

Celebrating
**25 Years of Progress in
Victims' Rights and Services**

2005 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Awards • April 10–16, 2005

Putting Victims First

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) shares your mission and annually recognizes individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in supporting victims and victim services. We invite you to submit a nomination for one or more of seven awards—the *National Crime Victim Service Award*, the *Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services*, the *Special Courage Award*, the *Allied Professional Award*, the *Volunteer for Victims Award*, the *Crime Victims Fund Award*, and the *Federal Service Award*. In making your nominations, we encourage you to recognize programs and individuals who have made significant contributions to the crime victims field. Recipients of the awards will be honored in Washington, D.C., as part of the federal commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW).

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

In 1980, President Ronald W. Reagan proclaimed the first Crime Victims' Rights Week, calling for "a renewed emphasis on, and an enhanced sensitivity to, the rights of victims." Each April since, communities across the Nation

have held public rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of commemorative activities to promote awareness of victims' rights and needs. The federal observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week culminates in an awards ceremony to honor individuals and programs for their outstanding efforts on behalf of victims. The public and the press are also invited to participate in the awards ceremony, which is tentatively scheduled for April 8, 2005. In addition, a national candlelight observance is tentatively scheduled for April 7, 2005. Both events will take place in Washington, D.C.

Significance of the Awards

As the discipline of crime victim services has grown over the years, so has the number of remarkable individuals and organizations that significantly contribute to its success. Today, the field includes countless people and programs that, through vision, action, and leadership, have improved the lives of victims in the aftermath of crime.

Each year, through the prestigious *National Crime Victim Service Award*, the U.S. Attorney General and the President honor extraordinary individuals and programs who provide services to victims of crime. OVC, within the U.S.

Department of Justice, coordinates the submission of nominations for programs and individuals whose work has been particularly innovative and pioneering and for those who exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes many of our Nation's victim service providers, some of whom are also victims of crime.

The *Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services* was instituted in 2001 in memory of an OVC employee, Susan Laurence, who helped professionals who had not traditionally served victims to develop effective victim responses. In her honor, this award recognizes a program, organization, or individual who has helped to expand the reach of victims' rights and services.

The *Special Courage Award* recognizes an individual or individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary bravery in the aftermath of a crime or who have performed a courageous act on behalf of a victim or potential victim. The award may honor a victim or survivor who has exhibited exceptional perseverance or determination in dealing with his or her own victimization, or it may acknowledge an individual who has acted bravely either to aid a victim or to prevent a victimization.

The new *Allied Professional Award* will recognize an individual or individuals from a specific

1982

★ **President Reagan appoints the Task Force on Victims of Crime.**

The Task Force Final Report offers 68 recommendations to improve the treatment of crime victims.

Congress enacts the Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982.

1983

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) administratively creates the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), as recommended in the President's Task Force Final Report.

DOJ issues the first set of Attorney General guidelines for federal victim and witness assistance to implement provisions of the Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982.

1984

★ **Congress enacts and President Reagan signs the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which establishes the Crime Victims Fund.**

1985

The United Nations General Assembly passes the International Declaration on the Rights of Victims of Crime and the Abuse of Power.

discipline outside the victim assistance field for their service to victims and/or contribution to the victims field. This year, OVC will honor a representative from the faith community.

Many of the dedicated men and women who serve crime victims do so without compensation, in addition to their other responsibilities. The *Volunteer for Victims Award* honors one such individual for his or her selfless efforts to reach out to victims. Examples of volunteerism include but are not limited to crisis counseling, transportation, court accompaniment, food delivery, and emotional and material comfort.

Established by the Victims of Crime Act in 1984, the Crime Victims Fund is a source of federal funding for thousands of victim assistance programs across the country and for victim compensation programs in every state. The *Crime Victims Fund Award* recognizes individuals and teams for their outstanding work in pursuing federal criminal offenders and in imposing and collecting criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees, and special assessments that constitute the Crime Victims Fund.

Finally, the *Federal Service Award* honors individuals for their direct service to victims of federal crime. The award recognizes exceptional contributions by a service provider, other professional, or volunteer on behalf of victims in

Indian Country, on military installations, in national parks, or in other areas governed by federal jurisdiction.

The award winners will be honored at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., tentatively scheduled for April 8, 2005, commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2005. Biographies and accomplishments of former award recipients can be found on OVC's Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw.

Nomination Submission Guidelines

1. Each nomination form must be accompanied by a nomination letter. If you, the nominator, are affiliated with an organization, your nomination letter should be submitted on official stationery and contain your signature and your position/title. No anonymous nominations will be accepted.
2. Each form must include the nominee's full name, date of birth, Social Security number, address, telephone number, and signature. If possible, please provide the nominee's e-mail address. If you are nominating an organization, provide the name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information, and signature of the individual who would accept

About the Office for Victims of Crime

OVC was created in 1984 and formally established by a 1988 amendment to the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to support services for crime victims and training and technical assistance for the field. OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) provides resources for local organizations throughout the country that are often faced with limited financial resources. Through TTAC, OVC offers an infrastructure to assess need and build capacity by delivering training and technical assistance to eligible organizations, free of charge. Call OVC TTAC at 1-866-OVC-TTAC or visit their Web site at www.ovcttac.org. For more information about OVC, call the OVC Resource Center at 1-800-851-3420 (TTY 1-877-712-9279) or visit the OVC Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc.

1986

OVC awards the first VOCA grants to support state victim compensation and assistance programs.

Congress enacts the Children's Justice and Assistance Act (amending VOCA).

1988

OVC funds services specifically for American Indian crime victims.

Congress enacts the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (amending VOCA).

the award. **Note:** Please make sure the nominee's full name is spelled correctly and indicate in the space provided on the form whether another name (e.g., a nickname) needs to appear on the award plaque if the nominee is selected.

3. Your nomination letter should not exceed two single-spaced, single-sided, letter-size (8.5" x11") pages and should be typed using a standard 12-point font. This letter should reflect as much as you know about your nominee's accomplishments and services in supporting crime victims and must address the award questions listed on pages 5 and 6.
4. Please provide additional information about the nominated individual or program that should be considered in the review process. Supporting documentation, such as newspaper articles or résumés, can be attached if it is relevant to the nominee's contributions. **Note:** Videos, bound publications, and notebooks should not be submitted. Only supporting documentation that is submitted with the nomination form will be accepted.
5. The entire nomination package, including supplemental information and letters of support, may not exceed 10 single-spaced, single-sided, letter-size pages. Nominations exceeding this limit will not be considered.

6. Please provide an original and two copies of the entire nomination package.

Note: An individual, program, or organization may be nominated for more than one award. However, a separate letter and nomination form must be submitted for each nomination.

Eligibility Guidelines

1. You may nominate one or more worthy candidates, including individuals, programs, teams, or a network or coalition of individuals and programs. **Note:** Please submit separate nomination packages for each nominee.
2. Nominees can be federal, state, local, or tribal professionals *and* volunteers in direct victim services and allied professions.
3. Candidates nominated but not selected in previous years are also eligible for consideration.
4. Elected officials are *not* eligible for consideration.

Deadlines for Submitting Nominations

Your nomination form and supporting materials must be received no later than October 29,

2004. Your nomination package should be mailed to

Office for Victims of Crime
Attention: National Crime Victims' Rights
Week Committee
810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531

Please be advised that due to increased mail handling security measures, mail sent via the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) may be significantly delayed in reaching OVC. Nominators are encouraged to fax their nomination packages or to consider alternatives to USPS such as commercial carriers. If nominations are submitted by fax, only one copy of the package is required. If a nomination is delayed in the mail and does not reach OVC by the deadline date, it will not be considered.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about the award nominations or selection process, please contact AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. The OVC fax numbers are 202-514-6383 and 202-305-2440.

1990

Congress enacts the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990.

1991

DOJ issues updated, comprehensive Attorney General guidelines that establish procedures for the federal criminal justice system to respond to the needs of crime victims.

1992

Congress enacts the Campus Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights.

1994

The Commonwealth of Kentucky institutes the first automated telephone voice notification to crime victims of their offender's status and release date.

Nomination letters must address the questions listed under the award type.

National Crime Victim Service Award

- What accomplishments has the nominee made on behalf of crime victims?
- How long has the nominee served victims of crime?
- If the nominee is a paid professional working with crime victims, how do his or her contributions qualify as *beyond the call of duty*?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community or other jurisdictions?
- How have the actions of the nominee influenced attitudes, policies, or practices in victim services?

Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services

- What accomplishments has the nominee made on behalf of crime victims, and how

are those accomplishments unique and original?

- How has the nominee's work brought about change in new or nontraditional areas of victim rights or services?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community or other jurisdictions?
- How have the actions of the nominee influenced attitudes, policies, or practices?

Special Courage Award

- What act of courage has the nominee performed either in the aftermath of his or her own victimization or in coming to the aid of a victim?
- How is this act extraordinary?
- Who are or were the beneficiaries of this courageous act?

- What verification of this act can you provide?

Allied Professional Award

- In what way has the nominee served victims and/or contributed to the victims field?
- How is this service or contribution extraordinary within the nominee's particular discipline?
- How long has the nominee served victims of crime?
- How has the nominee's service to victims contributed to closer collaboration between the nominee's particular discipline and the victims field?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community, state, or Nation?

1995

OVC convenes the first National Victim Assistance Academy.
DOJ issues a revised edition of the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*.

1996

Congress introduces the Federal Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendments in both houses with bipartisan support.
OVC launches international crime victim initiatives.
Congress enacts the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996.
Congress enacts the Interstate Anti-Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act of 1996.

1997

OVC convenes the first National Symposium on Victims of Federal Crimes.
Congress enacts the Victims' Rights Clarification Act of 1997.

1998

Congress enacts the Crime Victims with Disabilities Act of 1998.

Nomination letters must address the questions listed under the award type.

Volunteer for Victims Award

- What services has the nominee provided for victims?
- How can the nominee's volunteer contributions to victim services be considered extraordinary?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community or other jurisdictions?
- How have the actions of the nominee influenced attitudes, policies, or practices?

Crime Victims Fund Award

- What innovations in procedures, regulations, or laws has the nominee developed that promote awareness of the objectives of the Crime Victims Fund?
- How have the nominee's aggressive investigation, prosecution, management, and/or collection practices resulted in greater offender accountability?
- Has the nominee undertaken any notable training efforts that promote awareness of the Crime Victims Fund?
- Has the nominee discovered any previously undisclosed assets through innovative or creative investigation?

Federal Service Award

- What extraordinary assistance has the nominee provided for federal crime victims?
- How long has the nominee been serving crime victims?
- How have the nominee's achievements affected his or her community or other jurisdictions?
- What innovative changes in attitudes, policies, or practices has the nominee brought about?
- How can the nominee's contributions be considered *beyond the call of duty*?
- How effective is the nominee in implementing the provisions of the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*?



1999

OVC supports the first State Victim Assistance Academies.

2000

Congress enacts the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

2002

OVC sponsors a series of regional Victim Roundtables. OVC supports the first "Helping Outreach Programs to Expand" grants.

2003

The Nation celebrates its 20th anniversary of service to crime victims and those who assist them.

Nomination Form

(Please type or print clearly.)

Nominee Information

If you are nominating an organization or program, please provide the information below for the individual who would accept the award on behalf of that organization or program.

Type of Award

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Crime Victim Service Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Professional Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for Victims Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Courage Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Victims Fund Award |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Service Award |

Full name of nominee _____

Name for award plaque (if different from full name)

Is the individual, organization, or program being nominated for more than one award?

Yes _____ No _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone number (_____) _____ Fax number (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Date of birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Social Security number _____

Signature of nominee* _____

If the nominee is an organization, program, or team, the signature of the individual authorized to accept the award is needed.

*The nominee must sign above. Otherwise, the nomination will not be accepted for consideration. The signature authorizes the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, to conduct a criminal history background check. If chosen for an award, the nominee agrees to participate in all National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCRVW) award ceremony events in Washington, D.C., at no cost to the award winner. Participation in the events will likely include photographic portraits or pictures, digital images, videotapes, other media material, and/or sound recordings of the award winners for general use with the press and to post on the Internet. The press will be invited to participate in all NCRVW events.

Nominator Information

Name _____

Title or position _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone number (_____) _____

Fax number (_____) _____

E-mail _____

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information contained in this application is true and correct.

Signature of nominator

Mail to:

Office for Victims of Crime
Attention: National Crime Victims' Rights
Week Committee
810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531

Fax: 202-514-6383 and 202-305-2440.

**Nominations must be received by OVC
no later than October 29, 2004.**

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

Washington, DC 20531

Official Business

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