center at Santa Monica Hospital, a comprehensive multidisciplinary program that provides treatment to rape victims, including forensic examinations, medical treatment and counseling. This program was selected by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) as a model for an NIMH training film on hospital-based rape treatment services.

Ms. Abarbanel was instrumental in launching a national campaign to stop campus rape. Two years ago, she published a landmark report setting forth recommended policies and programs for colleges to

adopt in order to prevent rapes and provide effective victim support. As a result of this work, campus rape victims now have identified rights and protections.

In addition, Ms. Abarbanel has initiated, directed, and raised funding for other programs: Senderos, a program providing bilingual/bicultural Rape Treatment Center services to Latino victims; and Stuart House, an internationally recognized, model facility serving sexually abused children through the multidisciplinary approach--an approach that brings police, prosecutors, mental health specialists, child protective service providers and medical experts together to investigate, prosecute and treat child abuse victims.

Josephine Bass  
Executive Director  
Neopolitan Lighthouse  
Chicago, Illinois

Josephine Bass is to be commended for her dedication to and service on behalf of women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. She first became involved with victims of domestic violence in 1980 when she was employed as a social worker at the Salvation Army Emergency Lodge, and later as director of counseling at Rainbow House, a shelter for battered women.

Ms. Bass is the founder and Executive Director of Neopolitan Light- house, a not-for-profit, grassroots social change agency which serves Chicago's West Side Garfield Park community. She was the driving force that first brought services to victims of domestic violence residing in Garfield Park, as well as the driving force that has kept it firmly rooted in that community. Ms. Bass has made personal as well as professional contributions to victims of domestic violence, donating her own money to insuring that the doors of the shelter remain open.

In 1989, Neopolitan Lighthouse became unable to accommodate the growing number of domestic violence victims seeking its services. Thus, in response, Ms. Bass and the Board of Neopolitan Lighthouse were instrumental in opening a second shelter, the Lifeline Homeless Shelter.

Frank Carrington, Esq.  
Crime Victims Litigation Project  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Frank Carrington's sincere personal commitment and outstanding legal contributions have served to open many doors for crime victims in the criminal justice system. His professional and volunteer involvement in the crime victims movement spans decades. Mr. Carrington has lectured, written, and advocated on behalf of crime victims from a number of various perspectives. As a police officer, legal counselor to police departments and law enforcement associations, leader of national advocacy organizations, as well as an attorney in private practice, he has left no stone unturned in his pursuit of the rights of crime victims. He has experienced and shared the effects of violent crime within his own family.

Mr. Carrington was a member of President Reagan's Task Force for Victims of Crime and now directs the activities of the Coalition of Victims' Attorneys & Consultants (COVAC); a clearinghouse of legal information and a provider of support for those undertaking victim-related litigation. He was instrumental in securing passage of the Federal Students' Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990. Through Security on Campus, Inc., Mr. Carrington has provided legal research and opinions to victims of campus crimes. Often providing his legal services free of charge, he has helped many victims and victims' attorneys bring successful litigation against perpetrators and negligent third parties. He is widely regarded as one of the "founding fathers" of the crime victims movement.

Jayne G. Crisp

Project Coordinator for Training and Community Development  
South Carolina State Office of Victim Assistance  
Greenville, South Carolina

Jayne Crisp is a dedicated, energetic victim service provider who has devoted years of hard work to not only the people of Greenville County, but also to those victims throughout the State of South Carolina. Her contributions in the area of victim services are numerous. Ms. Crisp established the Rape Crisis Council of Greenville in 1974; and in 1978, the first

prosecutor-based Victim Witness Assistance Program in South Carolina, a program which she directed for 13 years. Her victim witness program has been recognized as a service model for sensitively addressing the needs of victimized children faced with the procedural complexities of our criminal court system and the difficulties of testifying against perpetrators. In her present capacity, as state Project Coordinator for Training and Community Development, Ms. Crisp provides training and shares her victims service and program management expertise with field programs throughout the State of South Carolina.

Ms. Crisp produced a video tape for child witnesses, "Taking the Stand," which is now used in forty-five states, and she is also credited with the "Housewise, Streetwise Program," one of the first comprehensive and nationally recognized child safety education curriculums.

Ms. Crisp helped coordinate South Carolina's first Volunteer Crisis Response Team, established a free counseling program for crime victims, and co-authored a survival guide for victims and their families. She was a board member of the National Organization for Victim Assistance, for 6 years; member, Governor's Criminal Justice Crime and Delinquency Commission, for 5 years; trainer and consultant, the Crime Victims Research Treatment Center, Medical University of South Carolina, and the National Victim Center.

Ms. Crisp continues to influence victims' rights legislation on federal, state and local levels, and is recognized for her training seminars directed at developing an insightful awareness of victims' rights and issues.

John W. Gillis

Parole Commissioner, California Board of Prison Terms  
Alhambra, California

John Gillis's commitment to crime victims is grounded in personal tragedy. His 21 year old daughter was murdered in 1979 by a gang which targeted her because she was the daughter of a law enforcement officer. Mr. Gillis was a member of the Los Angeles Police Department from 1962 until his retirement in 1988. In his capacity as Detective Lieutenant, he supervised detectives responsible for investigating all types of crimes, including over 100 homicide investigations.

After the murder of his daughter, Mr. Gillis became active in Parents of Murdered Children, a support group for homicide survivors, and founded Justice for Homicide Victims--a legislative action arm of the California Center for Family Survivors of Homicide. This advocacy group articulates the unique interests and works to further the rights of homicide survivors. Mr. Gillis is also the founder of Coalition of Victims, Equal Rights (COVER), a statewide umbrella organization that works to maximize the impact of all victims organizations within the State of California.' In so doing, COVER advocates on behalf of victims at both the state and federal levels and monitors judicial decisions that affect victims' rights.

As a result of Mr. Gillis' legislative advocacy, the State of California recently passed Proposition 115, the Judicial Reform Act. This new law streamlines and simplifies court procedures for the benefit of crime victims as they interact with the court system during the prosecution of alleged perpetrators.

In 1990, Mr. Gillis was appointed a Commissioner of the Board of Prison Terms, the California parole board, by former Governor Deukmejian. His appointment was strongly supported by former Senator and present Governor, Pete Wilson. In his work as a Commissioner, he is a strong advocate for consideration of the effects of crime on victims and their families.

Nancy Stoner-Lampy  
LECC/VW Coordinator  
Office of U.S. Attorney  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Nancy Stoner-Lampy is the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee/- Victim-Witness Coordinator for the District of South Dakota. In this capacity, she has developed an excellent rapport with Indian communities in a state which encompasses nine Indian reservations. Her ability to extend herself and involve Native American law enforcement officers and social service providers has resulted in a more effective, better coordinated law enforcement response in South Dakota. She also worked to establish a victim/witness subcommittee for the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee.

Ms. Stoner-Lampy has been an outstanding advocate for Native American victims of violent crime, often personally seeking and arranging for much needed services for victims. She worked diligently with the Office for Victims of Crime to provide therapy to 20-30 victims of child sexual abuse at the Rocky Ford School On the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. She sought funding to finance mental health services for two children who were victims of sexual molestation by a minister on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation. She also sought out post-conviction mental health treatment services for two Native American child sexual abuse victims who were raped by their father on the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

Whether it be counseling for sexually abused children, shelter for a battered woman and her infant child, or support for a family who has lost a loved one to homicide, Nancy Stoner-Lampy has been there to give of herself to those who need her.

Ms. Stoner-Lampy has been a leader in developing the model for how victim/witness services can be provided in remote areas where transportation is often difficult and telephones are not a common convenience.

At every opportunity, Ms. Stoner-Lampy presents seminars and workshops concerning unique victim issues on Indian reservations. Since 1988, she has worked with the Crow Creek Reservation Child Protection Team in developing a reservation child abuse plan. These efforts have built a cooperative and trusting relationship between agencies and have served to benefit the children of Crow Creek.

Barbara Reed  
Coordinator for Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID)  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Barbara Reed, moved by the death of a close friend and her friend's children--victims of an intoxicated driver--co-founded Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID) in Anderson County, Tennessee. She then proceeded to establish more chapters throughout the state and, ultimately, became Coordinator for RID/Tennessee. Recognizing another need--that of explaining court system procedures to victims and their families--she undertook the task of learning about the complexities of

court and parole procedures. As a result of this self-education, she has become an effective liaison between victims and their families, and law enforcement. In this capacity, she encourages the victims to describe their victimization experiences to law enforcement officers, and other criminal justice system professionals, through the drafting and submission of victim impact statements.

Mrs. Reed worked for the passage of the Tennessee Victims' Rights Law and is a member of the Steering Committee and the Legislative Committee of the East Tennessee Victims' Rights Task Force. She has also organized a Court-Watch system for drunk driving cases statewide to ensure that applicable laws are applied as intended by the state legislature. She has also helped other groups to establish similar systems for victims of child abuse and spouse abuse.

Mrs. Reed has given presentations regarding victim impact statements, the Court-Watch program, and victims support groups at Tennessee Highway Safety Conferences, Tennessee Law Enforcement Conferences, and Drunk Driving Conferences.

AWARD DISTRIBUTION AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHART  
National crime Victims Rights Week 1992

**1992 Award Winners**

The Honorable Richard Barajas

E1 Paso, Texas

Colleen Thompson Campbell

San Juan Capistrano, California

Anita Armstrong Drummond

Crime Victims Compensation Commission  
Montgomery, Alabama

Ray Larson

Commonwealth's Attorney  
Fayette County  
Lexington, Kentucky

Tibby Milne

Bountiful, Utah

Aurelia Sands Belle

Victim Witness Program  
Metropolitan Crime Commission  
Atlanta, Georgia

Anne Katherine Seymour

Director of Communication and Resource Development  
The National Victim Center  
Arlington, Virginia

Marlene Annette Young, Ph.D.

National Organization for Victim Assistance  
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Richard Barajas

A1 Paso City County Building  
E1 Paso, Texas

A tragic victimization experience profoundly affected the course of Richard Barajas's life. In 1987, in response to the murder of his brother, Oscar, Justice Barajas abandoned his private law practice to run for the Office of District Attorney for the 83rd Judicial District in the State of Texas. After his election to the position, Justice Barajas promptly implemented a prosecutor-based victim assistance center, the first such establishment in rural West Texas. The inception of this center represents Justice Barajas's first effort to restore the rights of victims in a criminal justice system that has traditionally focused on the rights of offenders.

In December of 1991, the Governor of Texas appointed Justice Barajas to the Eighth District Court of Appeals; at the age of 38, he assumed office as the youngest appellate judge in the State.



A recognized authority on the rights of crime victims, Justice Barajas has lent his expertise and energy to a number of state victim-oriented endeavors, including the Texas War on Drugs, the Texas Council on Family Violence, the Texas Center for the Judiciary, and the Texas State Bar Committee on Victims and Witnesses. He has also joined the national efforts on behalf of crime victims, and presently serves as Treasurer of the National Organization for Victim Assistance.

Colleen Thompson Campbell  
San Juan Capistrano, California

Ms. Campbell is the founder and leader of Memory of Victims Everywhere (MOVE), a grassroots organization dedicated to advancing justice reforms in memory of those who have been murdered. Ms. Campbell came into her role as a crime victim's advocate through personal tragedies. Her only son was murdered in 1982, and six years later -- while her son's case remained tied up in the court system -- her brother and his wife were also murdered.

Ms. Campbell has worked tirelessly to organize crime victims so that their concerns are heard at the level of state government. In her capacity as both a volunteer with MOVE and the State Victims' Chairwoman, Ms. Campbell pressed for and helped to achieve passage of California's Crime Victims Justice Reform Act. Under Ms. Campbell's direction, MOVE members collected enough signatures to put the initiative on the state ballot. Ms. Campbell then devoted countless hours of her personal time to travel the state -- often at her own expense -- to relate her story to the public and advance the message contained in the legislation.

Ms. Campbell has served as a resource person and inspiration for legislative reforms at the Federal level as well. Accompanied by her husband, Ms. Campbell traveled to Washington, D.C. in 1991 to lobby for the President's Omnibus Crime Bill in general, and for habeas corpus reform in particular. Mrs. Campbell has won the respect of both state legislators and Federal administrators for the courage and conviction she demonstrates in focusing public attention on the hardships suffered by victims of crime.

Anita Armstrong Drummond  
Crime Victims Compensation Commission  
Montgomery, Alabama

Anita Armstrong Drummond has served as the Executive Director of the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission since it was founded in 1984. The Commission was created not only to financially compensate victims, but to speak out for victims across the state. Under Ms. Drummond's direction, the Commission has achieved reforms far and beyond its original mission. The Commission has taken a proactive role in writing and promoting legislation on behalf of victims, challenging injustices to victims by the criminal justice system, and initiating policy changes in the agencies that affect victims. In 1984, there were only five victim service programs in the state; subsequently the Commission has awarded grants to ensure that there are victim services in every judicial circuit.

Ms. Drummond is a seasoned victim advocate who brings to her position extensive knowledge and understanding of the issues faced by crime victims. Prior to her work with the state, she provided direct services and counseling to victims of domestic abuse, incest, and sexual assault. In 1979, she coordinated the first Victim/Witness Unit in the Montgomery District Attorney's Office, only the third in the state at that time. She has also been instrumental in the organization of several grass roots efforts on behalf of victims, including a domestic violence shelter and the statewide victims rights group, Victims of Crime and ~Leniency (VOCAL). She has held positions on the governing bodies of the National Organization for Victim Assistance and the National Association of Crime Victim

Compensation Boards. Ms. Drummond's compassionate efforts have had a significant and sustained impact on crime victims both in Alabama and around the nation.

Ray Larson

Commonwealth's Attorney  
Fayette County  
Lexington, Kentucky

Since his 1984 appointment and subsequent election to the Office of the Commonwealth Attorney, Ray Larson has been a champion of justice for and sensitive treatment of victims. One of his first acts as Commonwealth Attorney was to establish the most comprehensive prosecutor-based victim assistance program in Kentucky -- a program that has been nationally recognized for its excellence. Based on an innovative partnership between criminal justice professionals and victim advocates, Mr. Larson's program minimizes additional trauma to crime victims by guiding them through every phase of the criminal justice system. This program laid the groundwork for the subsequent development and implementation of victim assistance agencies throughout the State of Kentucky, and has served as a model for new prosecutor-based victim assistance programs around the nation.

Mr. Larson's commitment to crime victims is further demonstrated by his ongoing efforts to raise public awareness of crime victims needs and rights. A respected authority on the prosecution of capital murder cases and drunk driving homicides, Mr. Larson has lent his voice to public media forums that focus on victim issues. A proponent of crime prevention through education, Mr. Larson was also instrumental in the implementation of the Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (DARE) curriculum in the local public school system.

As evidence of the high esteem in which his colleagues hold him, in 1991 Mr. Larson was elected as the first President of the Kentucky Victims' Coalition, a Organization founded to give crime victims and their advocates a voice in state government.

Tibby Milne

Bountiful, Utah

Spurred to action by the 1975 abduction of a child from her hometown, Ms. Tibby Milne has since devoted her energies to protecting the safety and well-being of our nation's children. Ms. Milne has sacrificed numerous hours to ensure the success of three programs she founded: the Utah Council for Crime Prevention, the "McGruff House" and "McGruff Truck" programs.

In 1975, Ms. Milne rallied policy makers, law enforcement representatives, and community leaders to build an umbrella organization to fight crime. The Utah Council for Crime Prevention is a model state-wide crime prevention effort, unique in its structure, owned and managed by volunteers, and nationally replicated.

The abduction and murders of seven Utah children between 1981 and 1983 pushed Ms. Milne, the mother of six, to confront crimes against children. Under her direction, the Utah Council for Crime Prevention joined other local and state organizations to design and implement a unique child protection program -- the "McGruff House." Using the symbol of "McGruff," the crime fighting dog, Ms. Milne spearheaded the establishment of a network of temporary "safe homes," staffed by trained volunteers, to which children may turn when they find themselves in threatening or emergency situations. The "McGruff House" program has been adopted by other states and community leaders; it has also been adapted for inner city and minority communities and promoted as an alternative to drug and gang activity.

By 1986, under Ms. Milne's leadership, the "McGruff House" was expanded to include "McGruff Truck," a program which trains utility drivers to respond to children in emergency situations. Ms. Milne has been instrumental in taking both programs to 48 states and over 1,000 communities. Currently, there are 90,504 "McGruff Houses" established; in addition, 7,200 trained utility drivers nationwide await the opportunity to assist children. To Ms. Milne's credit, ten states have passed legislation or resolutions identifying the "McGruff House" program as the authorized program and safety symbol for their state.

#### Aurelia Sands Belle

Victim Witness Program  
Metropolitan Crime Commission  
Atlanta, Georgia

For the past eight years, Aurelia Sands Belle has served as the Director of the Victim Witness Program of the Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission and the City of Atlanta. When the program opened its doors in 1984, it was the first agency to provide comprehensive services to all victims of crime in Metropolitan Atlanta. Under Ms. Sands Belle's direction, the program has grown in scope and intensity, addressing the psychological, physical and financial effects of crime on victims, and seeking to effect public policy and legislation on behalf of victim rights. The success of these endeavors is largely attributable to Ms. Sands Belle's dedicated leadership and perseverance.

Recognizing the formidable challenges confronting those victims who are thrust into the criminal justice system, Ms. Sands Belle has been particularly sensitive and responsive to the needs of marginalized and isolated victims of crime. She has been instrumental in the establishment of services for survivors of homicide victims, as well as child and elderly victims, and victims of ethnic minority origin. Under her discerning leadership, multi-lingual services have been provided for victims whose native languages are Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese and Laotian. These services have given underserved victims access to support services, often for the first time.

The scope of Ms. Sands Belle's service to victims extends well beyond Atlanta. Prior to her work at the Victim Witness Program, she directed the activities of the National Organization for Victim Assistance. She has also improved services available to victims of crime, by conducting numerous training seminars for service providers and community leaders across the country.

#### Anne Katherine Seymour

Director of Communication and Resource Development  
The National Victim Center  
Arlington, Virginia

A nationally respected public spokesperson for victims rights, Anne Seymour has received the respect and gratitude of victims and victims advocates alike. Ms. Seymour's efforts, however, are not concentrated solely on enhancing the public's awareness of victim issues. Rather, Ms. Seymour has served as an energetic and skillful catalyst in the advancement of the entire victims rights' movement in this country.

Ms. Seymour is a founding staff member of the National Victim Center (NVC), one of the most effective victim rights' organizations in the nation. In her role as Director of Communication and Resource Development, she has acted as a unifying force among sometimes disparate interest groups, building bridges between victim rights organizations and drawing their focus on a common vision. A respected trainer, she has participated in numerous seminars to improve the quality and timeliness of services provided to victims nationwide.

Ms. Seymour has spearheaded efforts to establish crime victim services in correctional institutions; actively promoted constitutional protections for victims; and developed legislation guarding against the media's disclosure of the names of sexual assault victims. Perhaps most important to victims, however, is the compassion and genuine concern Ms. Seymour has demonstrated, uplifting many when they were most in need.

Marlene Annette Young, Ph.D.

National Organization for Victim Assistance  
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Marlene Young has served for the past eleven years as the Executive Director of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), a membership organization she founded 17 years ago to further the study and implementation of victim rights and services.

With degrees in both law and psychology, Dr. Young is a renowned authority in the field of victimology. Perhaps more importantly, however, she is looked to by victims and professionals across the nation as an impassioned and articulate spokeswoman for crime victims, and one of the founders of the victims' rights movement. Dr. Young has testified before state legislatures and the Congress hundreds of times to promote legislation safeguarding the rights of crime victims within the criminal justice system. Her single-mindedness and expertise, coupled with the collective efforts of victims, activists and policy makers, have effected the passage of much-needed legislative reforms at both the state and Federal levels.

Through the work of NOVA's emergency response teams, Dr. Young has personally and directly provided crisis intervention services to whole communities traumatized in the aftermath of violent crimes. She has also traveled the nation extensively to assist local communities in setting up effective victim assistance programs, and to train victim advocates and their allied professionals in the law, criminal justice, social services and the clergy to be responsive to victims' needs. Dr. Young is also the author of a considerable body of published work addressing victims' issues. Her efforts to alleviate the suffering of crime victims are unsurpassed and deserving of national recognition.

AWARD DISTRIBUTION AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHART  
National Crime Victims Rights Week Awardees 1993

Meg W. Bates  
Division of Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs  
Office of the Attorney General  
Tallahassee, Florida

James and Sarah Brady  
Center to Prevent Handgun Violence  
Handgun Control, Inc.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Patricia Ann Davenport  
Greenville, Mississippi

Reverend David and Anne Delaplane  
The Spiritual Dimension in Victim Services  
Sacramento, California

Janice Harris Lord  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) National Office  
Irving, Texas

Joseph A. Myers  
National Indian Justice Center  
Petaluma, California

Nancy Ruhe-Munch  
Parents of Murdered Children (POMC)  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Meg W. Bates  
Division of Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs  
Office of the Attorney General  
Tallahassee, Florida

Whether directly counseling crime victims or pushing for legislative reform, Meg Bates has achieved permanent and far-reaching advances in the State of Florida, and earning the heartfelt respect of both crime victims and her colleagues.

Ms. Bates' work in the crime victims field began in 1981, when she initiated and administered a prosecutor-based, victim-witness assistance program in Key West. The program's innovations included an on-call witness management system, efforts to educate the public about victims' rights, and effective linkages with legal and social services throughout the state.

In 1986 Ms. Bates assumed responsibility for Florida's Office of Victim Witness Services, where she managed a victim assistance grant program with a budget of nearly two million dollars. Ms. Bates

also coordinated state training for victim professionals, developed a comprehensive directory of state victim services and introduced a state-wide public awareness campaign. Since then she has moved on to direct the Division of Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs in Florida's Office of the Attorney General. In addition to overseeing the state victim compensation and assistance programs, she has also worked to effect policy changes on behalf of crime victims. She was instrumental in the passage of Florida's constitutional amendment securing victim rights, and the development of a statewide protocol for assisting victims of sexual assault.

A crime victim from Florida recently attended oral arguments on a victim-related case before the United States Supreme Court. Ms. Bates directed a member of her staff to accompany the victim to the Court. This gesture of caring is indicative of the level of support Ms. Bates offers to crime victims in the State of Florida.

James and Sarah Brady  
Center to Prevent Handgun Violence  
Handgun Control, Inc.  
Washington, D.C.

Since March 31, 1981, the fateful day when James Brady was struck by a bullet intended for President Reagan, the Bradys have been tireless advocates for legislation to prevent the senseless victimization of innocent Americans from gun-related violence. Sarah Brady has served as chair of Handgun Control, Inc., a national gun control advocacy organization, since 1985. She also chairs Handgun Control's educational and legal advocacy sister organization, the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. Since leaving the White House, where he served as President Reagan's Press Secretary, Jim Brady has spent much of his time lobbying for stronger gun laws. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. Together, the Bradys have criss-crossed the country soliciting support for handgun control, in particular the "Brady Bill"--Federal legislation named in Jim Brady's honor that would establish a seven-day waiting period to allow local law enforcement officials to conduct background checks of handgun purchasers.

The Bradys also have been instrumental in developing and fostering STAR--the nation's first comprehensive gun violence prevention program for school children, teenagers, and their families. Launched in Dade County, Florida, Public Schools in 1989, the program is now being used throughout New Jersey, as well as in New York City, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Oakland, California, schools. The Bradys have personally visited many schools throughout the country to promote the STAR program.

In addition, the Bradys have championed the rights of the disabled. Through his chairmanship of the National Organization on Disability and his own courageous example, Jim Brady has inspired other disabled Americans to triumph over adversity. Although partially paralyzed, with some lingering speech and memory problems, Jim Brady has persevered in his struggle to overcome obstacles posed by his disabilities.

The Bradys have become role models for all those who have been victims of violence and have used their experience to inspire change in society.

Patricia Ann Davenport  
Greenville, Mississippi

Patricia Ann Davenport has been described by her colleagues as a dynamic leader and a dedicated friend to victims of crime. She has led state efforts to improve services for battered women, with an emphasis on services for underserved victims and victims of color.

Since 1986, Ms. Davenport has been the director of the Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program in Greenville, Mississippi, a facility that serves battered women from eight counties. Despite a small staff and limited funds, Ms. Davenport has shaped a model domestic violence shelter program. She has singlehandedly trained area law enforcement agencies on effective responses to domestic violence, and has engaged their participation in the coordinated handling of domestic violence cases with local victim service providers. For her efforts to educate criminal justice components about domestic abuse, and for her sensitivity to crime victims, Ms. Davenport has been honored by both the Greenville Police Department and the Washington County Bar Association.

In addition to her shelter work, Ms. Davenport recently served as the President of the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She has also served as the key organizer of a number of highly successful conferences which have brought together -- for the first time -- state professionals from victim assistance, criminal justice, and community services to address issues pertaining to family, youth, and crime.

At the national level, Ms. Davenport has served as a valued advisor to victim organizations on issues related to domestic violence. Her positive energy, leadership skills, and ardent commitment to victims have earned her the appreciation and respect of both her peers and her community.

Reverend David and Anne Delaplane  
The Spiritual Dimension in Victim Services  
Sacramento, California

Until Reverend David and Anne Delaplane began their pioneering work in 1984, the efforts of the ministry with regard to crime victimization had focused primarily on rehabilitating incarcerated offenders. In 1984, with the singular vision of enlightening the religious community about the unique needs of crime victims, the Delaplans began The Spiritual Dimension in Victim Services, a grassroots organization that has come to feature prominently in educating clergy of many denominations about effectively ministering to the spiritual and emotional needs of crime victims.

Through national-scope conferences and seminars, The Spiritual Dimension in Victim Services offers training and education to members of the clergy, seminarians, lay people, and victim service providers. This training has generated frank and much-needed discussion among members of the religious community about child abuse, sexual abuse, and family violence. In response to popular demand, the Delaplans are now developing guidelines for clergy confronting particularly complex issues, such as the confidentiality of victim counseling, mandatory reporting of child abuse, and other issues pertaining to child safety.

The Delaplans' work has generated other positive activities in church communities. Their "Neighbors Who Care" Program brings church-based volunteers together with victims of crime to provide support and consolation. Their "Adopt A Child Abuse Caseworker Program," which is being replicated across the country, links abused children and their caseworkers with caring church communities, in order to provide child victims with certain basic necessities.

The Delaplans have opened their church, their home, and their heart to crime victims. Their compassionate service, and the clergy education provided through The Spiritual Dimension in Victim Services, will multiply a thousand-fold in church communities through the country.

Janice Harris Lord  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)  
Irving, Texas

Janice Harris Lord is one of the most widely recognized and respected leaders in the victim rights field. Herself a homicide survivor, Ms. Lord came to Mothers Against Drunk Driving in 1983 as the National Director of Victim Services -- but her commitment to crime victims extends well beyond the anti-drunk driving movement and the forty-hour work week.

A founding member of the Victims Constitutional Amendment Network, Ms. Lord has led important efforts to enact reforms in both state and Federal legislation. In 1988 she spearheaded efforts to amend the Federal Victims of Crime Act amendment in order to make compensation available for victims of drunk driving crashes. More recently, Ms. Harris worked to amend the Federal bankruptcy code to prevent drunk driving offenders from escaping financial responsibility to their victims by declaring bankruptcy.

Ms. Harris is the respected author of numerous publications, including *No Time for Goodbyes*, considered by many to be the preeminent guidebook for the suddenly bereaved. Her pamphlet, "Death At School," has received accolades nationwide and has been used by teachers and school counselors alike to provide appropriate assistance to grieving children following the death of a student or family member. A sought-after trainer, she has designed a highly successful death notification workshop that enables law enforcement agents, clergy and others to notify homicide survivors with dignity, compassion, and confidence.

Among her most far-reaching accomplishments has been moving the victim impact panel from a local to national concept. In five short years, hundreds of panels have been implemented, and thousands of "how-to" booklets and videos distributed. The MADD model of the victim impact panel is well on its way to changing the face of America's correctional system.

Joseph A. Myers  
National Indian Justice Center  
Petaluma, California

Over the past 18 years, Joseph Myers has emerged as an articulate and committed leader of the victim rights movement in Indian Country.

Mr. Myers began his service to Native Americans as a member of the staff of the American Indian Lawyer Training Program. In 1983, he helped to establish the National Indian Justice Training Center (NIJC), an Indian-owned and operated, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice in Indian Country. As the organization's Executive Director, Mr. Myers has diligently worked with victim service providers, criminal justice professionals, and members of tribal court systems to ensure that Native American victims of crime are accorded just and sensitive treatment.

The effects of Mr. Myers' work have been felt from remote reservations to the halls of the United States Congress. Mr. Myers has initiated and delivered effective programs to train social workers and local tribal court personnel in issues of child abuse and neglect, as well as domestic violence. Many tribes have subsequently developed codes to protect children and family members from domestic violence, as well as children's bills of rights. He has also earned the respect of Members of Congress, having testified before the U.S. Senate on policy changes to improve services to all victims of Federal crimes.

Perhaps Mr. Myers' most lasting contribution will be the legacy he leaves on reservations throughout the country. As a result of his efforts, there will be a lasting pool of trained talent in each Indian community to carry on the work that he began.



Nancy Ruhe-Munch  
Parents of Murdered Children  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) is a national, volunteer-run organization that serves families of homicide victims. The widespread success of the organization's many local chapters in bringing solace and support to thousands of grief-stricken survivors is in large part attributable to the persistent efforts of POMC's Executive Director, Nancy Ruhe-Munch.

Since 1985, Ms. Ruhe-Munch has devoted countless volunteer hours to maintain POMC's provision of support services. For two years, she ran the organization without pay while holding down a full time paying job. It was during this time that Ms. Ruhe-Munch began editing and publishing the "Survivors" newsletter, and that she also conceived the idea for POMC's memorial wall, a traveling set of panels inscribed with the names of homicide survivors. At the same time, Ms. Ruhe-Munch raised all the funds necessary to ensure POMC's financial survival.

In 1988 POMC attained funds to hire Ms. Ruhe-Munch as the full-time Executive Director. She immediately initiated a training program for support group leaders and went on to publish POMC's first book, *Thanks for Asking*, a compilation of survivors' poems, writings, and letters, as well as the widely disseminated booklet, "Path Through the Criminal Justice System." Ms. Ruhe-Munch also designed and implemented the innovative Truth in Sentencing Program, a national program that enables survivors to express their opposition to the early release of convicted perpetrators of homicide.

Despite her full schedule, Ms. Ruhe-Munch remains on-call 24-hours a day, seven days a week, for survivors who need support. She has extended the caring arms of POMC to countless individuals and helped them find the courage to go on.

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week Awardees 1994

Ms. Vicki Coffey  
Executive Director  
Chicago Abused Women Coalition  
Chicago, Illinois

For five years, Ms. Coffey has served the needs of domestic violence victims in Chicago, as Executive Director of the Chicago Abused Women's Coalition. The highlights of her service include outreach to culturally diverse, non English speaking, and homeless populations; and the development of two model domestic violence response programs: the Hospital Crisis Intervention Project, that involves local physicians in the identification and care of abused women, and the Domestic Violence Reduction Project, an innovative law enforcement program that pairs officers with civilian volunteers to track and respond to high risk families. Herself a survivor of domestic violence, Ms. Coffey has provided testimony before Congressional Representatives on issues pertaining to violence against women.

Reverend Robert Denton  
Executive Director  
Summit County Victim Assistance Program  
Akron, Ohio

Reverend Denton has been involved in victim assistance efforts for over twenty years. A founding member of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), Reverend Denton began serving victims locally through the nationally recognized Summit County Victim Assistance Program, which he founded in 1974. He has worked with abusive men, child abuse victims, and survivors of vehicular fatalities; and as a member of NOVA's National Crisis Response Team since 1987 -- he has provided on-site crisis intervention with survivors of mass crimes, such as the Dahmer murders in Milwaukee. Additionally, he has been instrumental in the passage of important legislation in Ohio, including the Ohio Crime Compensation Law; and has taught courses on victimology both in the university and law enforcement training academy settings.

Ms. Sharon English  
Assistant Director  
Office of Prevention and Victim Services  
California Youth Authority  
Sacramento, California

For two decades, Ms. English has worked to develop corrections- based victim services, through her leadership at the California Youth Authority. Her many achievements include the development of state legislation requiring notification of victim rights upon the incarceration of an offender, and legislation mandating the payment of restitution by incarcerated juvenile offenders; the crafting of recommendations for the report of the California Council on Criminal Justice, Crime Victims Task Force, on the corrections system's responsibility to victims; and the creation and implementation of the model "Impact of Crime on Victims" curriculum, used to teach juvenile offenders about the impact of criminal acts on victims lives, and to build the empathy necessary to avert future offenses.

Lucy Friedman, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Victim Assistance Agency  
New York, New York

For over 16 years, Dr. Friedman has devoted her energies to helping victims, through her work at the Victim Assistance Agency (VSA), the largest victim assistance provider in the nation. Dr. Friedman built VSA from a small, 1976 test project designed to involve victims in the court process. She has made it her mission to incorporate victim services in institutions that come into contact with victims -- such as schools, hospitals, and the courts -- and to make these institutions more responsive to victim needs. Among her innovations are a domestic violence program that conducts outreach with teams of police officers and counselors; New York City's first school-based mediation program, to teach youth non-violent conflict resolution; the country's first domestic violence service program in a public housing setting; and a counseling program for homicide victims.

Ms. Sandra Matheson  
Director  
Office of Victim and Witness Assistance  
Hooksett, New Hampshire

Ms. Matheson's advocacy for crime victims spans twenty years, beginning with her career as a law enforcement officer specially trained to handle sexual assault cases. Later, as the director of a rape crisis counseling agency, she developed New Hampshire's first child sexual abuse prevention program for school personnel. In 1987, she assumed her present position as Director of New Hampshire's State Office of Victim and Witness Assistance, where she worked to pass 15 major state bills pertaining to crime victims, including New Hampshire's crime Victim's Bill of Rights. She also chairs the state's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect as well as the Sexual Assault Protocol Committee, both of which have worked to develop standardized protocols for working with victims of sexual violence. Ms. Matheson participates in national victim advocacy groups, and lectures widely on victim related topics.

Mrs. Nell Myers  
Founder People Against Crime  
Austin, Texas

Mrs. Myers has been providing direct services to victims on a volunteer basis since 1979, when her daughter was murdered. Mrs. Myers subsequently organized People Against Violent Crime (PAVC) in 1982, one of the first grassroots advocacy groups in Texas. PAVC has grown to seven chapters that have assisted hundreds of victims over the past 12 years. Mrs. Myers has also been a leader in the passage of state victim-oriented legislation, including the 1979 Crime Victims Compensation Act, the 1985 Crime Victims Bill of Rights, and the 1989 Constitutional Amendment for Crime Victims. Finally, Mrs. Myers has served as advisor to the Crime Victims's Compensation Board; helped design the format for the Texas crime victim impact statement; and has worked with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to install a toll-free number for victim access to information about parole hearings, release dates, and victim impact statements.

Ms. Polly Poskin  
Executive Director  
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Springfield, Illinois

For more than 15 years, Ms. Poskin has been a spokesperson, advocate, fundraiser, and counselor for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in Illinois. As Executive Director of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault since 1982, she works with the state assembly and state agencies to secure adequate funding for victim services and responsive state laws on behalf of victims. She was one of the drafters of the state's Criminal Sexual Assault Act and helped win passage of the Victim Rights Amendment to the state constitution. She has also served on the Governor's Task Force on

Crime and the Attorney General's Victims Advisory Council, and has been a trainer at the state and national levels on battered women, sexual violence, and victim issues. She has also worked in a battered women's shelter, and continues to volunteer time at a local hotline for abused women.

Ms. Rosemary Rocco  
Executive Director  
Program to Aid Victims of Sexual Assault  
Duluth, Minnesota

For twenty years, Ms. Rocco has served as a stalwart advocate for sexual assault victims in Minnesota. In 1975, she was a founding member of the first sexual assault program in St. Louis County, one of the largest rural counties in the nation. Ms. Rocco helped set up the crisis line, trained volunteers to respond to calls, and secured Law Enforcement Assistance Act grant funds to begin a staffed sexual assault program in 1976. Over the years, Ms. Rocco has pushed for legislation to secure victim service funding and victim rights, and reform state criminal codes. She has also worked to expand services available to sexual assault victims, both at the grassroots level and through her participation in the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Department of Corrections Sexual Assault Advisory Council.

Mrs. Roberta Roper  
Director  
Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

In the twelve years since the brutal murder of her daughter, Mrs. Roper has lead the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, an all-volunteer citizen's group that is one of the largest state victims' rights organization in the country. Mrs. Roper guides the work of the Foundation in providing a broad array of vital direct services to survivors and victims of crime, including emotional support, help in drafting impact statements and compensation claims, and accompaniment to court. As the state's pre-eminent advocate for victim rights, Mrs. Roper has almost single handedly guided to passage nearly three dozen pieces of landmark legislation; because of her efforts, victims in Maryland can anticipate restitution, can file victim impact statements, can be notified of and attend court hearings, and can receive victim compensation. Most recently, she has lead grassroots efforts to pass a state constitutional amendment articulating victims' rights.

Mrs. Miriam Shehane  
President  
Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL)  
Montgomery, Alabama

After the 1976 murder of her daughter and a prolonged trial involving multiple defendants, Mrs. Shehane became a founding member of Victims of Crime and Leniency. The organization has since spread throughout the state, providing meaningful support and advocacy; and, under Mrs. Shehane's leadership, has for pushed state legislation that secures and protects victims' rights in the areas of sentencing, probation and parole, and restitution. Three successive governors have recognized her leadership by appointing her to the Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission. Mrs. Shehane has also spoken to victims groups around the country, and on more than one occasion, has traveled to Washington, D.C. to testify on victim-related legislation before both House and Senate committees.

Mr. John Stein  
Deputy Director

National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Stein currently serves as Deputy Director of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), the oldest national victims' advocacy organization in the country. He has been a significant force in the victims' movement for over twenty years. He provided policy direction and drafting assistance on the Victim Witness Protection Act of 1982 and the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and has testified in numerous states in support of crime victims' Bills of Rights. Mr. Stein also worked with members of Congress to craft the 1990 Federal Child Victims Bill of Rights, and continues to track legislation of importance to victims. As one of NOVA's trained crisis interveners, he regularly fields crisis calls from victims of child sexual abuse, homicide survivors, and victims of domestic violence. He is a respected trainer as well, having presented workshops on a variety of victim related topics at seminars across the country.

Office for Victims of Crime  
Victim Service Award Nominees, 1995

Augustus A. "Dick" Adams  
Chairman  
North Carolina Victim Compensation Commission  
Grifton, North Carolina

Dick Adams has been an effective champion of crime victim rights since 1982, when a repeat offender shot and killed his only son, Richard, execution-style, during a robbery. Despite the ordeal of the criminal court case, Dick quickly became a visible and involved activist for systemic change in his state. In 1984 he co-founded the North Carolina Victim Assistance Network (NC/VAN), an umbrella organization that provides hands-on aid to thousands of crime victims through its network of victim service providers and criminal justice professionals. In 1985, he retired from the Dupont Corporation to work full time and without compensation for NC/VAN. Under Dick's leadership, NC/VAN has worked closely with state legislators to draft legislation that created a statewide Crime Victims Compensation Fund; established a Fair Treatment for Victims and Witnesses Act; and provided for a vast increase in the number of victim-witness positions throughout the state.

Sensitive to the financial burden of crime on victims, Dick has consistently pressured the state legislature for a steady increase in the appropriations for the state's Victims Compensation Fund. In recognition of his outstanding leadership on this issue, Dick was appointed to Chairman of the Victims Compensation Board in 1988, a position to which he has been reappointed several times.

As the sole victim representative on North Carolina's Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, Dick ensures that its policies and laws are formulated with victims' concerns in mind -- such as preventing the early release of violent criminals back into the community. Finally, in 1989, Dick spearheaded a statewide movement to formulate and win support for a victims' amendment to the State's Constitution. Due in large part to his efforts, it appears likely that this year's General Assembly will approve the amendment for ratification by the electorate. A crime victim wrote in support of Dick, "I marvel at his compassion, honesty, humility, and human touch. He has enabled all of us crime victims to stand tall and to persevere. We are in his debt."

Lucy Berliner, M.S.W.  
Director of Research  
Harborview Sexual Assault Center  
Seattle, Washington

Lucy Berliner is a nationally known expert on child physical and sexual abuse. In 20 years of extraordinary service, she has made unparalleled contributions to child abuse research, training, and treatment, and has earned widespread recognition for her tireless child advocacy. She currently serves as Director of the Harborview Sexual Assault Center in Seattle and as a clinical social work professor at the University of Washington.

In her work as a researcher, Lucy has conducted some of the most important research studies on child victimization to date. These studies, which address the effects of child victimization and the effectiveness of interventions, have set a standard for treatment in countless clinical settings across the nation. Her scholarly accomplishments are found in more than 40 articles and book chapters, as well as in the journals she co-edits, including the Journal of Interpersonal Violence and Child Maltreatment, and Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, among others.

Lucy has also contributed to three award winning films, one of which, "Double Jeopardy", continues to be cited as a model to assist children going to court. In addition, she has delivered hundreds of lectures, training workshops, and teaching seminars to child advocates, therapists, and other professionals around the country. Countless child victims -- most of whom will never know her name -- have benefitted from her many achievements.

Lucy is also dedicated to service. She finds time for active membership in the Board of Trustees of the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children; the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children; and the Washington State Crime Victims Compensation Advisory Committee, among others. Despite her varied and demanding research undertakings, Lucy remains first and foremost a clinician who spends most of her days "in the trenches," working with child victims and their families.

One of Lucy's colleagues took time to write a support letter while attending to a critically ill, hospitalized mother: "The reason that I am departing from my bedside vigil is that my mother, a victim of child physical and emotional maltreatment herself, would want me to honor the country's most important professional who works with crime victims... On behalf of countless child victims, like my mother, who have so needed their voices heard, I heartily endorse [Lucy's nomination for this award]."

Bonnie Clairmont  
Community Education Coordinator  
Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Bonnie Clairmont has been an effective advocate for battered women and other sexual assault victims in the Native American community for the past 14 years. A skilled educator and leader, Bonnie was one of the first Native American women in the country to speak out and organize the Native American community to provide culturally appropriate education and services for victims.

In 1981, Bonnie began her career in the battered women's movement at Women's Advocates, a shelter in St. Paul. This led to her instrumental role in the creation of Women of Nations, the first organization to address the issue of battering in the Native American community. In 1992, Bonnie initiated the development of the Eagle's Nest Shelter, which provides culturally appropriate shelter services for battered Native American women.

Bonnie became the director of the Division of Indian Work Sexual Assault Project in Minneapolis in 1985, where her commitment to sexual assault victims and her community activism skills led her to organize a community response to a series of brutal murders of Native American women. Bonnie has developed a culturally specific training curriculum for a wide variety of programs that serve Native American sexual assault victims, and she has served on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault as well as on the Attorney General's Task Force on Sexual Violence in 1988. Since 1989 Bonnie has served as a staff member of Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County.

Her nominator said of her achievements: "Not only does Bonnie demonstrate incredible commitment to the Native American community, but she embodies cultural diversity with such understanding, sensitivity and dedication that she is able to be understood and respected in all cultures."

Joyce Cowan  
Director

Family Rescue  
Chicago, Illinois

Joyce Cowan has been a driving force in the domestic violence field for the past 11 years. As the Executive Director of Family Rescue, Joyce has become widely known for her innovation, visionary leadership, and dedication to women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

Under her leadership, Family Rescue has become the largest and most comprehensive program for survivors of abuse in Illinois and sets a standard for the nation. Family Rescue programs include emergency housing, walk-in services, and two nationally recognized model programs: Ridgeland Transitional Housing, which offers a two-year program of affordable housing with on-site supportive services including counseling, day care, and a before and after school program; and the Domestic Violence Reduction Program, which specially trains teams of police officers, counselors and advocates to provide immediate crisis intervention services and follow-up response to families at risk of domestic violence.

Joyce has also been a leader in the Illinois statewide coalition against domestic violence, and has spearheaded the development and analysis of legislation, training initiatives and information sharing to improve services for domestic violence victims across the state. In January of this year Joyce's pioneering work in the field of domestic violence was highlighted on the NBC National Evening News with Tom Brokaw.

Her nominator asserts that "personal sacrifice, hard work, and perseverance are a way of life for Joyce!"

Rita Figueroa  
Gang Violence Reduction Project  
Los Angeles, California

Rita Figueroa survived two sons, aged 16 and 17, both of whom were murdered in separate incidents in the late 1970s -- one by a juvenile and the other by an adult. After the murders, Rita committed herself to making the community of East Los Angeles safer by helping other families victimized by gang violence and working with young offenders. She helped found the Concerned Mothers group, an affiliate of the California Youth Authority's Gang Violence Reduction Project. The Project involves the residents of gang infested neighborhoods in developing alternatives to gang membership for their children, supporting parents of high risk youth, and assisting them when tragedy occurs. Rita has been an active member of the Concerned Mothers group for 12 years and has assisted countless families who have suffered from homicide and drive-by shootings.

Her work also reaches delinquents housed in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Hall and the California Youth Authority's custody facilities. As a volunteer, Rita is a regular participant in the Gang Reduction awareness program and the Impact of Crime on Victims course in which offenders are educated about the trauma suffered by victims of crime.

Survivors like Rita personalize crime, sensitizing both the public and offenders to the devastating impact of violence on victims. In this way, she motivates others to better their communities, and their own lives. Her nominator said of Rita and her work with gang members, "She's dedicated to talking to the boys. She wants to help them find some peace in their hearts."

Suzanne McDaniel  
Project Coordinator



Children's Justice Act  
Austin, Texas

Suzanne McDaniel is one of the few victim advocates to have served crime victims at the local, state and national levels. As one of the first prosecutor based Victim Assistance Directors in the State of Texas, Suzanne helped establish the first community inter-agency council on sexual assault and family violence.

In recognition of her exemplary work at the local level, Suzanne was tapped by the Governor to create the state's centralized resource office -- the first of its kind in the nation. As Director of the newly created Texas Crime Victims Clearinghouse, Suzanne drafted many of the State's groundbreaking publications on crime victim issues, while coordinating an exhaustive array of training conferences and speaking engagements for the benefit of victims, advocates, and allied professionals.

Suzanne's extensive experience brought her to the attention of the State Attorney General in 1991, when she became the State's Crime Victim Information Officer. Her new post gave Suzanne an opportunity to extend her leadership as one of the state's most knowledgeable and effective policy advocates. As a legislative liaison, Suzanne provided guidance that helped to ensure the passage of numerous legislative and regulatory initiatives, including passage of the State's Constitutional Amendment for Victims. Suzanne's role as a key policy leader for crime victims rights was affirmed by her appointment as the legislative liaison for the state coalition of victim organizations (VOTERS).

From coordinating field hearings for the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime to her ten years of service on the National Organization for Victim Assistance board, Suzanne has established herself as one of the nation's most accomplished advocates for victims. A crime survivor wrote "Suzanne...feels everyone is important and needed in the fight to improve assistance for crime victims...I have never heard her say, 'It's not my job.' In fact, she has never been shy about poking her nose into things and offering assistance -- her enthusiasm and dedication are boundless!"

Dr. Brian K. Ogawa Director Victim Witness Assistance Division Maui Prosecuting Attorney's Office  
County of Maui Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Dr. Brian K. Ogawa is an ordained minister and an internationally known writer, consultant, and lecturer on victim issues. Since 1982, he has served as Director of Maui's Victim/Witness Assistance Division. In that time, Brian's work in the areas of culturally appropriate services, Morita therapy, and victimology have earned him a well-deserved reputation as a "pioneer" in the victims' movement.

Brian has published several ground-breaking books, the proceeds of which are donated to victims' programs from Washington, D.C. to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. His treatise, The Color of Justice, was perhaps the first book to describe the significant challenges facing the American criminal Justice system as it seeks to serve culturally diverse victims of crime. He has also written Walking on Eggshells for domestic violence victims and To Tell the Truth for child victims of physical and sexual abuse.

Brian serves in a leadership capacity with the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), the oldest national network of victim service providers across the country. In addition, he has served in an advisory capacity to numerous projects on victim issues, including national-scope projects on victims of hate crime and on the clergy response to crime victims that were funded by the Office for Victims of Crime. His training seminars on multicultural issues have reached policy makers, advocates, researchers and criminal Justice professionals at the international, national, state, and local levels. As Director of Maui's Victim/Witness Assistance Division, Brian goes beyond the call of duty to counsel, support, and assist crime victims. The efforts of his Division were recently cited in the

Annual Report of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission for an increase of 235% in crime victim compensation claims from Hawaii.

Perhaps most reflective of Brian's commitment is the statement made by a crime victim in her letter of support: "I hold in my heart only admiration...and deepest gratitude to [Brian]...he helped save my life...when I thought it didn't matter anymore; he took the time and made sure I knew that I did matter."

Deborah Spungen, MSS, MLSP, CTS  
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

Ms. Spungen was spurred to victim rights activism following the 1979 murder of her oldest daughter, Nancy, by a punk rock musician. Engulfed in a media ordeal and without support services, Ms. Spungen turned tragedy into a personal commitment to help surviving family members of homicide victims.

She began her efforts in Philadelphia in 1980, organizing the city's first support group for homicide survivors. After six years of unpaid work to sustain the support groups, she received a small grant to launch Families of Murder Victims (FMV) in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. FMV provides counseling, court accompaniment, support groups, assistance with compensation claims assistance, and advocacy to over 1,800 crime victims each year. FMV was the first homicide survivor organization to receive Federal funding support provided through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) victim assistance program.

In 1991, Deborah expanded her efforts to include violence prevention. She is co-founder of the Student Anti-Violence Education (SAVE) Project, which annually provides a thirty week violence prevention curriculum to more than 2,000 fourth through eighth grade students in inner city schools in the Philadelphia and Chester school districts.

Deborah authored the best-selling And I Don't Want to Live This Life, the story of her daughter's murder and her family's survival in the aftermath of the crime. Her new book, HOMICIDE: The Hidden Victims, will be published in 1995. A highly sought-after spokesperson and effective trainer on victim issues, Deborah has appeared on over 350 radio and television programs, and has provided training on victim issues to criminal Justice professionals around the country. A supporter wrote of her work, "Deborah has given generously of her time and personal life to bring victim concerns to the public on radio, television, print media and public gatherings, both lay and professional. Her name has become synonymous with victim advocacy."

Office for Victims of crime  
Candidates for a "Special Courage Award"

Cheryl and Norma Bess (Daughter and mother)  
San Juan Capistrano, California

Note: This address and number is the home of the nominator, Collene Campbell, due to the request by the Bess family that their address and telephone number remain confidential.

When 15 year old Cheryl Bess left for school in October 1984, neither she nor her mother, Norma, knew that their futures would shortly be changed forever. Cheryl was abducted off the street by Jack Oscar King, a repeat sex offender on parole for the rape and attempted murder of a 9 year old girl. Jack King drove Cheryl to a southern California desert where he attempted to rape her, doused her in

acid, and left her to die. For eight hours she wandered blindly before being rescued by an aqueduct worker. She told herself she could not die. Her death would be too hard for her mother to bear.

Her abductor was apprehended and sentenced to 32 years. In reality, he will probably serve 15 years, based on California's sentencing system at the time; his estimated release date is May 12, 2000. Recently, Cheryl testified in support of newly enacted California laws which mandate longer sentences for sex offenders, longer time required (85%) before parole consideration, and life sentences for "3 strikes" -- provisions that parallel those in the Federal Crime Act.

For Cheryl, however, it is too late. Had these laws been on the books in the 1980s, Cheryl would not be blind and deaf in one ear. As she told the California Assembly Public Safety Committee, "I am living proof of what a criminal can do."

Cheryl is an excellent student and wants to become a teacher and a musician. She finished high school, attends Saddleback Community College in Mission Viejo, continues to pursue her musical interests, and is frequently the lead singer in a Christian rock band at her church. She is experienced in public speaking, and as a college student hosts a weekly three hour radio show on a public radio station KSBR, preparing her script in Braille.

Cheryl is always ready to provide inspiration to other crime victims. At the California Crime Victim rally convened to support the tougher laws last summer, Cheryl told the over 500 participants that she "must speak for all the abducted children who never came home and for all the murdered victims who no longer have a voice." At the National Organization for Victim Assistance annual conference last fall, she -- alongside her mother -- told 1,000 attendees at a Victim Speak Out that "once you face death, anything is possible." And at the Los Angeles Crime Victim Memorial event in November, her singing of "Wind Beneath My Wings" inspired more than 400 crime victims, most of whom were homicide survivors.

Norma Bess works full time in support of Cheryl. She has nursed her through countless operations and recovery, and cared for her physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Most importantly, she has instilled in her the confidence that she can accomplish anything.

## **1996 CRIME VICTIM SERVICE AWARD NOMINEES**

### **JOHN AND PAT BYRON Survivors of Homicide Victim Louisville, Kentucky**

Mr. and Mrs. Byron's daughter--Mary--was murdered on her 21st birthday by a former boyfriend the day after he posted bail on a charge of raping her. Mary had asked to be notified of his release since she had been stalked by him and feared for her life. No notice was provided. After Mary's murder, the Byrons committed their lives to ensuring that victims throughout their state would be notified regarding the release of their offenders. Their dedication and advocacy led to the development in Louisville of the VINE system which stands for Victim Information and Notification Everyday. The system allows victims to register anonymously and be notified by a computerized call-back system upon the release of a specific inmate. On March 25, 1996, the Governor of Kentucky signed legislation enacting this system statewide.

Kentucky governor parul patton recently said about the byrons: "Their courageous leadership in Kentucky paves the way for other states to adopt similar notification systems that will save countless lives."

### **FRANCES DAVIS Founder, Mothers of All Children Brooklyn, New York**

During the past eight years, Frances Davis has survived extraordinary tragedy. In separate incidents in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of New York, each of her three sons was killed by gunfire. Ms. Davis turned her pain into service, and in 1993 created her own all-volunteer organization called Mothers of All Children. Ms. Davis recruits, trains, and inspires her volunteers, who then provide other survivors of homicide victims with bereavement counseling. They also help organize community violence prevention activities such as "Shoot Hoops, Not Guns"--basketball tournaments for youth. Frances Davis deals with her grief and her loss by continuing to participate on victim impact panels before young people at high schools and detention centers throughout the northeast. She is a national role model for other crime victims whose powerful stories can be part of stopping the cycle of youth violence.

Her nominator Dr. Lucy Friedman said, "Frances has helped lead other survivors out of despair and shown them how advocacy can provide a constructive channel for their rage. I have no doubt that the work she has done with kids has saved many lives."

### **DOROTHY L. MERCER, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Psychology Eastern Kentucky University**

In 1983, Dr. Mercer was hit by a drunk driver. In the years that followed the crash, Dorothy was forced to begin her Ph.D. work in counseling psychology over again because of the severe brain injury caused by the crash. Dr. Mercer has become a nationally-recognized trainer and consultant on crime victims' issues, particularly related to drunk driving and closed head injuries. Her pioneering research on the results of victims serving on impact panels confirmed the beneficial effects for both the victims and the offenders who participate. Dr. Mercer's writings, including a brochure, "Don't Call Me Lucky," which is an account of her own personal struggle, and a book, *Injury: Learning to Live Again*, have inspired many victims to make the transition from victim to survivor to victim advocate.

According to the Director of Victim Services for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Janice Lord, "Dr. Mercer, through her writings, training, and personal example, has influenced thousands of victims and advocates over the last decade. Her writings will continue to be valuable forever."

### **SHIRL PINTO**

**Director, Healing Hearts  
Lame Deer, Montana**

Shirl Pinto was a witness to family violence as a child on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Lame Deer, Montana. For 16 years, she has been serving her people, first as a Head Start teacher and now as the director of Healing Hearts, a domestic violence program. Healing Hearts serves approximately 35 women and children each month, and Shirl Pinto is the only paid staff. Ms. Pinto is on call for victims of domestic violence seven days a week, 24 hours a day. She routinely responds to police calls late at night, drives victims over 100 miles to the nearest shelter, incurs personal expenses to buy them meals or other necessities, and often shares her own home with them. One volunteer noted that the whole community counts on her. Ms. Pinto also is a forceful voice in Montana for the needs of Native American crime victims and is working for stronger domestic violence laws within the Northern Cheyenne tribe. statewide, Healing Hearts has established a network with other Indian reservations in Montana, sharing information and assisting women from other tribes.

Says Montana Attorney General Joe Mazurek, "her greatest accomplishment is the women she has helped.. those who are able to now support others and donate their time to the Healing Hearts program."

### **MARILYN SMITH**

**Founder and Executive Director  
Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS)  
Seattle, Washington**

More than twenty-five years ago Marilyn Smith, deaf since the age of six, was brutally raped. With no services for the hearing impaired, her recovery was long and lonely. Honoring a vow she made to herself, Ms. Smith has worked since 1980 to provide deaf women and children who have been violently assaulted access to a supportive healing environment where they could receive understanding and appropriate services. In 1986, Ms. Smith founded the Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) which operates a 24-hour crisis line, provides safe homes for battered women, and offers counseling to sexually abused deaf children. ADWAS's mission is unique in this country and probably the world. Through Marilyn Smith's leadership, her program has developed training for deaf and hearing crime victim service providers, and also provides materials such as "Sexual Assault, It Happens to Deaf People Too," "Domestic Violence, Deaf People are Hurt Too," and "Date Rape and Acquaintance Rape, What Deaf Teenagers Should Know" to victims and service providers.

Says Wendy Reed, the former President of ADWAS, "Marilyn is definitely a pioneer -- a deaf woman in the hearing world, fighting for and winning equal and accessible services for deaf victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault."

Marilyn has also been chosen as one of the "community heros" to carry the Olympic Torch as it goes across America this spring! We'll be watching you, Marilyn, and cheering you on!!

### **TEENS ON TARGET**

**FIDEL VALENZUELA and SHERMAN SPEARS**

**Program Coordinators  
Los Angeles and Oakland, California**

Four years ago, in an effort to reduce the epidemic of violence among youth, Teens on Target was created in collaboration with municipal, public and private agencies within the Cities of Oakland and Los Angeles, California. Teens on Target organizes gunshot victims, many of whom are paraplegic, to address the consequences of violence, to speak at schools, and to counsel other shooting victims. The victims use their leadership skills to encourage other victims not to seek revenge, but instead to seek nonviolent solutions. Their workshops reach over 4,000 young people each year. Two youth leaders, Fidel Valenzuela who heads Teens on Target in Los Angeles and Sherman Spears, the project coordinator in Oakland, have been selected to receive the Crime Victim Service Award on behalf of Teens on Target.

In his nomination letter, the Mayor of Oakland, Elihu M. Harris, stated that, "Mr. Spears and Mr. Valenzuela, survivors of two of this country's most violent neighborhoods, are now using their energy, talent, and leadership skills to help other children escape violence."

**DAVID BEATTY  
Director of Public Policy  
National Victim Center**

David Beatty's name is synonymous with national leadership in public policy to benefit crime victims. During the past ten years, his work at the National Victim Center has focused on providing policy makers, service providers, and other victim advocates with information, training, and hands on consultation in the fight to legally establish victims rights at the state and national levels. For example, Mr. Beatty instituted a legislative database of more than 27,000 victims' rights statutes, the only comprehensive compilation of victim legislation in the U.S. He has also helped crime victim advocates organize successful constitutional amendment campaigns in many of the 20 states which have enacted an amendment. His pioneering work in civil legal remedies includes developing a civil legal remedies resource center for crime victims, with a directory of attorneys to assist them, and co-authoring the innovative Civil Justice for Crime Victims Training Curriculum, which is used nationwide.

Victim advocate Roberta Roper, whose daughter was a homicide victim, pays the highest tribute to David when she notes, "Honoring David with this national recognition is a way for all crime victims, like myself, to thank him for his gift of effective advocacy for all of us."

**CONNIE LEE BEST, Ph.D.  
National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center  
Medical University of South Carolina**

For two decades, Dr. Best, through her teaching, clinical supervision, academic research, and publications, has helped to shape compassionate public policy and greatly improve training programs for rape crisis counselors, police, physicians, military personnel, and others who work with sexual assault victims. Dr. Best created the nation's first multi-disciplinary assistance program for hospitalized crime victims, and pioneered research in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She served as a co-investigator for the national study, "Rape in America: A Report to the Nation," which was a groundbreaking study documenting the extent of violence against women, particularly adolescents. Dr. Best, a Commanding Officer in the Naval Reserve, has been an outspoken advocate and trainer for victims' rights within all branches of the military, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Department of Defense Advisory Committee on Women which advises Secretary of Defense William Perry.

Said Senator Hollings, "For more than 20 years, Connie has fought with great heart and courage on behalf of violent crime victims...Without the dedication shown by Connie and those like her, people in my hometown and across the nation would be considerably worse off. She has earned this top Justice award."

**HEIDI HSIA, Ph.D. (Pronounced Shaw)**

**Director**

**Division of Services for Victims  
and Their Families  
Montgomery County, Maryland**

For the past ten years, Dr. Heidi Hsia has been the Director of the Division of Services for Victims and Their Families for Montgomery County in Maryland. Her work has had a dramatic impact upon improving crime victims' rights and services throughout Maryland. Dr. Hsia was an important leader in increasing the rights of sexual assault victims to receive HIV information; passing a bond to support domestic violence centers; and producing an educational program in Spanish on legal options of abused women. On the national level, Dr. Hsia is a noted trainer on multicultural issues. In 1989, she planned the first judicial education program on Minority Women as Crime Victims, and for over ten years has trained people on the needs of Asian crime victims, including abuse among the Asian elderly, and cultural barriers in the criminal justice system. On the international level, Dr. Hsia has served as a consultant to the United Nations Development Program.

Says Nominator Dr. Illeana Herrell, "Dr. Hsia has creative ideas, academic credentials, and an impressive list of publications, but what is most worthy of recognition is the energy and patience that she has devoted to inspiring her own staff, municipal leaders, and other members of her community to work as hard as she has to enhance victim services and establish victim rights."

**BARBARA J. HART, egal Director  
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

For over twenty years, Barbara Hart has been a leader in the fight to provide greater protections to battered women and their children. She has helped to create numerous organizations across the nation that advocate for increased safety for victims of domestic violence, including the Women's Legal Clinic at George Washington Law School; the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the first statewide domestic violence coalition in the nation; the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and the Leadership Institute for Women, which designed a training curriculum for lay and professional women aimed at ending violence against women. Ms. Hart has conducted studies and written position papers, model policies, and protocols that have dramatically influenced public policy on violence against women in Pennsylvania, nationally, and internationally. In nominating Barbara Hart, Thomas W. Corbett, Jr., the Pennsylvania Attorney General said, "Barbara Hart has been a central catalyst for much of the creative and critical thinking that has been invested over the last twenty years in reducing violence against women. The impact of her involvement on the lives of domestic violence victims is immeasurable but there is no doubt that her efforts have laid the foundation for much of the important reforms that have been achieved."

**JERRY TELLO (pronounced Tayo)  
Project Coordinator  
The California Consortium of Child Abuse Councils**

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, "Una Familia Buena y Sana" (A Strong and Healthy Family) is no ordinary theatrical presentation. An unprecedented drama dealing with a subject that is often taboo among Latinos, the play is about a family's ordeal when they discover that their children have been

sexually abused by a relative. Jerry Tello, a psychologist who is credited nationally with creating model prevention programs, developed the project after he reviewed child sexual abuse prevention programs and found that "there was nothing available for Latinos, nothing culturally sensitive or linguistically relevant." The play, which was viewed by thousands of school children, is just one example of Jerry Tello's contributions. over the past twenty-four years, Mr. Tello has worked in Los Angeles to help victims of child abuse, sexual assault, and family violence, particularly within the Latino community. He has pioneered programs in detention facilities to help break the cycle of violence. Mr. Tello has a statewide and national reputation for excellent and innovative training on these issues, and many of his written works are in both English and Spanish. Jerry Tello was one of the first and only males to work at the East Los Angeles Rape Hotline. His expertise regarding multi-cultural issues and Latino males have made him a valuable asset to the California Youth Authority's Gang Violence Reduction Project. He was also the lead consultant for the innovative Young Men as Fathers Parenting Program designed for incarcerated delinquents and co-authored the Preparing for Positive Parenting program for paroled young felons. These two programs are widely acknowledged to be groundbreaking in helping to prevent the cycle of violence. He presently is co-chair of the National Compadres network, an organization that promotes the positive, responsible involvement of Latino males in their family and community.

Says Walt Jones, Program Manager for the Young Men As Fathers Program, "Jerry was brave enough in the mid-1970's to confront the secret of sexual violence in his community, and he continues to be a powerful voice against violence and for strong, caring families."



## **1997 CRIME VICTIM SERVICE AWARDS**

### **1. ELLEN HALBERT**

Vice Chair, Texas Board of Criminal Justice

Eleven years ago Ellen Halbert was raped, beaten, repeatedly stabbed and left for dead by a drifter dressed in a black Ninja outfit who broke into her home. She left her job as a real estate broker and dedicated her life to victim services. Today, Ms. Halbert has just finished a six-year term as the Vice Chair of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, which oversees the massive criminal justice system for the State of Texas. Appointed to this position by Governor Ann Richards as the first victim to serve on this important board, Ms. Halbert had oversight responsibility for the world's largest prison system, parole, probation, state jails and victim services, and has become one of the state's foremost leaders in restorative justice. Ms. Halbert's leadership and determination has led to marked changes in the criminal justice system in Texas including victim sensitivity training for thousands of parole and probation officers, a 30 member volunteer Victim Services Advisory Council, and victim impact panels used inside the prison units prior to parole or release. She is the first victim to have a prison unit named after her -- The Ellen Halbert Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facility for Women. Her nominator wrote that Ellen Halbert is, "a true 'standard bearer' whose person and accomplishments establish the scope and promise by which the victims movement and all related programs are judged."

### **2. DNA-PEOPLE'S LEGAL SERVICES, INC.**

Peggy Bird, Director

Native American Family Violence Prevention Project

For thirty years DNA has provided free legal and other services to victims of crime on the Navajo and Hopi nations. From its nine offices located throughout Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, DNA serves victims in some of the most remote and impoverished places in America. At a time when many legal service programs do not serve crime victims at all, domestic violence cases have constituted nearly twenty-percent of DNA's total caseload for the past three years. DNA has been instrumental in the development safe homes, support groups, shelters and crisis counseling for victims on the Navajo Nation, as well as in drafting police arrest protocols for the Navajo Nation police force, and in the drafting and passage of culturally appropriate domestic violence laws for both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi tribe. DNA has also worked to increase public awareness of the new domestic violence laws, and to train Navajo nation police, courts, peacemakers, hospitals, and social service offices about their obligations under the laws.

DNA's Native American Family Violence Prevention Project conducts basic community education about family violence prevention across the entire Navajo Nation in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Peggy Bird, the director of the Project, is a Native American attorney from the Santo Domingo Pueblo who has herself been a victim of domestic violence. In 1993, Ms. Bird started weekly women's support groups. She is the co-President of the Shiprock Domestic Violence Task Force, and a member of the Attorney General's Task Force on Domestic Violence and the New Mexico Stop Violence Against women oversight committee. DNA's nominator wrote that the dedication of this group of professionals to help victims of crime has been truly "extraordinary."

### **3. VICTIMS FOR JUSTICE**

Janice Lienhart, Executive Director

Janice Lienhart and Sharon Nahorney formed Victims for Justice in 1985 after their parents and aunt were brutally murdered and they discovered that there was no organization or support network in Alaska that could help them deal with their grief. Victims for Justice is now the only organization in the state to provide victim services such as crisis intervention, short- and long-term individual and peer group counseling, advocacy and support in dealing with the criminal justice system, and community education. The organization's two founders have forged alliances with other victims to bring about significant changes to both public attitudes and public policies concerning how family members of homicide victims are treated. Their dedication and leadership culminated in the passage of a state constitutional amendment on victims rights, and the passage of a juvenile waiver law that ensures that teenagers who commit violent felonies are held accountable for their conduct. The Attorney General of Alaska, who nominated Victims for Justice wrote, "Janice Lienhart, Sharon Nahorney and others have poured their hearts and souls into ensuring that victims throughout Alaska have a place turn for help."

#### **4. KAREN MUELHAUPT**

Violent Crime Counselor

Karen Muelhaupt has been a compassionate and pioneering advocate for crime victims for more than a decade. As a young woman, she was attacked and raped as she was walking home from her apartment. Since that time she has dedicated herself to improving services to crime victims through her work as a pre-sentence investigator for Iowa's Fifth Judicial District, as a rape counselor, and currently as a violent crime counselor. Not only does she provide advocacy and counseling for victims of violent crime, but she works tirelessly to expand rights and services for crime victims in Iowa. She helped develop a death notification training manual for coroners, law enforcement, prosecutors and victim service providers; she lead the development of the Polk County Homicide Crisis Response Team; she set up teams to clean up murder scenes and debrief workplaces, neighborhoods and groups affected by homicide; and she provides training to rape crisis and domestic abuse workers to extend their services to rural areas. On her own time, Ms. Muelhaupt organized the funding, design, and construction of a doll house-size courthouse to prepare children for court. Despite a recent diagnosis of cancer, Ms. Muelhaupt's efforts on behalf of crime victims have remained unflagging. She continues to work, often retiring to bed at 5 pm in order to maintain her energy. Her nominator wrote, "Karen embodies the spirit, conviction and energy of the crime victims movement."

#### **5. EVELYN DILLON**

Volunteer Victim Advocate

Genesee County Victim Assistance Program

Evelyn Dillon has contributed more than 12,500 hours of unpaid work since 1985 in her missionary work on behalf of crime victims. Her nominator wrote, 'She is a "pure volunteer victim advocate' who will do whatever and go wherever is necessary to help attend to and restore a victim who has been broken by crime.' In 1983, Mrs. Dillon's husband became the first IRS officer to be murdered in the line of duty in Buffalo, NY. Since that time, Mrs. Dillon has provided extensive outreach services to victims in the upstate New York region. In 1987 Mrs. Dillon founded the Genesee County Victim Support Coalition, and she currently services as the victim advocacy liaison for the Genesee County Victim Assistance Program with the Genesee County MADD chapter and the Genesee County Chapter of Compassionate Friends. She is the standing victim member on the Genesee County Criminal Justice Advisory Council, and she is a steadfast correspondent with state legislators regarding the status of victim legislation in the areas of compensation, parole notification, victim impact statements, and statements at the time of sentencing and fair treatment of victims in the

courtroom. As she approaches the age of 75, her nominator calls her, "a vision of hope to every victim."

## **6. COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS, INC.,**

### **GANG VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM, Irvine, California**

Margot Carleson, Executive Director

The Gang Victim Services program of Community Service Programs was created in 1990 to provide crisis intervention and assistance to victims of gang related violence and their families. Last year the seven bicultural and bilingual gang victims specialists and the one witness specialist on staff provided help to more than 970 victims of gang violence. Wearing bullet proof vests and Crisis Response jackets, program counselors accompany investigating officers to give death notifications, assess victims' safety and emergency needs, and provide continuing counseling services, referrals, and support groups. Fear of retaliation, intimidation and revenge often prevent gang violence victims from seeking help or exercising their rights. Working closely with the District Attorney's Gang Unit, Gang Victim Services staff provide support to victims and witnesses throughout the investigation and prosecution of each case. Ms. Christine Lopez, the program supervisor, is recognized statewide and nationally for her expertise in gang related victim/witness issues and for her knowledge of the Hispanic community. In 1993, Ms. Lopez was awarded the first annual Doris Tate Award by Governor Pete Wilson in recognition of her outstanding commitment and service to victims of crime. Gang Victim Services was recently recognized as a model program by the Office for Victims of Crime and is currently developing a protocol for similar programs across the nation.

## **7. JAY HOWELL**

Attorney at Law, Jacksonville, Florida

Jay Howell began his involvement in the victims field as a victim-sensitive prosecutor in Jacksonville, Florida. As the Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Investigations and General Oversight, he was instrumental to the passage of landmark legislation affecting missing and exploited children who, at that time, comprised a truly under served victim population. Mr. Howell later founded and was the first Executive Director for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. In 1986 he was a founding member of the National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network (NVCAN), which has provided sound legal counsel in developing amendment language and strategies for states, 29 of which have successfully secured passage of victims constitutional amendments. He remains a key activist in NVCAN's current efforts to secure a federal constitutional amendment. As a civil attorney for the past 10 years, Mr. Howell has helped define the relatively new discipline of victim-related civil litigation. His nominator wrote, "Jay is truly an 'unsung hero' -- he is not doing the right thing for any recognition, but simply because it is right, and it is needed by traumatized victims, as well as by our communities that strive to promote greater safety for all of us."

## **8. LORETTA LEWIS-GOLDEN**

Director, Rape/Crime Victim Advocate Program

Gainesville, Florida

For the past fourteen years, Loretta Lewis-Golden worked tirelessly to shape the development and growth of the Rape/Crime Victim Advocate Program in the university town of Gainesville, Florida. Starting as an Advocate Counselor in 1982 and Director of the program since 1993, Ms. Lewis-

Golden is the epitome of a direct service provider and advocate for victims rights who has gone "above and beyond" the call of duty in her dedication and commitment to crime victims. She was described by her nominators at "a quiet, persistent, and inspirational leader," who is able to break down barriers and instill trust and communications between victims, victim service providers, correctional institutions, law enforcement agencies, and the medical profession. An exceptional trainer and eloquent speaker, Ms. Lewis-Golden has presented at local and statewide conferences and is active in victim groups nationwide.

As an advocate and community activist, Ms. Lewis-Golden led grassroots efforts to get a State constitutional amendment passed on victims' rights. Her successful annual Rape Awareness Luncheon brings much needed attention to the concerns of rape victims. Through her hours of volunteer consultation and training, she has changed the attitudes and practices of law enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office, and the judiciary towards crime victims. The Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women awarded her the Martha Varnes Award for Achievement in Sexual Battery Prevention. She also received the University of Florida Woman of Achievement Award in 1995 for the impact she has had on University of Florida students. She is a member and co-developer of the National Black Women's Health Project, a local self-help group.

### **9. DR. ASTRID HEGER, M.D., FAAP**

Executive Director, LAO/USC Violence Intervention Program  
Los Angeles, California

A brilliant physician, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, and victim advocate, Dr. Heger founded the Center for the Vulnerable Child in 1984. Together with her newly established Violence Intervention Program at L.A. county- USC Medical Center, the combined program is the first Family Advocacy Center in the Nation. The concept she developed has now generated over 300 Child Advocacy Centers across the United States. Dr. Heger is recognized nationwide for pioneering the use of photo-documentation techniques for the medical evaluation of child and adolescent victims of sexual assault. In addition to her work with children, Dr. Heger expanded the use of multidisciplinary services -- medical treatment interfacing with legal, social and mental health services -- for child and adult victims of family and community violence. Recently, she developed and implemented the first telemedicine project to guarantee that remote areas will have access to expert evaluations to protect the rights of victims.

Dr. Heger has devoted her entire professional career to guaranteeing that victims of violence receive sensitive, loving attention as well as the highest quality of medical care and forensic documentation. Responding to the need for medical professionals to be more sensitive to victims of spousal abuse, she is building the first hospital-based emergency shelter for women and children. The LAPD commended her for devoting so much of her time to educating law enforcement officers on the dynamics of child sexual abuse, thus ensuring that child abuse investigations will be conducted in a professional and sensitive manner.

### **10. PASTOR RODERICK MITCHELL**

Executive Director of Exodus Center for Life  
Cleveland, MI

Pastor Mitchell opened his New Life Church in Cleveland, Mississippi, to a Salvation Army rape crisis program in need of a home. He is the rare minister in a rural community in the south to speak out against spousal violence, spousal rape, sexual assault, and child abuse. Pastor Mitchell speaks from his own personal experience as a victim of domestic violence. When only nine years old, he had a gun put to his head while trying to protect his mother. Many a cold winter morning he had to flee

the house with his mother and smaller siblings to hide in the cotton fields, away from the reach of his abusive father.

Pastor Mitchell is best known for talking to students in Junior and Senior High Schools and Headstart programs about child abuse. He uses puppets to show young people that their bodies should not be touched by anyone. He has developed a special program called "Preparing Our Sons to Manhood: Salvaging the Seeds" to reach youth on prevention techniques instead of crimes against the family. He also serves as a counselor in the MASH Program --Men Against Spousal Harm -- a batterers program with an exceptionally high success rate.

## **11. SUE HATHORN**

For the past 20 years Sue Hathorn has waged a one woman campaign against child abuse in Mississippi. Touched by the memory of an abused child she saw returned to a home where he had been beaten, she vowed to change the system, to develop services, shelters, and legal protection for abused children. In 1984 she organized the Mississippi Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse. Her well-known statewide conferences on child abuse educate over 500 child advocates each year. Her realized her dream of funding a Children's Advocacy Center for the State of Mississippi by forging a unique partnership with the private sector in which charitable bingo fund raising was used to defray expenses. Her struggle to create the remarkable center is recounted in James Colbert's book: God Bless the Child: A True Story of Child Abuse, Gambling, Southern Politics...And One Woman's Struggle Against the Odds. Colbert's book tells of a seven year old who was afraid to testify in court against the perpetrator who sexually molested her. The terrified child asked that Sue's German Shepherd, Vachss, an obedience trained dog, be allowed to accompany her to Court. With Vachss at her feet, the first dog ever admitted to a Mississippi courtroom for that purpose, the little girl testified in a loud and clear voice.

Ms. Hathorn was also the moving force behind the establishment of several important multidisciplinary, public/private partnerships of law enforcement, social services, medical, and judicial personnel for the investigation of child abuse cases in Mississippi. She organized Mississippi's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), a network of specially trained volunteers who advocate for child victims in seventeen Mississippi counties. Children First! Inc. Was established by Ms. Hathorn to help teens in foster care pursue educational and vocational training goals. A foster mother of eleven children, Ms. Hathorn knows first hand the lack of services for foster children in Mississippi. She has obtained probono legal representation for hundreds of foster children, as well as finding medical, psychological, and financial assistance for foster children and child abuse victims.

## **12. KAREN A. MCLAUGHLIN**

Senior Policy Analyst

Education Development Center, Inc.

Newton, Massachusetts

As both a paid professional and a volunteer, Karen McLaughlin has worked for over 20 years --since her college days at Marquette University-- at the cutting edge of victim services. She is a true "unsung hero" of the victims' movement, having initiated a remarkable series of firsts in victims services. She was a key activist in Massachusetts' efforts to become one of the FIRST six states to establish a statewide network of victim services, and then became the FIRST Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance, itself the FIRST independent state agency for victim assistance funded by state criminal fines. As Executive Director she awarded the FIRST VOCA

funding to assist victims of anti-gay violence, as well as the FIRST parole-based victim assistance program. She sponsored one of the FIRST statewide trainings on community crisis response and organized the FIRST statewide conference on victimization of racial minorities. As the same time, she put in endless hours of volunteer time, much of it traveling to promote international networking on behalf of victims. Clearly, her influence on victims services both in the United States and abroad has been profound. Today her creative energy is directed towards violence prevention -- an integral part of comprehensive victim assistance. Working with the National Organization of Victim Assistance, she has helped guide the field to a better understanding of the need for violence prevention strategies, particularly for child victims of violence. Her nominator described her as "a pioneering program director, an imaginative and courageous state administrator, a creative force for growth ..., and one of the most giving of victim advocates our movement has produced."

### **13. VIKI C. SHARP**

Director, Pima County Attorney's Victim Witness Program

Tucson, AZ

Ms. Sharpe's career in victim services began in the volunteer corps of the Pima County Attorney's Victim Witness program in 1976. She became the first staff volunteer coordinator in 1984 and since 1985 has served as Director of the program. Under her leadership the program has become a national model. Ms. Sharpe is best known for her extraordinary training and speaking skills. She has trained advocates, law enforcement and prosecutors throughout the United States and in New Zealand, "literally effecting the quality of services provided to thousands of victims," according to her nominator. Astonishingly, all of these trainings were provided on her vacation time and the majority without compensation. In the last year alone, she taught crisis intervention skills and victimology in Indiana, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Texas, North Carolina, Hawaii, and Utah. She is described as a "masterful woman who is guided by her own sense of purpose and her single-minded dedication to making a difference.

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### **Special Courage Award:**

#### **AZIM KHAMISA & PLES FELIX**

The Tariq Khamisa Foundation

San Diego, California

Azim Khamisa and Ples Felix had never met -- had never even heard of each other -- before January 21, 1995. On that Saturday, Azim Khamisa's only son, Tariq, 20, an art student at San Diego State University, was shot to death as he was delivering pizza. The trigger was pulled by Ples Felix' 14-year-old grandson, Tony Hicks, on the orders of an older gangmember. Tony was caught, charged, and pleaded guilty to the killing. Sentenced under a new California law that allows children as young as 14 to be tried as adults, Tony will be 37 years old before he is eligible for parole. "All the dreams and hopes I had for Tony just came crumbling down," says Ples, Tony's grandfather and guardian.

Nearly overwhelmed with grief, but believing "that there were victims at both ends of the gun," Azim got in touch with Ples and invited him to be a part of forming the Tariq Khamisa Foundation to combat the phenomena in our society of "children killing children." Through the Tariq Khamisa Foundation, Azim and Ples have taken their message of nonviolence and concern for children to the

San Diego school system. They have presented the first in a series of Violence Impact Forums which are designed to inform kids, parents, and school officials about the devastating consequences of violence, how to deal with peer pressure to join gangs, and provide information about school and community victim services.

It took courage for Ples to go to Azim's home that November day in 1995. It also took forgiveness, compassion and great valor for Azim to make the call. Today, these two men have formed a strong alliance to save other families from a similar tragedy. They have been featured on national television shows, in *People Magazine*, and in many other publications due to their unique educational efforts.



## U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530

### Attorney General Honors Service to Crime Victims

WASHINGTON, April 22 /PRNewswire/ -- As part of the 1998 observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Attorney General Reno today presented 17 Crime Victim Service Awards, including eight Special Awards related to the Oklahoma City Bombing and a Special Heroism Award. These annual awards, the highest federal award for service to victims, were given to eight individuals and eleven programs. Many of the award recipients have experienced personal tragedy and become advocates on behalf of other victims.

"Countless individuals and groups in communities across the country are working tirelessly to help those who suffer as a result of crime," said Reno. "Today, we honor some of the shining examples who are an inspiration to us all."

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, observed this year from April 19-25 and which coincides with the third anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, provides an opportunity for thousands of local communities across the nation to pay tribute to the millions of Americans who have been victimized by crime. The awards ceremony is one of the activities planned by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to commemorate the week.

"Every year, I'm impressed with the extraordinary capacity with which our award recipients have met adversity," said Reggie Robinson, Acting Director of OVC. "Many of the individuals and groups who assisted in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing, for example, faced personal tragedy and yet came to the aid of others in need."

OVC selected the Crime victim Service awardees from over 100 nominations received from federal, state and local victim assistance programs, national victim assistance organizations, Members of Congress, governors, U.S. Attorneys and individual citizens.

Honored by the Attorney General were:

DENISE M. MOON

Director, Dade County Victim Assistance Unit State Attorney's Office  
1350 NW. 12th Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33136

Denise Moon's career in victim services spans 24 years, from her hiring as the first social worker at the Jackson Memorial Hospital Rape Treatment Center/Crisis Intervention Clinic in Miami in 1974 to her current duties as director of the Victim Assistance Unit of the Dade County State Attorney's Office. She helped organize the Children's Center, a special unit dedicated to the forensic interviewing of child victims and witnesses. In 1987, she helped initiate the first prosecutor-based domestic violence unit in Florida, and in 1992, she helped design and implement a pioneering misdemeanor domestic violence court. She also helped establish Tourist Lock-Up Criminals, a joint venture among hotels, tourist agencies and the State Attorney's Office that encourages out-of-town victims to return for court proceedings. She authored a funding proposal that now supports the Victim Access Network, a comprehensive automated victim notification and information system. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Florida Network of Victim Witness Services since 1986 and was elected its president in 1991. A true stalwart of the victims' movement, Denise Moon has been described as "the ultimate professional."

GENE AND PEGGY SCHMIDT  
P.O. Box 7829  
Overland Park, Kansas 66207

Gene and Peggy Schmidt have dedicated their impressive efforts on behalf of crime victims to their daughter Stephanie, a college student who was raped



and murdered by a co-worker recently released after serving ten years for rape. The day after Stephanie's funeral in 1993, the Schmidts formed a task force that proposed state legislation including: requiring first-time sex offenders to register with local sheriffs upon parole; making registry information accessible to the public; increasing sentences for sex offenders; expanding sanctions against job applicants who lie about criminal history and mandating that the state notify employers of the hiring of parolees. These measures have all been accomplished through changes in Kansas law and policy. The task force also advocated passage of the Sexually Violent Predator Law, known as "Stephanie's Law," which provides for the civil commitment of sexual offenders who suffer from mental abnormalities or personality disorders and are likely to reoffend. Used for the first time in 1994, "Stephanie's Law" was upheld by the Supreme Court on June 23, 1997. The Schmidts have testified or been invited to testify on similar legislation before eight state legislatures, and, along with their daughter, Jeni, testified before Congress on the 1994 Crime Bill. Through a number of nationwide public appearances, including "60 Minutes," and through their non-profit organization, Speak Out for Stephanie, which sponsors educational and mentoring programs for elementary, secondary and college students, the Schmidts have spread their message that, by breaking the cycle of violence among potential offenders, future sex offenses can be prevented.

KAREN WENGERT  
Founder, Friends of Amanda Foundation  
28 Cherry Hill Lane  
Manalapan, New Jersey 07726

Karen Wengert derives the force of her conviction from the memory of her six and a half year-old daughter Amanda, who was molested and murdered in 1994 by a next-door neighbor whose record of sex offenses was shielded by state and local laws. Vowing to prevent the same tragedy from befalling other children, she founded the Friends of Amanda Foundation, from which she has been a staunch advocate for legislative reform to protect victims. Among the New Jersey laws she has strongly influenced are the Amanda Act, a measure that allows police and authorized officials to examine juvenile records for incidents of violent crime, and the Peeping Tom Law, which allows voyeurs to be psychologically examined. Ms. Wengert encouraged the passage and enactment of the No Early Release Act requiring the most violent criminals to serve a minimum of 85% of their sentences. Her contributions extend to direct service. When she saw the benefits of art therapy to her two surviving children, she sought to establish a free art therapy program for battered children. In 1997, she and Monmouth County Senator John O. Bennett proposed Amanda's Easel, which is now operated by the Women's Center of Monmouth County and serves battered women and children. Ms. Wengert serves as a volunteer art therapy assistant in the program. She also completed training to become a Child Assault Prevention Facilitator and works on behalf of children throughout Monmouth County. She was appointed last year by Governor Whitman to the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

LOS ANGELES COMMISSION ON ASSAULTS AGAINST WOMEN DEAF AND DISABLED  
SERVICES PROGRAM

Peggie Reyna, Program Coordinator  
6043 Hollywood Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90028

The Deaf and Disabled Services Program of the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women is one of the only organizations in the nation that provides services to deaf and disabled victims of crime. Created in 1989 to aid victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse, it seeks to empower members of the deaf and disabled community. To that end, it relies on deaf and disabled individuals, rather than interpreters, to provide services, and emphasizes intervention, prevention and education. The program offers an array of activities not only to aid individual victims, but also to interrupt the cycle of violence. Classes are tailored to meet the needs of those with physical, visual and developmental disabilities. An off-shoot of the program, Deaf Kids Self Defense and Safety, teaches children how to protect themselves from abuse. The Deaf and Disabled Services Program also trains staff and volunteers at domestic violence shelters to equip them to work with deaf and disabled battered women. The program was also instrumental in the creation of a TDD line for the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The program's impact is exemplified in the story of a young deaf and mute woman who was repeatedly raped and beaten by her father and brother. Because she lacked any language abilities and was unable to communicate, many shelters turned her away.

Program staff persevered, found a safe haven for the victim and taught her sign language. The young woman now has close contact with family and friends and lives without the threat of violence.

PROGRAM AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Jamie C. Tiedemann, Director

Office of the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics

University of Minnesota

407 Boynton Health Service, 410 Church Street S.E.

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

The University of Minnesota Program Against Sexual Violence, established in 1991, immediately became an innovator in sexual assault and family violence advocacy programs through its association with a major university. Staffed with five full and part-time employees and up to 50 volunteers, the program provides 24-hour on-call services and serves over 200 victims and survivors a year. Approximately 20,000 students, staff, faculty and alumni benefit from its educational outreach each year. The program offers a variety of unique activities such as: small group training for men and women athletes and coaches, which has reached over 600 participants; an interactive dramatic presentation on sexual assault and an interactive presentation that addresses same sex violence. The program administers two 52-hour training programs a year for sexual assault advocates and a 35-hour summer training for volunteers and staff of rural community-based sexual assault, domestic violence and victim-witness programs. Its advocacy training course has been integrated into the university's Women Studies curriculum. The program has worked with campus police to provide student victims transportation to court proceedings and has arranged special accommodations for victims with the registrar and student employment offices. The program has pioneered initiatives such as the Minnesota Higher Education Center Against Violence and Abuse and a partnership with the School of Dentistry to develop a family violence training model for dental professionals.

SHARON MARIE SIKORA

Chair, Arizona MADD

5691 W. Abraham Lane

Glendale, Arizona 85308

In 1981, the car Sharon Sikora was driving was hit by a drunken motorist and became engulfed in flames, causing burns over 95 percent of her body and paralysis of her vocal cords due to smoke inhalation. The Phoenix Fire Department Commander who responded to the crash described it this way: "The horror of what happened to Sharon was almost beyond description. I didn't feel she had any chance of survival." Since the accident, she has endured more than 70 reconstructive surgeries and has become a leading advocate for crime victims' rights. She co-founded Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), established the Arizona state chapter, and has made special effort to reach out to victims in rural counties and Indian country. She initiated the Ashes to Life Burn Support Group for survivors of significant burn injuries and co-founded the Fire Pal board of the Phoenix Fire Department, which oversees efforts to improve fire safety programs. She has advocated for .08 blood alcohol content legislation and Juvenile Zero Tolerance DUI laws. She helped launch a statewide DUI task force involving 65 police agencies that resulted in over 2,600 DUI arrests this past holiday season. She was instrumental in the passage of the Arizona Victim Bill of Rights. As a member of the Kentucky School Bus Crash-MADD Crisis Team, Ms. Sikora made three trips to Radcliff, Kentucky to assist victims and survivors of a drunk driving crash that left 24 youths and three adults dead and 14 others seriously injured. She currently sits on the board of the Arizona Victim Compensation Program, the Foundation for Burns and Trauma, the Phoenix Fire Department Fire Pals, Arizona Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and National Students Against Drunk Driving. Through her years of dedicated service, she has cultivated a second-generation victims advocate in her 26-year-old daughter, who is also a drunk driving victim. Of her many accomplishments, Ms. Sikora says she is proudest of being her daughter's mentor.

JOAN COLEMAN

Executive Director

Toledo/Lucas County Victim-Witness Assistance Program

700 Adams Street, Suite 250

Toledo, Ohio 43604

Joan Coleman is responsible for one of the most comprehensive victim assistance programs in the country. Since becoming Executive Director of the Toledo/Lucas County Victim-Witness Assistance Program seven years ago, she has presided over the development of a multi-faceted organization that offers a full range of services to victims of all persuasions. Among the components of the program are: a general victim services office; a Special Services Division in the Juvenile Prosecutor's Section of Family Court; a child watch area for female victims of violent crime in Toledo Municipal Court; a 24-hour crisis response team and a multi-disciplinary advisory council. The program's Victims' Forum uses panels of victims and juvenile offenders to heighten the awareness of junior high and high school students about the repercussions of violent crimes and guns. The program also operates the only Hispanic/Latino Outreach Office in Ohio. Staffed with 17 employees and 30 volunteers, the program has aided over 40,000 victims and assisted them in receiving more than \$3.5 million in compensation. In addition to her program responsibilities, Ms. Coleman's efforts led to the development of a uniform system for victim notification that preceded by two years the state law requiring this practice on the felony level. Prior to the statutory mandate of victim impact statements, she convinced trial judges to allow victims to speak at sentencing hearings. As a member of the National Organization for Victim Assistance national crisis response team, she provided crisis intervention to 28 crew members of the Canadian Enterprise Freighter after a tragedy ended the life of a fellow crew member. Ms. Coleman takes personal responsibility for the victims she serves, often helping to pay victims' rent and electric and telephone bills, taking food to those in need and personally relocating frightened victims and witnesses. Often putting in over 70 hours a week, Joan Coleman is a consummate professional who gives completely of herself to crime victims.

LIDERAS CAMPESINAS FARMWORKER WOMEN'S SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

Mily Trevino Saucedo, Executive Director  
611 South Rebecca Street  
Pomona, California 91766

The Lideras Campesinas Farmworker Women's Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Project reaches out to the underserved population of crime victims -- abused migrant women farm workers. Concentrating on domestic violence victims among migrant communities in California's southern and central valley, the program addresses the social, economic, political and language barriers that render this group difficult to reach. Lideras Campesinas began in 1990 as a result of issues uncovered during a graduate research project on domestic violence in farm worker communities. It implemented a Domestic Violence Prevention Program in 1993 and began conducting statewide training to local farm worker advocates. In 1996, the organization expanded their educational model to include a sexual assault component. A true grass roots organization, the project relies on an advisory committee comprised of representatives from 15 communities to keep the project focused on the needs of women farm workers and their families. Under the committee's guidance, the project selects interested women farm workers and provides them intensive training in awareness, dynamics and prevention of sexual assault and domestic violence, as well as the resources available to victims. These advocates return to their communities and educate other farm worker women through conferences and social gatherings. Lideras Campesinas has reached over 10,000 women farm workers. Its impact has reached across the globe as project staff have discussed an advocacy exchange program with the "Delta" project in Cape Town, South Africa. An organization whose trademark is its respect for the integrity of community, Lideras Campesinas gives a voice to women who often lack the resources to speak on their own behalf.

MERLE SEEKING LAND & TRINITY A. GRAVATT  
P.O. Box 127 & P.O. Box 323  
Fort Thompson, South Dakota 57339

Special Heroism Award -- On the evening of November 2, 1996, Merle Seeking Land and Trinity Gravatt were on their way home from a friend's house in Fort Thompson, South Dakota, on the Crow Creek Sioux Indian Reservation, when they heard a woman crying and shouting that she was being raped. They found the woman pinned to the ground, her clothes ripped away, being sexually assaulted, and they pulled the attacker away. The man, who had been drinking, attempted to leave the scene, but Mr. Seeking Land and Mr. Gravatt restrained him. The attacker became belligerent, pushing both of them, and as he tried to flee,

Mr. Gravatt knocked him out. They then ran to call the police and returned to comfort the woman while they waited for authorities. The attacker was arrested and later charged with two counts of aggravated sexual abuse. Despite the influence of the defendant's family in the community and pressure to withdraw their cooperation with the investigation, both Mr. Seeking Land and Mr. Gravatt testified at the grand jury hearing, which was held approximately 175 miles from their home, and then at the trial, which was held in Aberdeen, about 150 miles from Fort Thompson. Their testimony helped to convict the defendant on both counts and to secure a sentence of 121 months in prison and 4 years of supervised release.

#### SPECIAL AWARDS RELATED TO THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

The largest-scale act of terrorism ever committed on North American soil, the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, left 168 men, women and children dead and hundreds of others injured. The heroic rescue efforts and crisis response to the victims and survivors in its immediate aftermath earned the nation's collective admiration and praise. The scope of the tragedy brought to the trials that followed a set of dynamics unprecedented in the history of the U.S. criminal justice system. The complexities of the cases against Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the great public scrutiny of the Denver trials and the sheer number of victims and survivors made the work of those involved seem a daunting undertaking. The dedication, compassion and perseverance demonstrated by the members of these eight groups may be characterized as nothing short of extraordinary.

#### PROJECT HEARTLAND

Gwen Allen, Director  
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
1200 N.E. 13th Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152

Project Heartland began as the immediate mental health response to the bombing and continued as a crisis intervention mechanism throughout the trials and has now reached over 4,000 individuals. Opening with a staff of 5 individuals and eventually employing 73, it has provided counseling, support groups, outreach, consultation and education. When the trials began, project staff continued to offer their services through the debriefing of prosecution witnesses, support to victim family members and survivors attending the trial or closed-circuit broadcasts and preparing those individuals for some of the more difficult testimony.

#### CRITICAL INCIDENT WORKSHOPS GROUP

Colonel Jack Poe, Chief of Chaplains  
Oklahoma City Police Department  
701 Concord Drive  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

The Critical Incident Workshops Group is comprised of police and fire chaplains who arrived at the Alfred P. Murrah Building immediately after the bombing. These chaplains mobilized more than 700 clergy from around the country to help the survivors, families and rescuers on site and at a Family Response Center. In the days and months following the bombing, the group began conducting critical incident workshops to help rescuers cope with their experiences. These workshops became integral to the healing of those affected by the tragedy.

#### COLORADO/OKLAHOMA RESOURCE COUNCIL

Steve Siegel, Director of Program Development  
District Attorney's Office  
303 W. Colfax Avenue, No. 1300  
Denver, Colorado 80204

Created to aid survivors and families of victims while in Denver, the Colorado/Oklahoma Resource Council (CORC) exemplified the positive force of collaboration. The CORC secured lodging near the federal courthouse, arranged local transportation and ensured availability of medical and mental health services. It provided a safe haven near the courthouse, offering victims a secure, protected and supportive environment. In addition, the CORC's "Line Holders" relieved victims from standing in line to secure limited courtroom seating.

OKLAHOMA CITY SAFE HAVEN  
The Reverend Tracy Evans  
1001 N.W. 25th, #206  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106

For the victims and survivors unable to travel to Denver for the trials, the Oklahoma City Safe Haven Committee ensured the accessibility of trial proceedings. Safe Haven provided closed-circuit broadcast of the trials in a supportive atmosphere where shuttle services, counseling, refreshments and an information center for trial transcripts and witness summaries were available. The centers opened with jury selection in the McVeigh trial on March 31, 1997 and remained in service for the duration of both trials. More than 300 volunteers helped serve nearly 1,000 victims and survivors.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA  
VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT  
Lynn Anderson, Assistant United States Attorney  
Office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma  
Western District of Oklahoma  
210 W. Park Avenue, Suite 400  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

The Victim-Witness Assistance Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma devoted its efforts to ensuring that victims, relatives and survivors would have access to the trials, whether in person or through the closed-circuit broadcasts. Among its activities were the securing of a large facility in Oklahoma City for viewing the closed-circuit broadcasts; organization of victim attendance at the trials, including arrangements for travel; training of volunteers to staff the Oklahoma City safe haven; assistance in ensuring the safety of those attending the trial; obtaining of medical care; coordination of shuttle and food services and providing emotional support.

OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING VICTIM/WITNESS CENTER  
Mary Anne Castellano, Victim/Witness Specialist  
Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Colorado  
1961 Stout Street, 13th Floor  
Denver, Colorado 80294

The Oklahoma Bombing Victim/Witness Center offered much-needed sensitivity and compassion to the 135 survivors, family members of victims and rescue workers who appeared as witnesses at both trials. Comprised of victim-witness specialists from six United States Attorneys' Offices, the Center familiarized itself with the background of each victim and witness in an effort to understand their unique needs, helped those called to testify to make sense of the judicial process, acted as a conduit to victim services and advocated for victims and survivors when they encountered problems with employers.

DENVER MEDIA LOGISTICS/CONSORTIUM  
Amy Bourgeron, Director  
1437 Bannock, Room 379  
Denver, Colorado 80202

The Denver Media Logistics/Consortium demonstrated victim-sensitive news coverage, as it remained aware and respectful of the emotional needs of victims and survivors throughout the trials. Begun as a partnership between victim advocates and the press, the Consortium quickly became a self-generating committee of 72 news organizations that sought to ensure compassionate treatment of victims and survivors in the media, while at the same time maintaining the integrity and accuracy of information. Due to the exceptional scrutiny given to the trials and the great potential for media exploitation, the efforts of Consortium members merit sincere gratitude.

OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING PROSECUTION TEAM  
Patrick Ryan, United States Attorney  
Office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma  
210 W. Park Avenue, Suite 400  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

The Oklahoma City Bombing Prosecution Team set a new standard for the sensitive and inclusive treatment of victims in court. By requiring that members meet with each of 168 families of the deceased and with the injured

survivors, the team demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that the impetus for serving justice in the trials would be the needs of the victims themselves. Through the creation of a victim database for the approximately 3,000 family members and survivors, the installation of a toll-free number through which victims could obtain needed assistance and by the convening of regular group meetings with victims, it was able to communicate rapidly and efficiently to those needing information. Working seven days a week, 12 or more hours per day for over two years, the team viewed its mission as a responsibility to victims above all else.

OVC is the federal government's chief advocate for crime victims and their families, OVC administers two grant programs for states to expand victim compensation and assistance programs, as well as other grants to support innovative programs benefiting crime victims. It also sponsors training to help criminal justice officials and others better meet the needs of crime victims and their families.

OVC's activities are financed by the Crime Victims Fund in the U.S. Treasury. The Fund receives deposits each fiscal year -- not from taxpayers -- but from fines and penalty assessments from convicted federal criminals.

To learn more about OVC, its programs and resources, see the Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/> or the OJP home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>. Or, call the OVC Resource Center at 800-627-6872.

SOURCE Office for Victims of Crime



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

*Office for Victims of Crime*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                      OVC  
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1999                      202/307-0703

**ATTORNEY GENERAL PAYS TRIBUTE TO VICTIM ADVOCATES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Attorney General Janet Reno today honored five individuals and three organizations with the annual Crime Victim Service Award, the highest federal award given for outstanding service to crime victims. Reno presented the awards at a ceremony, which coincided with the fourth anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing.

The ceremony also marks the Justice Department's commemoration of National Crime Victims Rights Week, which takes place April 25 to May 1. Many of the award recipients have experienced personal tragedy and become advocates on behalf of other victims.

"By recognizing the efforts of these outstanding victim advocates, we honor all those whose work touches the lives of victims and those whose lives have been touched by crime," said Attorney General Janet Reno.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity for thousands of local communities across the country to pay tribute to the millions of Americans who have been victimized by crime and those who strive to help them heal.

"These brave and committed victim advocates range from young to old," said Kathryn Turman, Acting Director, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). "One of this year's awardees is a young woman who survived a terrible drunk driving crash and numerous complicated surgeries to speak out against the dangers of drunk driving. An elderly man, shot during an armed robbery and left paralyzed, has spent more than 20 years of his life working to improve services and rights for crime victims."

OVC is the federal government's chief advocate for crime victims and their families. In addition to funding state victim compensation and victim assistance programs, OVC trains those who work with victims and develops projects to enhance victims' rights and services. This frequently involves responding to high-profile incidents such as the Oklahoma City bombing, the Capitol Hill shootings and the embassy bombings in Africa.

OVC selected the Crime Victim Service awardees from more than 175 nominations received from federal, state and local victim assistance programs, national victim assistance organizations, Members of Congress, Governors, U.S. Attorneys and individual citizens.

Honored by the Attorney General were:

**KOREAN AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICE CENTER**

Doris Pak, Executive Director  
New York, New York

Established in 1989, the Korean American Family Service Center (KAFSC) offers support services to Korean-American immigrants in the New York Metropolitan area who have been victimized by domestic violence. KAFSC has provided thousands of domestic violence victims and their children with one-on-one counseling, 24-hour crisis intervention, court advocacy and interpretation, employment assistance and other opportunities for healing and empowerment. In addition, the Center offers community education workshops, a sexual assault prevention and counseling program, a program for children with special emotional needs, English language classes, and a single mothers' self-help group. From September 1997 to August 1998, KAFSC assisted 683 clients.

**SHARON MCCLAIN-BOYER**

Director, Crime Victims Assistance Office  
Office of the Ohio Attorney General  
Columbus, Ohio

Sharon McClain-Boyer has been active in the victims' rights movement and violence prevention since the murder of her youngest son, Kevin, in September 1990. As a volunteer for many years and later in a professional capacity, Ms. McClain-Boyer has worked to secure numerous reforms that benefit crime victims and raise awareness of victims' needs and violence prevention. In 1992, she was appointed to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission as a victim representative to reform the state's laws. Her legislative testimony and public leadership have assisted in winning a number of important measures for victims in Ohio. These include enhanced rights for victims of violent crime, passage of a victims' constitutional amendment in 1994, improved victim services at the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and creation of many victim assistance and violence prevention initiatives. In 1995, Ms. McClain-Boyer became Administrator of the Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division. Under her leadership, Ohio has nearly doubled the number of victim-related grants it awards and has become among the first in the nation to implement a computerized statewide victim notification program. Ms. McClain-Boyer has presented speeches and workshops regarding victim issues at the state and national levels.

**LIEUTENANT BILL WALSH**

Dallas Police Department  
Dallas, Texas

Lieutenant Bill Walsh is a twenty-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department, assigned to the Youth and Family Crimes Division. As commander of the Investigations Unit, he oversees the Child Abuse, Child Exploitation and Family Violence Squads. Throughout his career, he has been involved in many activities that have improved law enforcement's response to victims of child abuse, sexual exploitation and domestic violence. In 1988, he started the Child Exploitation Squad, a specialized team of detectives that investigates child sexual exploitation and child abductions. In 1989, he co-founded the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, which provides a multi-disciplinary response to child abuse. That same year, he initiated the first annual Crimes against Children Conference, which has grown to be the largest law enforcement conference in the nation on the issue. In 1992, he started the first child death review team in Texas and served on the state committee that drafted legislation on review teams. In 1997, he initiated the Sex Offender Apprehension Program (SOAP), a specialized team of detectives created to ensure that registered sex offenders comply with the state's sex offender registration law and the terms of their probation and parole. In 1998, he wrote the grant application to the Justice Department, which funded the Dallas Police Department as one of ten Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces in the country. Throughout his career, Lieutenant Walsh has received many awards for his work, including the 1990 Dallas Police Officer of the Year, the State of Texas Special Achievement Award for Public Service and the 1998 Dallas Police Department Supervisor of



the Year. He has published articles and lectured nationally and internationally on the issues of crimes against children and family violence.

### **TRUDY GREGORIE**

c/o The National Center for Victims of Crime  
Arlington, Virginia

Trudy Gregorie's career in victim services spans 20 years, from her work as a local victim assistance provider to a nationally-renowned trainer and spokesperson. During her 13 years as director of a prosecutor-based program in Charleston, South Carolina, Ms. Gregorie and her staff assisted more than 60,000 victims. She was appointed to South Carolina's first task force on victim assistance. She later became a founding member of the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network, where she helped to win passage of a number of rights for victims. She then became the state's first Victim Ombudsman, a program which she developed into a model for the nation.

As Training Director at the National Center for Victims of Crime, Ms. Gregorie developed a comprehensive manual for prosecutor-based victim assistance providers. Her work to improve the response of corrections agencies to victims has been regarded as revolutionary, and she was the first victim service professional to be elected to the Delegate Assembly of the American Correctional Association. Ms. Gregorie continues her service to victims through hundreds of training workshops every year.

### **HARLIE WILSON**

Statesville, North Carolina

In 1978, at age 59, Harlie Wilson was shot during an armed robbery and left paralyzed from the waist down. Hospitalized for five and a half months following the shooting, he incurred medical bills in excess of \$800,000. After nearly losing his home and being forced from the hospital several days early due to an unsettled bill, he and his wife Ruth began a grassroots effort that led to the establishment of the North Carolina Victim Compensation Fund, a resource that had been unavailable to him. In 1985, Mr. Wilson was named to the Governor's Crime Commission and advocated for the right of victims to legal and financial advice, as well as medical and psychological assistance. While serving on the Commission, he and his wife founded the first victim support group in the state, Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL), and the following year they created the North Carolina Victim Assistance Network, a statewide nonprofit resource, advocacy and training center with over 500 members. In addition to their continued work on behalf of victims, the Wilsons are active members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Mr. Wilson began the Mormon church in Statesville, North Carolina in 1948 and served as its first presiding elder for 11 years. He was also an ordained high priest and a district high councilman for 19 years.

### **COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Richard A. Devine, State's Attorney  
Chicago, Illinois

Established in 1981, the Victim Witness Assistance Program of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the second largest prosecutor's office in the country, is now one of the largest, most comprehensive prosecutor-based victim advocacy programs in the nation and serves victims and witnesses of felony crimes in Chicago and its suburban districts. Richard Devine, who was First Assistant when the program was created, accepts the award on behalf of the 73 specialists who serve thousands of victims each year. Two specialized units work solely with the juvenile delinquency calendars and the misdemeanor domestic violence and sexual assault courtrooms. The program also

includes initiatives targeting underserved populations. Victim specialists provide services ranging from accompanying victims to court to working with domestic violence victims to create safety plans and locate counseling and financial assistance.

Victim specialists also co-facilitate eight homicide support groups per month and offer services to children, adolescents and adults, as well as Spanish-speaking survivors. Among the program's more recent efforts are a support group for senior victims of violent crime and a Targeted Abusers Call program in the Domestic Violence Division, which was recognized by the Justice Department's Violence Against Women Office as one of 20 promising practices in the nation.

## **VICTIM ADVOCATES REACHING OUT**

Sara Holthaus Weidemier, Project Director  
Hagatna, Guam

Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) has provided comprehensive services to crime victims since 1982. VARO offers crisis intervention 24 hours a day to victims of assault, domestic violence, and sexual assault and survivors of homicide and suicide. Among its services are advocacy, transportation, shelter, emergency financial assistance, provision of clothing and personal care items and referrals. VARO has been particularly active in reforming Guam's response to family violence, participating in the government's Family Violence Task Force and successfully lobbying for a bill to prevent the early release of family violence and sexual assault offenders. In addition to providing direct services to local communities, the military and tourists, VARO provides intensive training for all law enforcement personnel and helps to guide the Governor's public safety policies.

## **AMANDA LACEY**

Little Elm, Texas

**Special Courage Award.** On February 15, 1997, Amanda Lacey was returning home from a dance sponsored by her school's chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving when she was hit head-on by a drunk driver. Ms. Lacey, who is president of the chapter, was trapped in her car for almost an hour before she could be freed and was twice determined to be clinically dead. She suffered numerous serious injuries, was unable to eat for two months, and recently underwent her 18<sup>th</sup> surgical procedure since the crash. Ms. Lacey has used her experience as a platform for public safety. She participates in Victim Impact Panels sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, where she speaks before students and adults to warn them of the dangers of drinking and driving, and has given over 65 presentations. Ms. Lacey recently celebrated her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

OVC's activities are financed by the Crime Victims Fund. Criminal fines collected in one year by U.S. Attorneys, the U.S. Courts and Bureau of Prisons are deposited into the fund and are available for grant awards in the following year. The fund is supported solely by these fines, which are paid by federal criminal offenders - not taxpayers.

Further information about OVC, its programs and resources is available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/) or the OJP home page at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov). Or, call the OVC Resource Center at 800/627-6872.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2000

OVC  
202/616-3534

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING VICTIM ADVOCATES**

WASHINGTON, DC - Attorney General Janet Reno today honored four individuals, five organizations and two families with the Crime Victim Service Award, the highest federal award given for outstanding service to crime victims. Representatives from the families of James Byrd, Jr. and Matthew Shepard received the award for their courageous response to hate crimes, and citizens and organizations from Scotland received special recognition for their response to the Pan Am 103 tragedy.

The awards ceremony is part of the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime's (OVC) 20<sup>th</sup> annual observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, held this year from April 9 to April 15. Reno presented the awards at a ceremony on Capitol Hill.

"It is especially fitting that today, on the fifth anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, we pause to reflect on the terrible cost exacted by crime and to honor these dedicated individuals, communities and organizations," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "Each of these awardees represents a remarkable story of courage, commitment and caring that should inspire our own efforts."

National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity for communities across the country to recognize the millions of Americans who have been victimized by crime and those who help them navigate the confusing and often difficult process of seeking justice.

"By paying tribute to the outstanding work of these victim advocates, we honor all those who serve crime victims," said Kathryn Turman, OVC Director.

Featured at the ceremony was artwork by Gretchen Dater, an art student who was one of the 270 passengers killed in the bombing of Pan Am 103. Found in the plane's wreckage was an uncompleted work, which Gretchen's mother, Joan Dater, calls "Unfinished Business" and describes as "a manifestation of a young talent's life cut short."

OVC also premiered a video, which featured sculptures created by Suse Lowenstein, mother of Alexander Lowenstein, one of 35 Syracuse University students aboard Pan Am 103. Each of the 50 life-sized statues, designed to honor the families of the bombing victims, captures the emotions of one of the victim's mothers upon learning of the death of her child. Ms. Lowenstein placed an item belonging to the victim at the heart of each sculpture.

OVC selected the Crime Victim Service awardees from more than 110 nominations received from federal, state and local victim assistance programs, national victim assistance organizations, Members of Congress, Governors, U.S. Attorneys and individual citizens.

Honored by the Attorney General were:

### **BRUCE COOK**

Atlanta, Georgia

Bruce Cook became active in the crime victims movement following the murder of his step-brother in 1977. While serving on the American Correctional Association's Task Force on Victims of Crime from

1987 to 1992, Mr. Cook was commended for his work in helping to formulate 15 national recommendations to improve the rights of crime victims in correctional agencies. Due in large part to Mr. Cook's efforts, the State of Georgia passed legislation requiring and implementing victim notification in correctional settings. In the early 1990s, Mr. Cook was instrumental in the development of an innovative community restitution program for

federal prisoners housed in a minimum security prison. The program utilized inmate labor to replace the roofs and weatherproof the homes of the elderly poor. In 1989, Mr. Cook founded the Crime Victims Advocacy Council, which provides free counseling to hundreds of crime victims, particularly homicide survivors, and he has served as its president, secretary, and advisor. Mr. Cook's 22-year commitment to victims' rights and services has been fulfilled primarily in a volunteer capacity and has resulted in the establishment of model restorative justice programs across the country.

## **CASA DE LOS NINOS**

Jeanne Landdeck-Sisco, Executive Director

Tucson, Arizona

Casa de los Ninos (House of the Children) opened the nation's first crisis nursery for severely abused children in November 1973. The organization offers beds to children from birth to nine years of age who have been physically or sexually abused, criminally neglected, abandoned, left homeless or medically vulnerable. The average length of stay for children is 43 days, but some remain for more than a year. During their time at the nursery, children receive comprehensive medical and dental care. Licensed nurses are on staff 24 hours-a-day to ensure proper treatment for residents, including injured children who could not be cared for outside the hospital, and drug-exposed, premature infants. Casa de los Ninos also cares for child victims with severe burns, seizures, feeding tubes, and those in wheelchairs and body casts. In addition, staff utilize a Strength and Resiliency Building Program for the older children, which gives them opportunities to develop skills and boost their self-esteem. With the help of the Southern Arizona community, Casa has sheltered over 25,000 children. While there are hundreds of shelters in the United States that are modeled after Casa de los Ninos, very few are able to provide the breadth and depth of services, especially medical services, to the nation's most vulnerable child victims.

## **WAYNE FORTIN**

Vista, California

In 1985, Wayne Fortin founded Trauma Intervention Programs, Inc. (TIP), a non-profit organization that serves victims of crime. Under his leadership, TIP has grown from a local victims' support program to a national network that serves 75 cities and counties across the nation. TIP trains and supervises citizen volunteers who are contacted round-the-clock by police and other emergency personnel to provide emotional and practical support to crime victims, including victims of seemingly "minor" crimes such as purse snatching. As a result of Mr. Fortin's work, thousands of crime victims have received on-the-scene support, police departments across the nation have replicated the TIP model, and emergency responders in many locales have benefitted from "emotional first aid training" to enable them to provide compassionate care to victims. The Ford Foundation and Harvard University honored the program with the Innovations in State and Local Government Award.

## **THE JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA VICTIM SERVICES CENTER**

Mary Blake-Holley, Chief

Jacksonville, Florida

The Jacksonville Victim Services Center is the nation's first full-service, one-stop victim services center and has served over 20,000 child and adult victims of crime since it opened in 1987. By utilizing city funds and a specialized Victim Assistance Trust Fund, victims receive assistance with the filing of compensation claims; counseling; court advocacy; emergency food, shelter, and transportation; pharmaceuticals; medical referrals; hotline counseling; and home security enhancements. The Center utilizes a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to respond to sexual assault victims and provides free forensic exams. It also provides community education through a variety of means, including a radio talk show and a monthly cable television program run by and for crime victims. The Center operates a police academy training program and a five-week summer youth crime prevention and education program and collaborates with law enforcement to maintain a crisis response team. The Center's Hospital After Hours Program is located in a local hospital emergency room and notifies victims of services, make referrals, and serves as a liaison between families and medical staff. Its Beaches Satellite Office offers convenient services to beach residents victimized by crime. In 1999, the Center expanded its outreach and education efforts further by assisting a local historic black college located in a high crime area to establish a campus victim assistance program and to implement an elder/disabled victims' home van service to serve victims who cannot come to the Center.

### **THOMAS ALESSANDRO**

New York, New York

Through 22 years of dedicated service, Thomas Alessandro has developed the Witness Aid Services Unit into a comprehensive program addressing the needs of all crime victims who come to the New York County District Attorney's Office. At the same time, he has strived to reach underserved victims in the community through numerous partnerships. During his tenure as director, Mr. Alessandro has been responsible for a number of organizational enhancements, including establishment of a counseling department and creation of a child victim specialist position. The counseling staff is now made up of certified clinical social workers who provide individual and group therapy for victims. Mr. Alessandro also directed the development of new technology to increase the efficiency and availability of victim services, including protection order tracking and victim notification systems. He has forged partnerships with organizations outside the criminal justice system to offer additional services to victims, including the AT&T Cell Phone Project, which, along with many other services, provides crime victims with 911-programmed cell phones for use in emergencies. Mr. Alessandro extends his active and innovative advocacy for victims beyond his professional role, and has been actively involved with numerous other state and local initiatives, such as the development of the New York City Victim Information and Notification System. His dedicated efforts have succeeded in securing numerous new rights and services for crime victims.

### **HELGA AZIZKHAN**

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

Helga Azizkhan was thrust into an activist's role when a drunk driver killed her son, a surgical resident at a local hospital, in 1982. Ms. Azizkhan used the public attention focused on her son's death to help launch her area's first Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) chapter in a three-county area of Pennsylvania. Since 1983, she has served several terms as the MADD chapter's president and has sat on the boards of several related organizations. She has worked tirelessly in the area and throughout

Pennsylvania to raise the state's minimum drinking age and prioritize DUI license suspensions. In 1994, the national MADD organization awarded her its national Golden Achievement Award, the highest honor given to MADD volunteers, for the significant contributions she has made to her community and state. Ms. Azizkhan and her husband have created a trust fund in their son's memory-the Dr. Karl Azizkhan Memorial Fund-which is used solely to support victim services. She plans to use her Crime Victim Service Award as a platform for furthering awareness of the plight of victims in Pennsylvania.

**SPECIAL AWARD FOR INNOVATIONS IN SERVICE  
TO VICTIMS IN INDIAN COUNTRY**

**ROUND VALLEY INDIAN TRIBES**

**S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN PROGRAM**

Margaret Hoaglen, Program Coordinator

Covelo, California

The Round Valley Indian Tribes' S.T.O.P. Violence Against Indian Women Program opened in May of 1998 and has already made an extraordinary impact on the community it serves. Program staff set to work immediately to forge partnerships with local agencies, entering into formal memoranda of agreement with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and the County Victim Witness Unit. They also completed a draft tribal domestic violence ordinance that has generated open discussion of domestic violence issues. They have conducted local workshops to test community attitudes toward women of color and tribal tradition. The program works collaboratively with the local domestic violence shelter and has provided funding to support its Children's Program, which includes licensed day care, counseling, and support for children living in the shelter. The Round Valley S.T.O.P. program is an example of how dedication and collaboration with local resources can make a positive difference in the lives of domestic violence victims and their children.

**SPECIAL AWARDS FOR COURAGEOUS RESPONSE TO HATE CRIME**

**JUDY AND DENNIS SHEPARD**

Casper, Wyoming

Judy and Dennis Shepard have used the attention generated by the murder of their son, Matthew, as a platform for positive change in the criminal justice system's response to crimes motivated by hate. In October 1998, Matthew, a gay student at the University of Wyoming, was lured to a rural road, tied to a fence, beaten into unconsciousness, and left to die. Matthew's funeral and the subsequent trials of his killers generated tremendous media interest. The Shepards have used their visibility to draw attention to the nation's growing concern about the prevalence of hate crime, in which thousands of Americans are victimized each year because of their skin color, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation. They have also spoken out on the need for stronger state and federal legislation to protect against hate-inspired violence.

**THE FAMILY OF JAMES BYRD, JR.**

Thurman Byrd, brother of James Byrd, Jr.

Early in the morning of June 7, 1998, James Byrd, Jr. was walking home along Martin Luther King Boulevard in his hometown of Jasper, Texas when he was picked up by three white men. He was beaten, chained by his ankles to a pickup truck, and dragged to his death. The crimes' brutality sparked national debate on the state of race relations in the United States. The Byrd family, however, spoke out against any attempt to appropriate James' death for divisive purposes. In a statement of extraordinary conciliation released soon after his murder, the family said that "we as human beings are all interconnected" and implored the nation not to allow James' death to "be a spark that ignites more hatred, alienation and retribution."

## **SPECIAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSE**

### **TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

#### **DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY CONSTABULARY**

Willie Rae QPM, Chief Constable

Police Headquarters, Cornwall Mount

Dumfries, Scotland

#### **DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL**

Andrew Campbell, Convener and Senior Elected Member

Dumfries, Scotland

The bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 on December 21, 1988 claimed the lives of 270 people from 21 countries, including 189 Americans. The tragedy affected not only the family and loved ones of the passengers, but also the residents of Lockerbie in south Scotland, the town over which the explosion occurred. Thousands of police, fire officials, military personnel, rescue workers, and citizens responded.

The **Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary**, the smallest of eight police divisions in Scotland, set the standard not only for the Office for Victims of Crime's and the federal government's response to the Pan Am 103 families, but also for the response of law enforcement officials everywhere to crises. Officials spent three years identifying and cataloging victims' human remains and personal belongings and returning them quickly to relatives. Officers went to extraordinary lengths to retrieve the remains and belongings from the 845 square mile field of debris and match them with victims, in some cases using magnifying glasses to identify items from photographs. As a result of these extraordinary efforts, most of the Pan Am 103 families were able to recover at least a few of their loved one's possessions.

Over the years, the police have made visits to the United States to meet with families to explain autopsy results and bring them up to date on the case. They initiated, and along with other Scottish officials and representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice, participated in a recent briefing for 200 American relatives on the upcoming trial. This past Christmas, more than 600 relatives received a newsletter and Christmas card from the Constabulary. The officers at Dumfries and Galloway have demonstrated consistent professionalism, whole-hearted commitment, and remarkable compassion in responding to an extraordinary tragedy.

Despite their own trauma and loss, the citizens of Lockerbie and the region, represented by the

**Dumfries and Galloway Council**, mobilized to aid the families of the Pan Am 103 victims. Working with the local Lockerbie council, the Council set up a community support office to coordinate volunteer efforts by both private citizens and professionals. The volunteers assisted police with the preparation of victims' belongings for return to the families, which involved constructing a warehouse for inventorying items, washing and ironing articles of victims' clothes, drying soggy diaries and letters, and packaging belongings. The Council also helped to create the Lockerbie Trust for handling donations coming in from around the world. The Trust has provided assistance with travel and funding for counseling, and has contributed to building a memorial cairn at Arlington National Cemetery.

The community support office also created a "Friendship Group" to attend to the needs of bereaved relatives who traveled to Lockerbie to visit the site where their loved ones were found. Citizens opened their homes to the visiting relatives. A local cab driver spent a week driving a young widow around the area and refused payment. The compassion, generosity and resilience of the people of Lockerbie, represented by the Dumfries and Galloway Council, show that the Pan Am 103 story is one not only of devastating tragedy, but of great human spirit.

OVC is the federal government's chief advocate for crime victims and their families. In addition to funding state victim compensation and victim assistance programs, OVC trains those who work with victims and develops projects to enhance victims' rights and services. This frequently involves responding to high profile incidents such as the Pan Am 103 bombing, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Columbine and other school shootings, the Capitol Hill shootings and the embassy bombings in Africa.

OVC's activities are financed by the Crime Victims Fund. Criminal fines collected in one year by U.S. Attorneys, the U.S. Courts and Bureau of Prisons are deposited into the fund and are available for grant awards in the following year. The fund is supported solely by these fines, which are paid by federal criminal offenders - not taxpayers.

Further information about OVC, its programs and resources is available at <http://web.archive.org/web/20070808080432/http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>, from the OJP home page at <http://web.archive.org/web/20070808080432/http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/>, or by calling the OVC Resource Center at 800/627-6872.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2001

OVC  
202/307-0703

**ATTORNEY GENERAL ASHCROFT RECOGNIZES  
THOSE WHO ASSIST AMERICA'S CRIME VICTIMS**

WASHINGTON, DC - Attorney General John Ashcroft today marked the sixth anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing by honoring two individuals and three organizations with the Crime Victim Service Award, the highest federal award for victim advocacy. The awardees are from Alaska, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Kentucky First Lady Judi Patton and Oregon Judge John Collins received special leadership awards. Susan Lawrence, a former Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) employee, received a posthumous award for professional innovation.

Ashcroft also recognized federal employees whose extraordinary efforts increased restitution to federal crime victims and deposits into the Crime Victims Fund, which supports millions of crime victims across the nation. One individual and five teams of U.S. Attorney and FBI personnel from Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri and Wisconsin received the Crime Victims Fund Award. "The dedication and service of the people we honor today, as well as countless other victim advocates, are making a difference in the lives of crime victims across the nation," said "Through their efforts, we are able to ensure that crime victims are never forgotten as we pursue justice."

Ashcroft presented the awards at a ceremony on Capitol Hill, which was part of the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime's 21<sup>st</sup> federal observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). Held this year from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>, NCVRW gives communities across the country an opportunity to organize and hold observances, candlelight vigils, rallies and other events in honor and support of crime victims and their rights.

Service award recipients included two women who have dedicated the past 25 years to addressing domestic violence and child abuse. Susan Kelly-Dreiss of Pennsylvania, who grew up in a violent home, helped pass the state's first domestic violence law and establish the nation's first domestic violence coalition. Dilsa Rohan Capdeville established the first child abuse task force in the U.S. Virgin Islands and advocated for legislation that makes child abuse a felony in the territory.

Among the organizations receiving federal recognition is the Center for Victims of Torture in

Minneapolis, the first treatment center in the United States for survivors of politically motivated torture. The Alaska Native Women Sexual Assault Committee, formed to address the high incidence of assaults of Native women in the Anchorage area, was recognized for its efforts that have helped reduce the number of reported assaults by 20 percent. The Children's Assessment Center in Houston, Texas, the largest child advocacy center in the nation, has handled nearly 10,000 child abuse cases and served over 38,000 children.

Fund award recipients included Canella Henrichs, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, who worked with the district court to amend orders for fines and restitution and track down victims owed restitution in old cases. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Idaho's Financial Litigation Unit used innovative asset location measures in a landmark case involving \$6 million in fines and restitution to obtain restitution for a permanently disabled victim of an environmental crime.

"I am honored to recognize the extraordinary work of these civil servants who have shown remarkable diligence and ingenuity in pursuing criminal offenders to secure criminal fines and have demonstrated the value of collaboration," said Ashcroft. "Their efforts ensure criminals do, in fact, pay what is rightfully owed to victims."

The Attorney General also recognized the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri, which handled large case loads (more than 850 cases per specialist) and provided training to criminal justice participants, including district court judges. The District of Maryland's U.S. Attorney's Office more than doubled its criminal debt collections from \$3 million to \$7 million in FY 2000, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida more than doubled its FY 2000 criminal recovery, from \$12 million to \$27.5 million. An FBI Special Agent and Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin secured more than \$99,000 in restitution and fines from a defendant who willfully failed to pay a criminal fine.

OVC administers the Crime Victims Fund. Criminal fines collected by U.S. Attorneys, the U.S. Courts, the U.S. Military and Bureau of Prisons are deposited into the fund. The fund is supported solely by these fines, which are paid by federal criminal offenders.

OVC is the federal government's chief advocate for crime victims and their families. In addition

to funding state victim compensation and victim assistance programs, OVC trains those who work with victims and develops projects to enhance victims' rights and services. Further information about the Crime Victim Service Awardees and additional information about OVC, its programs and resources are available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc), from the OJP home page at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov), or by calling the OVC Resource Center at 800/627-6872.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2002

OVC  
202/307-0703

**ATTORNEY GENERAL ASHCROFT HONORS  
AMERICANS WHO ASSIST CRIME VICTIMS**

**Chaplain Who Helped September 11 Victims Among Those Recognized**

WASHINGTON, DC - Attorney General John Ashcroft today presented the Crime Victim Service Award, the highest federal award for victim advocacy, to individuals from California, Mississippi and New York and an organization from Missouri. The ceremony was part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> federal observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW).

"We were all horrified by the terrorist attacks of September 11th and deeply moved by the efforts of those who reached out to the victims," said Attorney General Ashcroft. "Today we pay tribute to those heroic men and women and to the thousands of advocates who labor on behalf of crime victims every day."

Among the awardees was Chaplain Mindi Russell, Executive Director and Senior Chaplain for the Law Enforcement Chaplaincy in Sacramento, who in days following the September 11 terrorist attacks, trained more than 500 chaplains at the World Trade Center and Pentagon sites on mass disaster care.

The Attorney General also honored an organization in Olympia, Washington for professional innovation and a United States Attorney Victim Witness Coordinator in North Carolina for outstanding federal service to crime victims.

"The men and women we honor today come from many different walks of life - federal government and state government, professional victim advocates and volunteers," added Ashcroft. "Together, they show that we all have a role to play in serving victims, protecting them from further harm and ensuring that their rights are recognized."

Held this year from April 21<sup>st</sup> to April 27<sup>th</sup>, NCVRW gives communities across the country an opportunity to organize and hold observances, candlelight vigils, rallies and other events in honor and support of crime victims and their rights.

Service Award recipients include three parents who, after their daughters were murdered, dedicated themselves to supporting other crime victims. David and Ann Scoville of New York are longtime advocates for state and national DNA databases to improve the collection of forensic evidence. Their efforts led to the establishment of statewide DNA databases in Vermont and Rhode Island, and to passage of the Federal DNA Identification Act. Carolyn Clayton founded Survival, Inc., which provides services such as crisis intervention, court advocacy, in-home visits and group support to victims of violent crime in 23 Mississippi counties.

Also receiving a Crime Victim Service Award was Aid for Victims of Crime, Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, the first full-scale victim assistance program in the United States, which celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

The second Susan Laurence Memorial Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services was presented to Washington State's Address Confidentiality Program, which ensures that victims of

domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cannot be tracked through the state's public records. Lynne Ward Crout, Victim Witness Coordinator for the Western District of North Carolina received the inaugural Federal Service Award for her efforts to help the victims' families in three difficult, emotionally wrenching murder cases.

The Attorney General also recognized federal employees whose extraordinary efforts improved restitution to federal crime victims and deposits into the Crime Victims Fund, which

supports millions of crime victims across the nation. The Financial Litigation Unit for the District of Puerto Rico helped streamline restitution procedures, making it easier to collect from offenders on supervised release. The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Iowa helped institute a new policy that allows victim restitution to be paid directly into the Crime Victims Fund.

The Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) administers the Crime Victims Fund. U.S. Attorneys, the U.S. Courts, the U.S. Military and the Bureau of Prisons collect the criminal fines which are deposited into the fund. The fund is supported solely by these fines, which are paid by federal criminal offenders.

OVC is the federal government's chief advocate for crime victims and their families. In addition to funding state victim compensation and victim assistance programs, OVC

trains those who work with victims and develops projects to enhance victims' rights and services. Further information about the Crime Victim Service Awardees and additional information about OVC, its programs and resources are available at through the OJP Website at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc) and from the OVC Resource Center at 1-800/627-6872.

Media should contact OJP's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at 202/307-0703.

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