



WEBB COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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******Request For Media Coverage *****

Webb County Sheriff's Office Observes National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 18th – 22, 2010

Laredo, Texas (Webb County) – Many of us know someone who has been a crime victim. Yet, too few know that the law protects and serves victims by giving them rights – rights that we highlight during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, but that may apply throughout the year. Crime victim advocates in our community work tirelessly to give Webb County's crime victims a voice and to help crime victims and their families understand the rights they are guaranteed under the Texas criminal justice system. One of the fundamental rights afforded to Texas crime victims is the right to compensation.

Every law enforcement agency in the state is required to provide crime victims with information about the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) Program and an application for financial assistance. Applications also may be found at local hospitals and medical centers.

Victims and survivors can also contact the Webb County Sheriff's Office Crime Victims Unit (956) 718-8080 for an application.

The Texas Legislature established the Compensation to Victims of Crime Fund to help victims and their families when they cannot afford the financial cost of crime. Funded by convicted criminals' fees, court costs and restitution, the CVC Program is available to help eligible victims and their families that have no other means of financial support. The CVC Program is intended to offset victims' out-of-pocket expenses that stem from violent crime. Last year, the OAG, which administers the CVC Program, received more than 38,000 applications for assistance and awarded more than \$76 million in benefits to victims and their families.

“Violent crime is often accompanied by physical, emotional and financial suffering. Despite the enormous difficulties they face, countless crime victims successfully work to overcome these senseless acts of violence. National Crime Victims’ Rights Week gives us the opportunity to participate in community events that honor victims and survivors of crime.” Sheriff Martin Cuellar stated.

By observing this important week, Webb County will have the opportunity to join the fight for fairness, dignity and respect for all.

Sunday, April 18th – Mass-Ceremony in observance of Crime Victims’ Week, San Agustin Church at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 19th – Crime Victims’ Proclamation, Webb County Central Jury Room at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 20th – Informational booth at Doctors Hospital

Thursday, April 22nd – Candle Light Vigil, Laredo Energy Arena pond at 7 p.m.

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