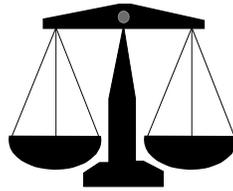


VOCAL NEWSLETTER

January 2009



Volume 8, Number 5

Victims of Crime and Leniency

A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIRIAM SHEHANE

We are now into a new year and I am encouraged that statistics tell us the crime rate is down. However, as we all are too aware, statistics don't mean "a hill of beans" if we become the victim. There is one thing for sure; we still have far too much crime for one counselor to cover the entire State of Alabama. This is why the bill we are introducing this legislative session for funding to place a crisis counselor in each circuit is extremely vital. Having our funds cut to the tune of \$80,000 has crippled our efforts tremendously. In fact, due to cuts, our expansion in placing an advocate in Jefferson County has been discontinued. A brief synopsis of the bill is given in the next paragraph. We are asking you to read it then call your Representatives and Senators and ask them to co-sponsor and support the bill. If you would like a copy of it in its entirety, please call us and we will send it to you. We need to be united in this effort and it is going to take all of us to succeed; especially since we are in an economic crisis nationwide. Crime victims have been on the back burner far too long and this is not the time to take a back seat and let other entities take the forefront. Please do your part. Stand up and be counted! We need to let our legislators know we are an important component to be reckoned with. We have struggled too long to step aside when funds are scarce. We still need our fair share. Many thanks to all of you who helped in our annual pecan sales fund raiser over the holidays. We sold over 30 cases this year and the Shelby County chapter is responsible for selling 15 of those cases. We are so grateful to those of you who are faithful to buy from us year after year. My prayer for each of you is to have a great and peaceful year. Just remember--"United We Stand, Divided We Fall".

Synopsis: This bill creates the VOCAL Angel House Crime Victims Board; provides for \$5.00 court fee on each conviction of a misdemeanor or felony (excluding traffic violations) to provide funding for the Vocal Angel House Crime Victims circuit programs to provide first responders for crisis intervention counseling and general welfare of families of victims of homicide in Alabama.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK is April 26 – May 2. The theme for this year is "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act." Memorials will be printed in the State Candlelight Vigil booklet. Please fax or mail memorials to the State Chapter by March 20. You can order a package with great ideas, press releases, speeches, etc. from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime at no charge online.

Counselor's Corner--Are you right for this job?

Many studies have been conducted to identify models to help victims of violent crime. The most effective model is immediate crisis intervention or "psychological first aid". An important issue the crisis counselor must remember is: every crime is a violation of the victim's self-image and causes the victim to question themselves and their world. It destroys the sense of trust and control over their life. The initial shock can mask other symptoms such as fear, helplessness, hopelessness, out of control, anger, no longer self-sufficient, extreme vulnerability, and loss of self-esteem.

Specialized techniques and skills are needed by crisis counselors and first responders to lessen the likelihood of "secondary" trauma. This trauma happens when victims perceive a lack of support from law enforcement and the community. The way we treat victims can greatly reduce the initial trauma and eliminate secondary trauma. The law enforcement officer is usually the one that must deal with the stress, anger, and panic of the victim. The techniques used can make the victim feel supported and helped and give the officer or first responder a sense of satisfaction in their work knowing they have done the best job possible. Remember, the goal of crisis intervention is to stabilize the victim, to help the victim deal with and understand their crisis reaction, to help minimize the emotional pain, and prevent secondary trauma to help restore a sense of power and control to the victim.

Focus on the victim, comfort the victim, ask how they are feeling (Are you cold? Could I get a blanket for you?) Allow the victim to tell and retell their story. Help the victim describe what happened to others so they don't have to live through it again, alone. Let the victim know they are normal. If they want to scream, cry, or rage, be there and hold their hand. Prepare the victim for the wide range of emotions they will feel and be there to help them understand.

Joyce Miller, MS LPC

CHAPTER NEWS

JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER Roebuck Precinct, Red Lane Road, Birmingham, 1st Thursday of each month, 3 p.m.
Chapter President: Carol Melton, (205) 841-1465; Email carolmeltonb@bellsouth.net
Chapter Mailing Address: 4162 51st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama 35217

It is hard to believe another year has gone by. November was spent preparing for the Christmas party on December 4th. We are blessed to have so many merchants donating food and prizes. The flooding rain on the day of the party had many, including Carol Melton and Margie Caslin, soaking wet but it did not dampen our spirits. Mona Lee and her mother, Betty Parker, came to the rescue and helped us decorate. Bill Miller had been out the day before picking up cakes and on the day of the party picked up gift certificates. Gloria Turner and Sgt. Canada helped set up. Carol Melton's grandson, Jared Dennis, was out with her picking up the food. Billy Jack also picked up prizes. The efforts of all were appreciated in making this party a success.

In attendance were: two police Chiefs, Jefferson County Sheriff Mike Hale, District Attorney David Barber, our new D.A. Brandon Falls, Ms. Judy Rates from Victim Assistance, Deputy Billy Jack Logan and family, Miriam Shehane, Jeanette Carr, and Doris Hancock. Retired Chief of Police Annetta Nunn blessed us with her beautiful voice. Many victims attended and enjoyed the party. We had enough gifts so that everyone won something or selected a gift. It really made us feel good to make some children happy by helping with their Christmas. We hope to be able to continue this Christmas party tradition next year.

Holidays are difficult for those who have lost loved ones. Many suffer bouts of depression and illness, but we must continue the important work of advocating for victims. Several Jefferson County members have been ill but will hopefully be on the mend soon: Joe Weston, Flo Sargeant, Valorie Jackson, Billy Price, Wanda Pennington and her son Johnny. We ask you to keep Jeannie Weston and Margie Zales in your prayers; their 25-year-old nephew died in December. Mary Holeyfield's grandson is improving after being shot. Just like her son, the perpetrator was not caught. We have had a lot of crime in Birmingham and much work to do. We must get back on track and will begin preparations for Victims Rights Week and the annual Candlelight Vigil to honor and remember crime victims.

Chapter members protested parole for a number of inmates who will remain in prison, including five from Jefferson County in one day. We attended a hearing for inmate Monk Willis on a 23-year-old rape and kidnapping case. He will stay in until 2012, and the next hearing will be held at the same time as the other two defendants. The victim came in from Idaho to protest parole and we were there to support her. Members also supported Cookie Olafson at the sentencing of the three boys who murdered her son Seth. Sentences were 35 years, 30 years, and 27 years. We will go to trial on the Tonie Linn murder case on January 28. This case was solved after seventeen years. Martha Bozeman had given up hope of them finding the person that murdered her daughter, but Homewood solved this case. Chief Phillip Dodd was evidence tech when Tonie was murdered and is now Homewood Chief of Police. Carol Melton will always be grateful for the way they handled her case, solving it in 72 hours. They had DNA evidence, but not enough to get this person in 1989. With new technology, they were finally able to solve Tonie's murder. If you have a case that is taking along time, don't give up.

Despite the bad weather, chapter members attended Attorney General Troy King's press conference early this month: Mona Lee, Pam Smith, Mary Kate Gach, Billy Jack Logan, Wanda Miller, Margie Caslin, and Carol Melton. We encourage everyone to work hard in supporting the proposed legislation.

Nadia Kersh has been missing for two months. Please keep Nadia and her family, especially her young son, in your prayers. Nadias' mother has been in Alabama hoping for news of her daughter. We hope this case is solved soon.

SHELBY COUNTY CHAPTER

Owens House, Columbiana, 2nd Saturday of each month, 2 p.m.
Chapter President: Johnnie Doss Page, (205) 669-4238
Chapter Mailing Address: P. O. Box 32, Columbiana, Alabama 35051

Victims of Crime and Leniency

Established in 1982
A 501c3 Non-Profit Organization
Miriam Shehane, Executive Director

Angel House & Wiregrass Angel House

Projects by V.O.C.A.L.
Shelly Linderman, Project Director

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.

VOCAL Angel House
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P.O. Box 4449
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1-800-239-3219
(334) 262-7197

Fax: (334) 834-5645
E-mail: vocalonline@yahoo.com
Website: www.vocalonline.org

Wiregrass Angel House
105 North Bell
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Dothan, AL 36302
(334) 702-7010
Fax: (334) 702-7014

Chapters include Jefferson, Shelby, Shoals, Southeast, and Tuscaloosa

The VOCAL NEWSLETTER is published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Annual VOCAL membership dues include subscription. Send news items to Mitzie Wheat, Editor, at the VOCAL address or to mwheat@bellsouth.net.

SHOALS CHAPTER

Christian Faith Church, 640 County Road 323, Florence, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
 Chapter President: Denny Kimbrel, (256) 757-1354; Email bamafnatk@aol.com
 Chapter Mailing Address: 442 County Road 111, Killen, Alabama 35645

Some chapter members attended the 7th Annual Homicide Survivors Lights of Love Program in Huntsville on December 8. The Keynote Speaker was Maximus Hoffmann from Franklin County. His mother, Monica O'Kelly, from Russellville was murdered in June 1999. We talked to Maximus and his family after the program and they wanted to thank all for the love and support that VOCAL gave him and his family at the first and recent parole hearing. He said he never knew so many people cared and never knew of VOCAL before this parole hearing, but may start attending some of the Shoals meetings. Maximus and his sister were very young at the time of this murder. His mother would be so proud of how he spoke that night. It was the first time he has spoken about the challenges he and his sister have faced.

We will be making plans for the annual National Crime Victims Rights Week at our next meeting. We have a murder trial set for February 3 for Widdowson and two capital murder trials set for March 3 for Greg Nard and March 23 for David Nard. All three face charges for the murder of Greg Wright from Killen (Greenhill area). Please keep the Wright family and friends in your prayers. A Florence family has a parole hearing on February 2. Corey Allen Johnson (AIS # 201367) murdered 18-year-old Shelaing Maxwell on October 9, 1998. Corey was convicted of murder and sentenced to life with chance of parole. This is his first parole hearing.

We had a big turnout from the Shoals VOCAL members for Attorney General Troy King's news conference in Huntsville on January 5. We appreciate the special effort of the members that made the trip and we understand the members that had to work that couldn't make it. And thanks to the members from Madd and Homicide Survivors for being there. Now we need to work hard in helping get Attorney General King's crime bills passed.

The chapter held a meeting on January 15 at the Hampton Inn in Florence. We appreciate the Hampton Inn and Manager Vicki Atwood for their support of our chapter. In attendance were chapter members, Rep. Tammy Irons, Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, The Police Chief's Office, Will Powell and DeAnna Tidwell of the DA's office the State Trooper's Office, and the Fire Department. Thank you to each and every department for caring enough about victims to attend.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

Wiregrass Angel House, 105 N. Bell, Dothan, 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
 Chapter President: Pat Jones, (334) 585-2684; Email gary399@centurytel.net
 Chapter Mailing Address: 406 Hickory Grove Road, Abbeville, Alabama 36310

It's a New Year God

You are ushering in another year, Untouched and freshly new. So here I come to ask You, God, If You'll renew me too?
 Forgive the many errors, That I made in the past. And let me try again dear God, To walk closer in Thy way.
 But God, I am well aware, I can't make it on my own. So take my hand and hold it tight, For I can't walk alone.



It is hard to believe another year has gone. It is our prayer that you have a blessed 2009.

In November, chapter members attended the Attorney General's Victim Impact Panel meeting. He shared with us his crime package for the upcoming Legislative Session. We also attended the parole hearing to support Brenda Roberts, whose daughter was murdered in Montgomery.

Our chapter was busy in December. We put up our "Memorial Christmas Tree". We have over 100 angels and also picture ornaments of homicide victims. It is a beautiful tree and it lets the victims' families know they are not forgotten. We had our Christmas party for the kids and families at Troy University Dothan. The Chi Sigma Iota helped us with the party. They provided the Old World Santa. Brooke Denney from Fort Rucker also volunteered. We had a great time. Attorney General Troy King sent a

hand-delivered letter by VSO Doris Hancock with his blessings and wishes for a Merry Christmas.

The families of Tish Glennon Gillis and Junior Gillis traveled from Florence, Alabama and Okeechobee, Florida to Abbeville for the murder trial of Michael David Harrison. He murdered them on September 8, 2003. Harrison accepted a blind plea for capital murder/life without parole. Bonnie Ingram from our chapter and the president of Shoals VOCAL Chapter in Florence attended the trial to support these families.

Tilly Wuolukka is still recuperating from her automobile accident on October 15th. Continue to pray for her. We miss her help with our chapter. Mrs. Evelyn Dudley, a member of the chapter, died December 15, 2008. Her husband, Carl Dudley, was murdered in 1973. Our prayers are with her family.

Our chapter would like to thank Judson Baptist Church, Hickory Grove FWB Church, Balkum Baptist Church, Marcia Ethridge, and Lola Taylor for their donation to our chapter. We thank Jean Gullede, Krissi Murphy, and ladies from Fellowship Baptist Church for being prepared to serve meals for the Glennon and Gillis' families.

TUSCALOOSA CHAPTER

Tuscaloosa Co. Courthouse, 1st Floor, County Chambers, 2nd Thursday, Quarterly, 6 p.m.
 Chapter President: Betty Holland (205) 556-6390, Email hollandbetty@bellsouth.net
 Chapter Mailing Address: P.O. Box 71709, Tuscaloosa, AL 35407

Betty Holland, past president is very ill with cancer and has been in the hospital where she was recently released. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her and her family. The Tuscaloosa Chapter is in a transition period of electing a new president.

We had our quarterly meeting in January. National Crime Victims Rights Week was discussed and we will have a called meeting in March to finalize the preparations for the vigil. Tentatively the vigil had been set for Thursday, April 30, at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT

The VOCAL Board of Directors met October 14, 2008 and January 13, 2009. We are really proud of our new building. If you have not seen it, please come by for a visit. We have three new board members: Janette Carr and Doris Hancock (VSO's with Attorney General's Office) and Ramona Bolin, PA-C from Dothan. She is a physician assistant in Headland. Her brother, Tim Bolin, was murdered in Cottonwood. In our October meeting, Rep. Cam Ward discussed the legislative process for the House and Senate. We also discussed the Alabama Medical Furlough Act.

The greatest hurdle for the board is trying to come up with \$80,000 that we have been cut for 2009. Donations are accepted and can be mailed to VOCAL, P.O. Box 4449, Montgomery, AL 36103. If you would like to do a fundraiser for VOCAL such as a golf tournament, please contact us or perhaps you have another idea.

Several board members met with Department of Corrections personnel on January 13 about the Alabama Medical Furlough Act. You would probably call it the Release of Terminally Ill Prisoners. We have fought this since the Legislature passed it during the Special Session May 31st of last year. They have listened to us and have given us some of the things that we asked for. The victim, DA, and Attorney General can protest. You will be notified by certified mail if the inmate has met all the criteria to be on this program. They have to qualify for the medical part before the victim is notified. You will have 14 days to protest in writing after receipt of your letter. The reason for this short notice is the Commissioner has 30 days to complete process from the start. Medicaid won't hold a bed except for a short period. You will be notified later if they are released to this program. We were told that most of them will be going to a nursing home that has a cluster of beds designated as Medicaid. They will not be going to just any nursing home because they will not be accepted. The inmate's family cannot chose where they will be going. The age 55 that they used troubled us. It was explained that in prison you age faster and this age cuts out a lot of the population because most of them are younger. They must not pose a danger to other people. Two doctors' opinions will be received in this process. They will be reassessed after 6 months and can be brought back in if there is a miraculous recovery. They must qualify for disability to be on this program. We asked them to look at geriatric and be more explicit for future commissioners coming on board that might have a different opinion. We also said that we wanted to go on record that we are still opposed to only capital murder and sex offenders being the only crimes excluded in this bill and/or regulations.

Victims have responsibilities prior to notification—If you have someone in prison because of a crime committed against you or a loved one, you have a constitutional right to be notified if they escape or die in prison. But **you must contact** the Department of Corrections and request this in writing. They must have a current phone number and address on you at all times. **It is your responsibility to notify them.** Point of Contact: Janet Findley LeJeune, Department of Corrections, P.O. Box 301501, Montgomery, AL 36103; phone (334)353-3871. You will only be notified if you have done this.

PENNIE BUCKELEW RETIRES

Pennie Buckelew, a member of the State VOCAL Board, retired on January 1, 2009 after 25 years of service. She began her career with the State in the Alabama House of Representatives in 1971 while still in school. From there she went to the Legislative Fiscal Office, the Ethics Commission, the Governor's Office, and finally the Governor's Office on Disability as Deputy Director. She plans to spend time working on the Boards. She is a member of VOCAL, the Attorney General's Council of Victims, Alabama Duel Party Relay, Troy University Interpreter Council, and First United Methodist Church of Wetumpka committees. She plans to spend time with family and painting. Her retirement party was held on January 11, 2009 and it was enjoyed by all. Toby Roth, former Chief of Staff for Governor Riley read a proclamation from the Governor commending and congratulating her on her retirement and several former employees spoke. Congratulations Pennie and God Bless You. We hope you have a wonderful retirement.



HOUSTON COUNTY NEWS

Two years to the day, Tabitha Farmer pled guilty to murder and received a 25-year sentence for running down Larry Downing in front of a grocery store. Farmer was high on “huffing “ and marijuana as she drove through the parking lot where Mr. Downing was returning his shopping cart to the front of the store. He was pinned against the side of the building. He later died of injuries sustained from the incident. The family was in agreement for the plea bargain. They were anxious to get it behind them and be able to begin the healing process. Judge Larry Anderson sentenced Farmer to 25 years for murder.

LIONS CLUB MEETING

Wiregrass Angel House personnel were the guest speakers for the Coffee County Lions Club for their November meeting. Angel House was given a wonderful opportunity to talk about the many services provided by Wiregrass Angel House as well as VOCAL Angel House across the State of Alabama.

Alabama Crime Victims’ Scholarship Fund--A scholarship fund has been established at Auburn University for the benefit of students who were dependents of homicide victims and who were 25 years of age or under at the time the crime was committed. To be eligible, a student must be an undergraduate who has attained admission to Auburn University as a beginning freshman or transfer student. The student must have attained a satisfactory academic record in all prior courses completed and must demonstrate need as determined by the SFA Committee. Preference will be given to students who have financial need; however, if no student can be identified with financial need, the financial criteria may be waived. Interested students must complete an Auburn University Scholarship Application and submit it to the Office of Student Financial Aid. For more information, call the VOCAL office at 1-800-239-3219.

VOCAL--Victims of Crime and Leniency

Name _____ Title _____
 Agency or Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Telephone (Office) _____ (Home) _____ Email _____
 Victim’s Name _____ My Relationship to Victim _____
 Date of Crime _____ Nature of Crime _____
 City and County of Crime (City) _____ (County) _____

Type Membership: Regular \$25 Agency/Organization \$50

Are you available and interested in volunteer work? Yes No

LETTERS FROM VICTIMS’ FAMILIES

Rusty Earnest, 47 years old, was murdered at his home on Wheeler Lake in Rogersville on May 1, 2007. His family, mother Dorothy Earnest, brother Grant Earnest and family, and sister Patsy Michael and family would like to thank Lauderdale County District Attorney Chris Connelly and his staff and the Lauderdale Sheriff’s Department for doing a great job in breaking this case, resulting in a Life in Prison sentence for Kenny Strickland 25 of Eva. Family members would also like to thank Shoals Vocal Chapter for the love and support they have shown to the family during this very painful ordeal. A huge thank you to the President of the Shoals Chapter, Denny Kimbrel, for all the love and support, all the talks, and all the helpful information needed during this process. Thank you to VSO Deanna Tidwell for supporting and doing a great job keeping our family updated on all events. **GOD PUTS SPECIAL PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES IN ALL SITUATIONS, AND FOR THE MOST THOSE WHO HAVE FELT THE SAME PAIN.** Rusty would have celebrated his 49 Birthday November 21, 2008. We are thankful for the 47 years God gave us to share with him. Rusty is still missed very much by his family, church, neighbors, co-workers and many friends. He lives in our hearts and memories forever. We love and miss him.

The Earnest Family

When are we going to make people take responsibility for their actions? I thought when someone was murdered in Henry County, justice would be served. I was wrong! Although the District Attorney did all he could to make sure we had a trial and the police officers investigated the murders, we get to the first day of trial and are told the murderer of my precious son Jr. Gillis and his wife, Tish Ann, was going to plead guilty to two counts of Capitol Murder and **would not** receive the Death Penalty! How could this be? It’s our understanding there were psychologists that would testify he was high on Meth and drinking heavily. The court calls these mitigating circumstances. I call it a cop out. I call it excuses. My son is dead, through no fault of his own and this murderer gets to live. When are we going to make society take responsibility for their actions? When are we going to make people understand they have to be responsible for the choices they make? Two people are murdered in cold blood and the defendant is able to plead guilty and Judge Little tells him he will not receive the Death Penalty! There is no justice in the criminal justice system. It is just the criminal’s system.

Marvin Gillis, Henry County

P.O. Box 4449, Montgomery, Alabama 36103

HONORING THOSE WHO BRING HONOR TO VICTIMS IN ALABAMA

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK AWARDS

V.O.C.A.L. (Victims of Crime and Leniency) and VOCAL Angel House annually recognizes individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in supporting victims and victim services. As the discipline of crime victim services has grown over the years, so has the number of remarkable individuals that significantly contribute to its success. Today, the field includes countless people who through vision, action and leadership have improved the lives of victims in the aftermath of crime. We invite you to submit a nomination for one or more of seven awards. In making your nominations, we encourage you to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the crime victims' field and/or to crime victims. Recipients of the awards will be honored in Montgomery as part of the national commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), which is scheduled for April 26 – May 2, 2009. Governor Riley will present these awards.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR AWARDS

- A nomination letter must accompany each nomination form. No anonymous nominations will be accepted.
- Each form must include the nominee's name, title, organization, address, and telephone number.
- Nominations should not exceed two single sided, double spaced pages and should be typed and should reflect as much as you know about your nominee's accomplishments and services in supporting victims.
- Please review the award categories carefully and select the category that most accurately reflects your nominee's accomplishments and services in supporting crime victims. You can only nominate one individual to one category.
- Please provide additional information about the nominated individual that should be considered in the review process. Supporting documentation such as newspaper articles can also be attached.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS

Nomination forms and supporting materials must be received no later than **Friday, March 20, 2009** and can be mailed (V.O.C.A.L. State Headquarters, Attention Selection Committee, P.O. Box 4449, Montgomery, Alabama 36103-4449) or faxed to (334) 834-5645. If you have any questions about the award nominations or selection process, please call Shelly Linderman at (800) 239-3219. The nomination form is also on the VOCAL Website at www.vocalonline.org.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

- You may nominate one or more worthy individuals.
- Candidates nominated but not selected in previous years are eligible for consideration. Previous award winners, however, are not eligible to be nominated and will not be considered for the same award.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AWARDS

- Each year, through the prestigious Miriam Shehane Award, V.O.C.A.L. honors extraordinary individuals who exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes individuals who work with victims with the same caliber of dogmatic passion and concern as the one who this award was named in honor of.
- The State King Solomon Award was instituted in 2004 to recognize a jurist that through their leadership, vision, and innovation have led to changes in the criminal justice system.
- The State Ronald Wilson Reagan Award was instituted in 2005 in memory of the president responsible for claiming the first Victims' Rights Week. President Reagan was a visionary who saw a need for the renewed emphasis on and an enhanced sensitivity to the rights of victims. This award will bring honor to those in the field of law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, or attorneys that share the same vision regarding equal justice and representation as President Reagan.
- The State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award honors those in the field of law enforcement who go beyond the call of duty to assist victims in their time of need. The individual will be one that shows respect and dignity above all else to crime victims and their families.
- The State Prosecutor of the Year Award recognizes those in the field of the District Attorney's Offices that exhibit exceptional perseverance and determination to get the job done and work with the victim and/or their family. To show respect and dignity and, above all else, does what the victim wants and listens to the victim.
- The State Victim Service Officer of the Year Award recognizes those in the field that exhibit exceptional compassion and empathy for the victim and/or their family. An individual who treats the victim with kindness and care and who keeps the victims informed of their case.
- The State Volunteer of the Year Award honors individuals for their selfless efforts to reach out to victims. This includes individuals who give emotional and physical support in court, crisis counseling, etc.

NOMINATION FORM

Your Name _____

Nominee's Full Name _____

Your Title/Position _____

Name for Award Plaque _____

Your Organization _____

Nominee's Title _____

Your Mailing Address _____

Nominee's Organization _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Telephone Number _____

Type of Award: (Mark One)

- The Miriam Shehane Award
- The Ronald Wilson Reagan State Award
- The State Prosecutor of the Year Award
- The State Victim Service Officer of the Year Award
- The State King Solomon Award
- The State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award
- The State Volunteer of the Year Award

Signature of Nominator: _____

No anonymous nominations will be accepted. A nomination letter must accompany each nomination form. Nominations should not exceed two single sided, double spaced typed pages and should reflect as much as you know about your nominee's accomplishments and services in supporting victims. Please provide additional information about the nominated individual that should be considered in the review process. Supporting documentation such as newspaper articles can also be attached.

DONATIONS

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

Memorial for Bob Bryant

Judy Crosby

Memorials for Jason Buckelew In honor of Pennie Buckelew

Jay Bigbie

Carolyn Frost

Pat Jones

Chuck & Shelly Linderman

Rick Manley

April Payne

Karen Powell

Miriam Shehane

Gwendolyn Turner

Memorials for Jal Folma

Ellen Brooks

Memorial for Gil Kendrick

Ellen Brooks

Memorials for Terry S. Ingram

Ellen Brooks

Miriam Shehane

Memorials for Max & Johneen King

Nancy King

Memorials for Conni McClenny

Cheryl Wood & Constance Walrond

Memorial for Ella Foy Riley

Gary & Pat Jones

Memorial for Quenette Shehane

Jay Jones

Edward & Miriam Shehane

Ronald Gilly

Gerald & Johnnie Helms

Judy Powell

Tom Richardson

Patrick Roberts

District Attorney Douglas Valeska

VICTIM CONTACTS	Attorney General's Office of Victim Assistance 500 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, AL 36130 VSO Janette Carr VSO Doris Hancock (334) 242-7339 1-800-626-7676 www.ago.state.al.us	Department of Corrections Richard Allen, Commissioner P.O. Box 301501 301 South Ripley Street Montgomery, AL 36130 VSO Janet Findley LeJeune (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 1548 Montgomery, AL 36102-1548 1-800-541-9388 www.acvcc.state.al.us	State of Alabama Board of Pardons & Paroles Cynthia Dillard, Director P.O. Box 302405 VSO Debra Bonds Montgomery, AL 36130-2405 (334) 242-8050 Fax (334) 353-7701 www.pardons.state.al.us
Governor Bob Riley State Capitol Montgomery, AL 36130 Patricia C. Simpkins Dir., Constituent Services (334) 242-7100 1-800-591-4217				

Visit our website at www.vocalonline.org

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