National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

April 6-12, 2014 is National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW), sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).

Every year, the recognition of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week provides an opportunity to bring awareness to crime victims and the struggles they face. This year’s theme—30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice—honors the extraordinary progress that has been made on behalf of millions of victims since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) by Congress in 1984. Before VOCA was enacted, the world was very different for crime victims, their families and communities. Community resources and support for crime victims in the community were not always available, and victims were often not considered or included in the justice process. Over the past three decades, great strides have been made in many areas, offering much more involvement and support for crime victims. This year’s theme serves as a reminder of not only how far we have come, but also of the work still ahead to restore the balance of justice to all those harmed by crime.

Inside this issue is a partial listing of the events occurring nationally and around our state to observe National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. We invite you to participate and support events to renew your own commitment to your work and honor victims in their recovery.

National

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 2:00 - 3:30 PM (EDT)
National Crime Victims’ Service Awards Ceremony
Robert F. Kennedy Dept. of Justice Building, Washington, D.C.
OVC annually recognizes individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in supporting victims and victim services. The award recipients, who are selected from public nominations in nine categories, are extraordinary individuals, organizations, teams, and programs that provide services to victims of crime. The honorees are announced and honored at the National Crime Victims’ Service Awards Ceremony.

The event is free and open to the public. You must register by April 4, 2014 to attend. You can register on the OVC website at http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/events.html.
Coconino County

Monday, April 7, 2014, All Day
“My Little Black Dress Does Not Mean Yes” Campaign, Northern Arizona University Campus
Leads up to the Panel Discussion at Cline Library at 6:30 PM.

Monday, April 7, 2014, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Panel Discussion -- Violence and Gender: How People Survive Trauma & Challenge Society, Cline Library Assembly Hall, Northern Arizona University
Discussion Panel featuring: Laura Gray-Rosendale, Professor of English at NAU and author of College Girl; Arianne Burford, PhD, Lecturer in Women’s and Gender Studies at NAU; and Myra Ferell-Womochil, MA, Executive Director of Victim/Witness Services of Coconino County.

Maricopa County

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 11:00 AM
KROC Corps Community Center - Phoenix South Mountain, 1375 East Broadway Road, Phoenix
The Arizona Governor’s Office, Arizona Attorney General’s Office, Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, Arizona Department of Corrections, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections and the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council (APAAC) are pleased to invite you to attend their 2014 Victims’ Rights Week Event. The event is a joint effort of the six agencies to recognize NCVRW, celebrate the accomplishments in Victims’ Rights, and recognize those who have gone above and beyond for victims of crime. There will be a keynote speaker and lunch will be provided.

Seating is limited, and you must RSVP to attend. You can reserve your place by visiting our online registration link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014NCVRLunch.
The deadline to RSVP is Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

Navajo County

Friday, April 11, 2014, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
(Registration and breakfast begin at 8:00 AM)
Navajo County Attorney’s 5th Annual Victims’ Rights Symposium, NPC, 1611 South Main Street, Snowflake
The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Rosalinda Mercado-Garza. Dr. Mercado-Garza grew up in a family of migrant workers and dreamed of a life beyond the fields. With 17 years of experience as an educator, she has made it a mission to promote self-actualization, resilience and healthy living. Workshops that will be held that day include:
  * Child Crimes on Tribal Lands - Dimitra Sampson
  * Family Advocacy Centers - Kathy McLaughlin, Executive Director of ACFAN
  * Child Perpetrators
  * CPS Investigations & Toddler Healing - Kate Dobler-Allen, First Things First; Kateri Piecuch, CPS; and DeAnn Davies, First Things First
For more information please email Ms. Cheryl Harris at Cheryl.harris@navajocountyaz.gov.

Pima County

Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 3:30 - 5:00 PM
2014 Pima County Victims’ Rights Week Commemoration, YWCA of Tucson, 525 North Bonita Avenue (West of I-10, South of St. Mary’s Road), Tucson
Ms. Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney, is pleased to host this event in recognition of individuals who make a difference in the lives of victims and honor those who have been directly impacted by crime.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 2nd to the Pima County Attorney’s Office, Victim Services Division at 520-740-5525 or robert.mccafferty@pcao.pima.gov.

Arizona Events
Social Media Resources for NCVRW
The National Center for Victims of Crime can be found on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/NCVRW. During the month of April, they invite you to post photos from and information about your events on their NCVRW Facebook wall. (As of this writing, their page has not been updated for 2014.)

You can also follow the National Center for Victims of Crime on Twitter at @CrimeVictimsOrg. Tweet about your events using the hashtag #2014NCVRW and they will be happy to retweet your messages or share information about your events or other outreach.

*Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.*

– MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (1929-1968)