



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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Yolo County District Attorney Hosts 5th Annual Crime Victims' Tribute
2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Starts on April 10

(Woodland/California) –April 11, 2011- Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that the Yolo County District Attorney's Office and Victim Services Division will be holding its 5th Annual Crime Victims' Tribute on April 15, 2011 to honor crime victims who have survived and persevered through their victimization and subsequent court prosecution.

April 10, 2011, marks the beginning of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in honor of victims and the advocates of victims' rights. This year's theme—*Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*—evokes victims' past struggles and our nation's duty to help them rebuild stronger lives.

District Attorney Reisig hosted the first tribute ceremony after his election in 2007. "We talk about preserving the dignity of victims and their families," said Reisig. "The tribute ceremony is a favorite of mine because we get to honor our victims for their strength and resilience."

For victims, reshaping the future means confronting many challenges. After a crime, victims need to know what rights and resources they can count on. They may need funds to bury a loved one or pay medical bills. They may want information on the criminal justice process, their rights to be present or heard in court, and to be notified about court proceedings and offenders' whereabouts. Yet many victims do not find the help they need.

For victim advocates, reshaping the future—particularly in these financially stressed times—means finding ways to do more with less. It means locating resources for victims and helping new victims, such as the millions harmed by financial fraud. Reshaping the future requires meeting present and emerging challenges.

Honoring the past also means recalling a time, not too many years ago, when victims had no voice in the criminal justice system— when murder victims' families were excluded from courtrooms and assault victims paid all their own medical bills. National Crime Victims' Rights Week honors the victims and advocates who confronted such injustices and helped produce a

nationwide system of victim compensation and victims' rights. It also reminds us that failures to enforce these laws or to fund programs for victims jeopardize the success of these reforms.

“Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past captures the spirit and mission of National Crime Victims' Rights Week,” said Joye E. Frost, acting director of the Federal Office for Victims of Crime. “The past that we honor points to a future when all victims are respected, the laws to protect them are enforced, and the resources they need are in place and accessible to them. Justice demands no less.”

The Victims' Tribute will be held from 12 – 1pm at the Woodland Opera House at 340 Second Street in Woodland, CA. The Yolo County District Attorney's Office and Victim Services Unit will observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week with a proclamation presentation at the Yolo County Board of Supervisors meeting at 9am on April 12, 2011.

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