

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hagatna, GU – The Office of the Attorney General of Guam Celebrates National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, April 19-25, 2015

Every April, the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) helps lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) by promoting victims’ rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This year’s NCVRW will be held April 19-25 and the theme *Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims*, presents the opportunity to highlight the diversity of our communities, expand partnerships to serve victims of crime, enhance efforts to meet victims where they are, and empower crime victims as they pursue justice and recovery.

The U.S. Department of Justice will kick off the week with OVC’s annual National Crime Victims’ Service Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC to honor outstanding individuals and programs that serve victims of crime.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) of Guam, in collaboration with the Governor of Guam and our stakeholders, will observe National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with special events and programs, including

- Proclamation Signing by the Honorable Raymond S. Tenorio, Acting Governor of Guam – April 17th
- Appointment of the Attorney General’s Victim Advisory Group
- Announcement of the Efforts to Activate the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission
- Announcement of the VOCA Funding
- Crime Victim Stakeholder Focus Group Meeting – April 20th
- Talk Radio
- Announcement of new victim legislation

NCVRW honors and celebrates the achievements of the past thirty years in securing rights, protections, and services for victims. The bipartisan Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, created a national fund to ease victims’ suffering. Financed by fines and penalties paid by offenders, the Crime Victims Fund supports victim assistance and services, such as rape crisis and domestic violence programs and victim compensation programs that pay victims’ out-of-pocket

expenses such as counseling, funeral expenses, and lost wages. VOCA has also pioneered support efforts for victims of once-hidden crimes such as domestic and sexual violence. Outreach is increasingly focused on previously underserved victim populations. Efforts are being made to ensure that all victims, regardless of their background or the crime committed against them, receive the support they deserve.

“Victim empowerment is a central tenant of our work,” said Joye E. Frost, Director, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice. “By engaging the entire community, we are able to maximize and leverage existing resources to better serve *all* victims of crime and provide the necessary support through their journey to healing. This year’s NCVRW theme emphasizes that we all have a role to play.”

OVC encourages widespread participation in the week’s events and in other victim-related observances throughout the year. For additional information about the 2015 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week and how to assist victims in your community, please contact Pauline U. Camacho, Special Assistant, or Cathleen Moylan, Supervisor, Victim Witness Ayuda Services, Office of the Attorney General of Guam at (671) 475-2711 or visit www.guamag.org. For additional ideas on how to support victims of crime, visit the Office for Victims of Crime website, www.ovc.gov.