

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND LENIENCY

422 South Court Street

P.O. Box 4449

Montgomery, Alabama 36103

VOCAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 ~ Issue 2

March 2018



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A NOTE FROM STATE DIRECTOR

JANETTE GRANTHAM

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK is April 8-14, 2018. The theme is Expand the Circle – Reach All Victims. State VOCAL's annual program and candlelight vigil will be held Friday, April 13, at 7 p.m. on the front lawn of the Alabama Attorney General's Office in Montgomery. Attorney General Steve Marshall will be speaking. As always we will have a PowerPoint tribute to our loved ones, candlelight ceremony, and a balloon release. Please come and share the memories of your loved ones with us. Look for the crosses at the Attorney General's Office.

State VOCAL will produce a memorial testimonial book again this year. If you wish to include a brief testimonial or tribute statement or a remembrance letter to your loved one in our memorial book, please fill out the testimonial sheet and send to **State VOCAL no later than Monday, March 19, 2018.** The testimonial form is located on page 5 of this newsletter.

Before the candlelight vigil, you are invited to a reception hosted by Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission (ACVCC) to be held from 4 to 6 p.m. at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Legacy Center, just across the street from the Attorney General's Office. Check out the invitation on page 6.

VOCAL Chapters across the state and other Alabama victim organizations will be also be sponsoring Candlelight Vigils during National Crime Victims' Right Week. The purpose of this week is to remember our loved ones who were taken from us and to honor those who fight for justice.

VOCAL has a State Tax Exemption Bill at the State House. Please contact your Representatives about their support and vote for **HB 285** sponsored by Representatives Rowe and Gaston. Please contact your Senators and ask for their vote and support for **SB 207** sponsored by Senator Billy Beasley. The 3K we pay for state sales tax would provide two crime scene clean ups for victims.

CHAPTER NEWS

CENTRAL ALABAMA CHAPTER

The Central Alabama Chapter will collaborate with SafeHouse of Shelby County to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week with a program and candlelight vigil on Monday, April 9, beginning at 6 p.m. The program will include dinner, speakers, awards presentations, and a candlelight vigil in memory of those who have lost their lives to crime. The event will be held at the Pelham Police Department, located at 32 Philip Davis Street in Pelham. Attendance is free, and reservations are required. Reserve your seat at <http://advocateawards18.eventbrite.com>.

The Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals upheld James Osgood's capital murder conviction in the death of Tracy Brown in Chilton County. But the court threw out the sentence, ruling that a judge gave improper instructions to jurors regarding mitigating evidence and the weight of aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Tracy was found stabbed to death in her home in October 2010. Chilton County prosecutor C.J. Robinson stated that Tracy's murder was the most grizzly scene he had ever seen. Osgood's penalty-phase hearing will begin on Monday, April 9, with jury selection. Chapter members will attend this hearing to determine Osgood's sentence in support of the family of Tracy Brown. Co-defendant Tonya Van Dyke pleaded guilty to murder and rape and was sentenced to life without parole.

EAST ALABAMA CHAPTER

The East Alabama Chapter of VOCAL will sponsor a candlelight memorial service on Tuesday, April 10, in Randolph County. The vigil will be held at the Randolph County Courthouse in Wedowee at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Bill Lisenby, the former District Attorney of the 5th Circuit. This service is open to the public. For more information contact Diane Walden at 334-749-3585.

GULF COAST CHAPTER

The Gulf Coast chapter will hold its annual candlelight vigil on Thursday, April 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Delta Five Rivers in Spanish Fort. The event is co-sponsored by Baldwin County District Attorney Robert Wilters. This is a special time of year because we are able to honor victims lost to crime. For a special remembrance, bring a photo of the crime victim you wish to honor. The Attorney General will attend in support of victims. Finger foods will be served. The chapter is planning a fund raiser for the spring.

NORTH CENTRAL ALABAMA CHAPTER

The North Central Alabama Chapter will hold their vigil to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week on Thursday, April 12, at 5 p.m. in the large courtroom of the Blount County Courthouse. The capital murder trial of Justin McNeil and Clifton Ridgeway is set for May 14, 2018. McNeil and Ridgeway brutally murdered Brian Beavers in July 8, 2015. Brian was the son of Wilburn and Lounette Beavers and the brother of Brent Beavers. Mr. Beavers is the president of our VOCAL chapter. Please pray for the Beavers family as they prepare for the trial.

Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which was established in 1982. VOCAL is an advocacy group for victims' rights consisting of concerned citizens, victims of crime and their families, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and others interested in reducing crime and improving the plight of its victims.

State Chapter

Director: Janette Grantham
Physical Address: 422 S. Court Street
 Montgomery, Alabama
Phone: 334-262-7197
Toll Free: 800-239-3219
Fax: 334-834-5645
Email: jgrantham@vocalonline.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4449
 Montgomery, Alabama 36103

Central Alabama Chapter

Owens House, 22747 Hwy. 25
 Columbiana, 2 p.m., 2nd Saturdays in
 Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct, Dec
President: Mitzie Wheat
Phone: 205-283-9719
Email: mwheat@bellsouth.net
Mailing Address: 35124 Hwy. 31
 Calera, Alabama 35040

East Alabama Chapter

President: Diane Walden
Email: vsodianewalden@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 31
 Lafayette, AL 36962

Gulf Coast Chapter

1070 Hwy. 59, Summerdale, AL 36580
 3rd Thursday, 6 pm
President: Tracey Wilson Goens
Phone: 251-533-6832
Email: tgoens15@gmail.com
Mailing Address: 27670 US Hwy. 98, #28
 Daphne, AL 36526

North Central Alabama

President: Wilburn Beavers
Phone: 205-363-0444
Email: choochooln@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: 865 Beavers Road
 Blountsville, AL 35031

River Region Chapter

VOCAL Angel House
 422 South Court Street, Montgomery
 2nd Sunday, monthly, 2 p.m.
President: Lester Ezekiel
Phone: 334-514-6862
Email: lester.ezekiel@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 240624
 Montgomery, Alabama 36124

Shoals Chapter

Florence Lauderdale Public Library
 350 N. Wood Ave., Florence
 2nd Tuesday, monthly, 5 p.m.
President: Patsy Michael
Phone: 256-777-0482
Email: patsymichael@charter.net
Mailing Address: 18443 Dement Rd.
 Athens, Alabama 35611
Facebook: VOCAL Shoals Chapter

St. Clair Chapter

St. Clair Co. Courthouse, Suite 221
 1815 Cogswell Ave., Pell City
 Bi-monthly 6 p.m.
President: June Hodges
 Address: P.O. Box 1763
 Pell City, AL 35124
Phone: 205-229-2104 or 338-9429
Email: hodgesracing66@gmail.com
Facebook: St Clair VOCAL

The *VOCAL Newsletter* is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December by Victims of Crime and Leniency. Annual membership dues include subscription. Send news items to Editor Mitzie Wheat at mwheat@bellsouth.net.

SHOALS CHAPTER

Plans are being made for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The Shoals Chapter vigil will be held on Tuesday, April 10, at 7 p.m. at Wilson Park in Florence, Alabama.

Our chapter met in December at Logan's Roadhouse in Florence for a Christmas gathering and December meeting and enjoyed a meal together. In December, chapter members attended the sentencing for Alfonso Jarmon who murdered Mr. Perkins, who in earlier years had attended VOCAL after his daughter's murder. Alfonso Jarmon was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Shoals Chapter continues support for the Danny Sledge family as they are waiting on re-sentencing for Nathan Boyd on Scotus ruling of juveniles sentenced to LWOP. This is hard for the Sledge family to have to go through this all again. Still there has been no ruling on the Evan Miller Scotus sentencing in Lawrence County Alabama. That trial took place last spring. In Colbert County, the trial for Erica Fox in the capital murder of Jason Fox is scheduled for 2018.

Our VOCAL member Janice Bevis is doing well and still improving after many surgeries this past year. She appreciates all the prayers and asks for continued prayers; she knows prayer will get her through these difficult times.

BIRMINGHAM VIGIL

Join us for an uplifting day as we stand in solidarity with our community's victims of crime. One ♥ In The Park--Serving all victims--all of our hearts in the same place--will be held on Sunday, April 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Linn Park in Birmingham. This event is sponsored by U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of AL, Jefferson County DA's Office, Bessemer DA's Office, Crisis Center, One Place Family Justice Center, HICA, YWCA, CAPS Birmingham, Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission, Birmingham PD, Magic City Acceptance Center, Oasis Counseling, Parents Against Violence, UAB Trauma Unit, Children's Hospital, VA Outreach, VOCAL, Crime Stoppers of Metro AL, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

HUNTSVILLE VIGIL

The 2018 National Crime Victims' Rights Recognition Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, April 10, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Jackson Center (located at 6001 Moquin Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35806). The featured speaker will be Alexis Barton. We will recognize individuals who contributed outstanding service to victims in the areas of victim advocacy, law enforcement, and prosecution. The ceremony is a free event and breakfast will be provided. This event is sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Alabama; Madison County District Attorney's Office, and Crisis Services of North Alabama. Register to attend the event at <https://usaoaltraining.org/NationalCrimeVictimsCeremony>. Nominate an individual to be recognized at <https://usaoaltraining.org/NominationForm>.

MOBILE VIGIL

The Mobile County District Attorney's Office will hold a vigil on Tuesday, April 10, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Mardi Gras Park Downtown Mobile (104 South Royal Street, Mobile, AL 36602).



EXPAND THE CIRCLE REACH ALL VICTIMS

National Crime Victims' RightsWeek | April 8-14
2018

This year's NCVRW theme emphasizes the importance of inclusion in victim services. To reach all victims, we must expand our circle by building relationships, removing barriers, and engaging our community.

ALABAMA VIGILS

Sunday, April 8	Birmingham	Lynn Park, Birmingham, 2 pm
Monday, April 9	Central AL VOCAL	Pelham Police Dept. Auditorium, 6 pm
Tuesday, April 10	East AL VOCAL	Randolph Co. Courthouse, Wedowee, 7 pm
	Huntsville	Jackson Center, Moquin Drive NW, 8:30 am
	Mobile	Mardi Gras Park, Downtown Mobile, 6 pm
	Shoals VOCAL	Wilson Park, Florence, 7 pm
Thursday, April 12	Gulf Coast VOCAL	Delta Five Rivers, Spanish Fort, 6 pm
	North Central AL VOCAL	Blount County Courthouse, 5 pm
Friday, April 13	State VOCAL	Attorney General's Ofc., Montgomery, 7 pm

DONATIONS - VOCAL appreciates the faithful contributors who support our efforts in assisting crime victims. Your donations make it possible for us to provide more support to victims and are tax deductible.

In Honor of Darlene Hutchinson Biehl

Loretta Bach

In Honor of Miriam Shehane

Loretta Bach
Linda Brackin
Judge O.L. Johnson

In Memory of Baron Bach

Loretta Bach

In Memory of Jason Buckelew

Pennie Buckelew

In Memory of Desta Dodson Byrd

Ronnie & Vonciel Dodson

In Memory of Jason Foster

Noah Foster

**In Memory of Jackie
Hutchinson Holmbry**

Loretta Bach

In Memory of Irene Jacobs

Miriam Shehane

In Memory of Paul Little

Doris Little

In Memory of John Riley

Miriam Shehane

In Memory of Richard Schwartz

David Schwartz

In Memory of Jon Shehane

Miriam Shehane

In Memory of Quenette Shehane

Gerald Helms
Miriam Shehane

In Memory of Chris Smith

George Smith

Donation

Sheila Jackson

2018 CANDLELIGHT VIGIL VICTIM’S TESTIMONIAL

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

April 8 – 14, 2018

VOCAL State Chapter will produce a testimonial booklet for the State Candlelight Vigil to be held on Friday, April 13, 2018 at 7 p.m. in front of the Attorney General’s Office in Montgomery. If you wish to include a brief memorial or tribute statement in this booklet, complete the following form. Then mail, fax, or email to the VOCAL office by **Monday, March 19.**

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM: _____

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF _____ WHO WAS
(CIRCLE ONE) (NAME OF VICTIM)

_____ ON _____
(NATURE OF VICTIMIZATION) (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)

BRIEF MEMORIAL OR TRIBUTE STATEMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE INCLUDED IN THE TESTIMONIAL BOOKLET: (Please Print)

WILL YOU ATTEND THE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL IN MONTGOMERY ON 4/13/2018? _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND LENIENCY
P. O. BOX 4449
MONTGOMERY, AL 36103-4449

Phone (334) 262-7197; Fax (334) 834-5645; Email jgrantham@vocalonline.org

VOCAL - Victims of Crime and Leniency
The Quenette Shehane Counseling Center
422 South Court Street, P.O. Box 4449
Montgomery, Alabama 36103

Phone: 334-262-7197
Toll Free: 800-239-3219
Fax: 334-834-5645
Website: www.vocalonline.org
Facebook: Montgomery VOCAL

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*You are cordially invited to attend a reception
Hosted by the Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission
In honor of Crime Victims' Rights Week*



*April 13, 2018, 4 - 6 p.m.
(Heavy hors d'oeuvres served)*

*Dexter Avenue King Memorial Legacy Center
455 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104*

For more information, contact Dr. Teresa Jones at (334) 290-4425 or Teresa.Jones@acvcc.alabama.gov

VICTIM CONTACTS Governor Kay Ivey State Capitol Montgomery, AL 36130 Pam Bye, Director Constituent Services 334-242-7100 1-800-591-4217	Attorney General's Office of Victim Assistance 501 Washington Avenue Montgomery, AL 36130 Sarah Green, Director Constituent Services 334-242-7300 1-800-626-7676 www.ago.state.al.us	Department of Corrections Jeff Dunn, Commissioner P.O. Box 301501 301 South Ripley Street Montgomery, AL 36130 334-353-3871 www.doc.state.al.us State inmate parole info. 1-888-726-9799, Option 4	Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission Dr. Cassie Jones Director P.O. Box 231267 Montgomery, AL 36123 1-800-541-9388 www.acvcc.state.al.us	State of Alabama Board of Pardons & Paroles Eddie Cook, Exec. Director P.O. Box 302405 Montgomery, AL 36130-2405 Rhonda Carter Victim Services Rep. 334-242-8050 Fax 334-353-7701 www.pardons.state.al.us
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