

**Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus
Annual National Awards**

N O M I N A T I O N P A C K E T

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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This is an opportunity to recognize and honor YOUR constituents whose commitment and work have directly benefited victims and survivors of crime, those who serve them, and community and public safety in America.

Introduction

The Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus was founded in 2005 by Rep. Ted Poe (TX-02) and Rep. Jim Costa (CA-20), who today serve as its Co-Chairs. The mission of the Congressional Crime Victim's Rights Caucus is to elevate crime victim issues in Congress in a bipartisan manner without infringing on the rights of the accused, and to represent and advocate before the Administration and within the Congress on behalf of crime victims. This mission is accomplished through three key goals:

1. To represent crime victims in the United States through the bipartisan introduction of legislation that reflects their interests, rights and needs.
2. To provide an ongoing forum for dialog between the Congress and national victim assistance organizations to enhance mutual education, legislative advocacy and initiatives that promote justice for *all* – including victims of crime.
3. To seek opportunities for public education initiatives to help people in America to understand the impact of crime on victims, and to encourage their involvement in crime prevention, victim assistance, and community safety.

The Caucus has proven to be an effective leader in advocating for crime victims. During its three-year existence, the Caucus has taken the lead in protecting programs—including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA)— that provide critical financial support for victim services throughout the nation. The Caucus was also instrumental in the enactment of the *Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006* and has co-sponsored resolutions recognizing National Crime Victims' Rights Week, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Stalking Awareness Month, National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and National Remembrance for Murder Victims.

Since 2006, the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus has honored outstanding individuals, agencies and collaborative initiatives whose efforts directly benefit victims and survivors of crime, and promote individual and public safety. The Caucus will host the 2009 Awards Ceremony on Capitol Hill during the week prior to the annual commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which is scheduled for the week of April 26 – May 2, 2009.

Invitation to Congressional Members to Submit Nominations for the 2009 Awards

House Members have the opportunity to nominate and to honor their constituents whose efforts have made a difference in the lives of crime victims and survivors, and those who serve them.

Members may only submit ONE nomination in EACH of the five categories:

1. The “Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award”

This award honors the memory of Eva Murillo, a prominent crime victim advocate in the state of California. Murillo, who passed away in 2005, was best known for her twelve years of distinguished service to the Kings County Victim Witness Assistance Program, where she pioneered efforts to help women in abusive relationships

The honoree is a crime victim or survivor, who has experienced a personal tragedy and triumphed over adversity. This award recognizes a person who has utilized his or her experiences as a crime victim or survivor to promote public education and awareness, public policy development, and/or greater awareness about crime victims’ rights and needs. Through his or her efforts, the recipient has given hope to other crime victims and survivors.

2. The “Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy”

This award honors the memory of Ed Stout, the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, MO – one of the nation’s three oldest victim assistance organizations – who died in 2005 following a 30+ year career of inspiring crime victims and those who serve them.

The honoree is a professional or volunteer whose efforts *directly* benefit victims and survivors of crime. The award recognizes innovations in victim assistance and crime victim services in the areas of program development, public or agency policy development, community and public awareness, and collaboration among community- and justice-based organizations that serve victims of crime.

3. The “Allied Profession Award”

This award recognizes the efforts of individuals, organizations, and/or coalitions that directly benefit victims of crime, but whom are *not* direct victim service providers (including but not limited to criminal and juvenile justice, health, mental health, faith communities, academia and educators, and civic leadership). The honoree exhibits leadership, creativity and commitment in linking allied professions to improve the plight of crime victims in our Nation.

4. The “Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation”

This award pays tribute to California Judge Lois Haight who, as an appointee of President Ronald Reagan and Chair of his 1982 President’s Task Force on Victims of Crime, led pioneering efforts on behalf of crime victims that resulted in significant public policy advances to promote crime victims’ rights and services.

The honoree is a professional whose efforts have had a significant impact on local, state, national or international public policy development and implementation that promote dignity, respect, rights and services for victims of crime.

5. The “Suzanne McDaniel Public Awareness Award”

This award honors Suzanne McDaniel, one of the first prosecutor-based victim advocates in Texas and in the nation. McDaniel created Harris County’s first community interagency council on sexual assault and family violence and the first rape exam protocol for Houston Hospital and Medical Associations. She also formed the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse, the first statewide resource in the nation, and helped draft and pass the Texas Crime Victim Bill of Rights, the Texas Crime Victims’ Compensation Act, and the Texas Constitutional Amendment on Crime Victim Rights.

This honoree is an individual or organization that has used his/her/its voice, throughout the media, to promote and to bring about change at the National level for crime victims.

The Nomination Process

A nominating Member must answer *two questions* for each nomination. Please limit your responses to each question to *no more than 750 words*. Each nomination can be accompanied by *up to two **one-page** letters of support* from individuals who are familiar with the nominee's work.

Nomination forms and accompanying documentation must be submitted to the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus no later than **Friday, February 13, 2009 at 5:00pm**. **Nominations must be submitted electronically to vrcc@mail.house.gov.**

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All Caucus members will receive advance notification of the 2009 Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus Awards winners by **Friday, March 13, 2009**.

The 2009 Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus Award winners will be personally notified by telephone by Friday, March 13, 2009.

The Awards Ceremony

The Caucus sponsors an inspiring Awards Ceremony which, in the past, has included award winners and their families, and representatives from national, state, and local victim assistance programs nationwide. All Caucus members and their staff are invited to attend.

Members, whose nominees receive one of the five Caucus awards, will be asked to co-present the award with Caucus Co-chairs Ted Poe and Jim Costa.

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Rayburn Room 2168.

ALL nominees submitted by Members will receive a "Certificate of Recognition" signed by the Caucus Co-chairs, with room for the signature of the nominating Member.

Note: All awardees are responsible for expenses related to personal travel to attend the 2009 Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus Awards Ceremony on April 22, 2009.

***The Awards Ceremony will take place on
Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.***

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about the individual awards or the nomination process, please contact:

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NOMINATION FORM

Nomination Submitted by Representative _____

State and District: _____

Staff Contact: (name, telephone and email address) _____

Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus Award Nomination Category (please circle one):

The Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award

The Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy

The Allied Professional Award

The Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation

The Suzanne McDaniel Public Awareness Award

Please "cut and paste" the nomination form for the appropriate category(ies) from one of the following five pages that follows this form, and attach it to this nomination form. Please submit only one nomination for each category.

Nomination forms and accompanying documentation must be submitted to the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus **no later than Friday, February 13, 2009 at 5:00pm.**

Nominations must be submitted electronically to vrc@mail.house.gov.

Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus National Awards

The "Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award"

This award honors the memory of Eva Murillo, a prominent crime victim advocate in the state of California. Murillo, who passed away in 2005, was best known for her twelve years of distinguished service to the Kings County Victim Witness Assistance Program, where she pioneered efforts to help women in abusive relationships

The honoree is a crime victim or survivor, who has experienced a personal tragedy and triumphed over adversity. This award recognizes a person who has utilized his or her experiences as a crime victim or survivor to promote public education and awareness, public policy development, and/or greater awareness about crime victims' rights and needs. Through his or her efforts, the recipient has given hope to other crime victims and survivors.

Nominee Information:

Name of Nominee: _____

Affiliation/Agency (if applicable):

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please limit your responses to *no more than 750 words* per question.

1. Briefly describe the nominee's personal experience as a victim/survivor of crime (*including type of crime, year and location*).

2. How have the nominee's efforts in the aftermath of criminal victimization made a *positive difference* in public awareness, public education, public policy development, or other significant areas that ultimately benefit victims and survivors of crime?

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This award honors the memory of Ed Stout, the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, MO – one of the nation's three oldest victim assistance organizations. Ed Stout's 30+ year career inspired crime victims and those who serve them. He died in 2005.

The honoree is a professional or volunteer whose efforts directly benefit crime victims and survivors. The award recognizes innovations in victim assistance and crime victim services in the areas of program development, public or agency policy development, community and public awareness, and collaboration among community and justice-based organizations that serve crime victims.

Nominee Information:

Name of Nominee: _____

Affiliation/Agency (if applicable):

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please limit your responses to *no more than 750 words* per question.

1. What are the nominee's *major accomplishments* that directly benefit victims and survivors of crime?
2. Describe any innovations that the nominee has contributed to that improve crime victims' rights or services, and/or community and public safety.

Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus National Awards

The "Allied Profession Award"

This award recognizes the efforts of individuals, organizations, and/or coalitions that directly benefit crime victims, but who are not direct victim service providers (including but not limited to criminal and juvenile justice, health, mental health, faith communities, academia and educators, and civic leadership). The honoree demonstrates leadership, creativity, and commitment in linking allied professions to improve the plight of crime victims in our Nation.

Nominee Information:

Name of Nominee: _____

Affiliation/Agency (if applicable):

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please limit your responses to *no more than 750 words* per question.

1. Describe the "allied profession" to which the nominee belongs, and how his/her/its work within this profession benefits crime victims and survivors.

2. Describe any *unique aspects* of the nominee's efforts that promote leadership and creativity which contribute to collaborative initiatives that ultimately benefit victims and survivors of crime.

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The "Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation"

This award is named in honor of California Judge Lois Haight, an appointee of President Ronald Reagan and Chair of his 1982 President's Task Force on Victims of Crime. Judge Haight led pioneering efforts on behalf of crime victims that resulted in significant public policy advances to promote crime victims' rights and services.

The Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation awardee is a professional whose efforts had a significant impact on local, state, national or international public policy development and implementation that promotes dignity, respect, rights, and services for crime victims.

Nominee Information:

Name of Nominee: _____

Affiliation/Agency (if applicable):

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please limit your responses to *no more than 750 words* per question.

1. Describe how the nominee's efforts have contributed to *significant public policy development* or *the passage of new laws* that promote crime victims' rights and services, and whether the efforts focus on the local, state, national/federal, and/or international levels?

2. How and why are these contributions *innovative* and *significant*?

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This award recognizes an individual or organization that has used their voice, throughout the media, to promote and to bring about change at the National level for crime victims.

Nominee Information:

Name of Nominee: _____

Affiliation/Agency (if applicable):

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please limit your responses to *no more than 750 words* per question.

1. Please describe how the nominee has used his/her/its voice, through the media, to raise awareness of a particular issue related to crime victims.

2. How has the nominee brought about change at the national level for crime victims?