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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County District Attorney Hosts 6th Annual Victims' Tribute Ceremony
The ceremony will be held during 2012 National Crime Victims' Rights Week

(Woodland, CA) – April 3, 2012 - Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that April 22, 2012, begins National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to honor crime victims and our nation's progress in advancing their rights. This year's theme—*Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim*—celebrates the vision behind that progress and the ideal of serving all victims of crime.

The vision that launched the victims' rights movement emerged more than 30 years ago. Then, as now, crime victims endured physical and emotional wounds and costly financial burdens. Victims also must endure an often intimidating criminal justice system, and an alarming public tendency to blame them for the crimes against them. Victims have been excluded from courtrooms, disrespected by officials, and afforded few rights. They began organizing to confront these challenges and to promote fair, compassionate, and respectful responses to victims of crime.

Since the 1980s, the nation has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims of crime. Every state has enacted victims' rights laws, and 32 states have constitutional victims' rights amendments. All states have victim compensation funds, and more than 10,000 victim service agencies have been established throughout the country.

Yet there is still so much to do. Only a fraction of victims receive crime victim compensation, which is usually limited to victims of violent crime. The victim services system can be fragmented, and agencies and shelters are struggling to keep their doors open in the face of current budget cuts.

However victim advocates have not lost their resolve. "Our commitment to 'extend the vision' and 'reach every victim' will overcome every challenge that confronts us now," said Joye E. Frost, Acting Director, Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. "The vision, determination, and passion for justice that inspired our history will help us transform the future for every victim of crime."

Yolo County District Attorney's Office will observe National Crime Victims' Rights week with a proclamation presented from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors on April 10, 2012 at 9am at the Board of Supervisors meeting. The proclamation will be presented to Nadine Pinkerton, whose son was severely injured in a hit and run crime in 2007. Ultimately the driver was prosecuted and found guilty by a jury in 2011. The District Attorney's office will also be hosting the 6th annual Crime Victims' Tribute on April 23, 2012 at 12pm at Woodland Opera House, 340 Second Street. The tribute will be recognizing four victims and/or their families who have made it through their victimization by using their courage and strength.

Each community can encourage its members to participate in the week's events and find ways to help victims of crime. For additional information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week and how to help victims in your community, please contact Yolo County Victim Services Program at (530)666-8187, or visit Yolo County District Attorney's Office at www.yoloda.org. For more ideas on how to volunteer, visit the Office for Victims of Crime Web site, www.crimevictims.gov.

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