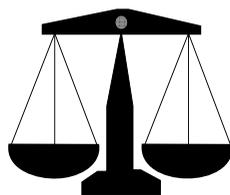


# VOCAL NEWSLETTER

March 2011



Volume 10, Number 5

## *Victims of Crime and Leniency*

### A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIRIAM SHEHANE

Hello, everyone! By the time you read this, the Legislature will be in session. There are many bills that will be introduced which will vitally affect crime victims. We plan to monitor the process as best we can. The biggest issue I see at the moment is the packet the Alabama Public Safety & Sentencing Coalition is proposing. This Coalition is spearheaded by Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb. She approached me the first of last year to serve on this Coalition, and I was assured that the agenda would be to create "alternative but accountable" measures for NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS in order to keep violent offenders incarcerated, thereby preventing the federal government from randomly releasing inmates due to prison overcrowding. However, as the Coalition's work progressed, more and more violent offenders were entering the picture and I could get no definitive answers on what type of programs would be given to hold low-level offenders accountable if they weren't being sentenced to prison.

The straw that broke the camel's back is the proposed revision of the Crime Victims' Notification statute that would require the victim to notify the Parole Board if they actually want a notice when their offender has a parole hearing. Also, if passed, the new law would require victims to keep their address updated with the Parole Board. Requiring victims to undertake yet another burden by a system that was supposedly designed to protect the innocent is completely unacceptable in my view. Number one: The notification statute has nothing to do with non-violent offenders. Number two: Crime victims are the only ones in the judicial system who didn't ask to be in it.

I want to report to you that I have officially resigned from the Coalition because I cannot in good conscience be affiliated with a proposal that is so detrimental to crime victims. We deserve better consideration. If you agree with my view on this important issue, please get in touch with your state representative and senators and voice your opposition to S.B. 47 (as it was introduced). You'll find an updated synopsis on the proposed legislative package in this newsletter. We need your input!

### PLEASE COME TO MONTGOMERY FOR A LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARING AT THE STATE HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011

The Judiciary Committee is holding a public hearing on S.B. 47, the proposed revision to the Parole Notification Law, which (as introduced) would place the burden on victims to request notice of upcoming parole/pardon hearings and to keep contact information updated. **The hearing is tentatively scheduled for 1 p.m.** Please arrive at VOCAL office by Noon on March 23 (at 422 South Court Street in Montgomery), but call VOCAL office at 1-800-239-3219 to confirm details 1 or 2 days in advance (time/date subject to change).

**STATEWIDE VOCAL MEETING.** VOCAL members from across the state met at the Shoney's in Clanton on Saturday, February 26, to discuss the organization's future activities/goals, legislative priorities, and funding possibilities. Also, the 3-hour meeting was a great opportunity to get acquainted with members from other communities. Let us know if you are interested in attending a similar event in the future.



## CHAPTER NEWS

**JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER** 2200 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. N, Sheriff's Dept. Training Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1st Thursday, 6 p.m.  
Chapter President: Carol Melton, (205) 841-1465. Email carolmeltonb@bellsouth.net  
Chapter Mailing Address: 4162 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35217

The Jefferson County Chapter is busy preparing for the upcoming Victims Rights Week Candlelight Vigil. This year's program will be held at the Jury Assembly Room in the Jefferson County Courthouse Annex. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will include a memorial presentation of homicide victims. If you would like to include a picture or update last year's information, please forward to jonesw@jccal.org or call Wanda Miller at 205-731-2814.

The Eastern Area Realtors Caravan named the Jefferson County Chapter as one of their fundraisers for 2010. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> Wanda Miller accepted a check for \$2000 for President Carol Melton to be used to assist crime victims in Jefferson County. Many thanks to this wonderful group.

In January the chapter provided snacks and drinks for the families of the five victims murdered by Martez Seay. The trial lasted over a week and the Victim Assistance Unit of the DA's office provided an area where the families could relax during the hearings. Seay has so far received 4 life sentences. Joacquas Haywood who is charged with the murder of Nadia Kersh was recently denied bond pending his April trial. The search continues for Nadia so please keep Nancy and Kevin Kerch in your prayers.

Chapter members Mona Lee and Margie Caslin attended the VOCAL statewide meeting on February 26 and will share the information with the Chapter at our next meeting.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our friend Jim Dease, husband of Doris Dease. Please keep our President Carol Melton in your prayers. Carol has been ill for several months and continues to recover at home.

### SHELBY COUNTY CHAPTER

Owens House, Columbiana, 2 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in February, April, June, August, October, December  
Chapter President: Johnnie Doss Page, (205) 669-4238  
Chapter Mailing Address: P. O. Box 32, Columbiana, Alabama 35051

Chapter members attended three parole hearings in February. Bobby Joe Hope and Philip Hope murdered Lewie Earl Jones on March 25, 1978. Both have been released on parole and returned to prison for parole violations. They were denied parole for four years on February 1. On February 7, chapter members attended a parole hearing for Michael Davis who was charged with only with burglary (in what was actually a home invasion with a weapon in Shelby County); Davis was denied until end of sentence in February 2011. The February 14 parole hearing for Herbert Wooten resulted in a denial for three years. Wooten murdered Carl Wayne Bird on December 10, 1986.

Chapter members attended several meetings. On February 17, they met with Attorney General Luther Strange. Members attended a meeting of the Alabama Public Safety & Sentencing Coalition on February 24 and the statewide VOCAL meeting on February 26.

The chapter's Candlelight Vigil will be held on Monday, April 11, at 7 p.m. at Shelby Christian Fellowship located at 210 North Main Street in Columbiana (one block from the Shelby County Courthouse). If you have victim information for the program or pictures for the crosses, contact Mitzie Wheat at 668-0636 or mwheat@bellsouth.net.

### SHOALS CHAPTER

Christian Faith Church, 640 County Road 323, Florence, 2nd Tuesday monthly, 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

Shoals VOCAL members supported the large family of Tammie Woods at a motion hearing. Tammie was murdered by her ex, Tony Woods, as she was leaving his house in her car. He shot five times, hitting her in the back once. This is a Capital Murder case. Members also attended a pre-trial hearing on March 3 in support of the Scott Kirtley family and friends. David Riley robbed a package store in 2005 in Florence and killed clerk Scott Kirtley. Riley was convicted of Capital Murder and sentenced to death in January 2007, but the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals overturned the conviction in December of 2009. So this will be a new trial for Riley that is scheduled to start on March 7.

Members attended a motion hearing for Chris Rich from Florence, who murdered Hollie Newberry in front of her two small children. Chris Rich is charged with Capital Murder; a pre-trial hearing will be held on April 5 and the trial is set for April 18.

Shoals Chapter members are working hard on our 4th Annual Musical Fundraiser which will be held at Underwood Petervilles Community Center in Florence. Thanks to all who have donated and worked so hard. Big thanks to IronHorse, Larry Condrey & Friends, and Gary Nichols all from the Shoals area, and Kingsland Gospel from Arab. The event will be held on March 19 from 2 to 7:00 p.m. with a balloon release at the end of the event.

We are also working on our Candlelight Vigil for National Crime Victims Rights Week, April 10 thru 16. We plan to have crosses up with pictures of victims from our area at Lauderdale County Court House all that week. The Vigil will be at Wilson Park in downtown Florence on April 12 at 7 p.m. In the event of rain, we will go the First United Methodist Church of Florence at the northwest end of Wilson Park.

Shoals chapter members, along with members from other VOCAL Chapters, enjoyed the meeting with new Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange and Victim Service Officer Patty DeBortoli last month. We look forward to working with them.

### SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

Wiregrass Angel House, 105 N. Bell, Dothan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday monthly, 6 p.m.  
Chapter President: Pat Jones, (334) 585-2684; Email patandgary@centurytel.net  
Chapter Mailing Address: 406 Hickory Grove Road, Abbeville, Alabama 36310

Miriam Shehane, Darlene Biehl, and Pat Jones attended the following Inauguration Day Activities: Prayer Breakfast, Inauguration Parade, Inauguration, reception by Attorney General Luther Strange, Family Day at Biscuits Stadium by Gov. Bentley, and Sandwiches with the Senator (Sen. Harri Anne Smith). By doing this, we made a lot of contacts with the new officials that have taken office. There have been a lot of changes in Montgomery.

Our chapter had a great meeting in February. We had 13 present. There is a parole hearing on March 28 for Calvin Andrew Adams. He murdered Terry Clenny in Phenix City. His family is from Abbeville.

Pat attended the meeting with other chapters across the state with our new Attorney General Luther Strange. We discussed several things that we thought were important to victims. We look forward to working with General Strange. Pat also attended a meeting in Clanton that was held for victims on February 26. Darlene Hutchinson Biehl organized this meeting. It was a very informative meeting and we hope to do more of these in the future.

Our Candlelight Vigil will be held on Sunday, April 10, 3:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 3012 W. Main St., Dothan. It is located 2 tenths mile from Ross Clark Circle on Hwy 84 West. If you would like to write something in memory of your loved one for the memorial booklet, please send by **March 21**. Nominations are also being accepted for the Miriam Shehane Award and Volunteer Award. Volunteers needed to help set up for vigil at noon on April 10.

Our condolences are sent to Sheriff Andy Hughes in the loss of his mother and to Doris Dease in the loss of her husband, Jim.

**RE-LAUNCHING THE MONTGOMERY VOCAL CHAPTER.** A brunch was held on March 12 at the VOCAL office in Montgomery to re-establish the Montgomery-area chapter. More than 40 letters were sent to VOCAL members and friends in the tri-county area. Those attending the brunch were scheduled to decide on an official chapter name, future meeting days and times, upcoming activities, and outreach/service to the community. If you have friends or relatives in Montgomery, Autauga, or Elmore counties who might be interested in joining this chapter, contact Darlene at DFWeditor@aol.com or 334-450-5851.

**NOTE FROM CHAIRMAN OF BOARD, PAT JONES.** I would like to welcome our new board members: Jerry Renfroe, James Hamner, Lester Ezekiel, and District Attorney Pamela Casey. Thank you for accepting the invitation to serve on our board. I want to let all of you know that VOCAL is still striving to put victims first. But the Board cannot do it alone; we need your help. If you can volunteer or have fundraising ideas, please let us know. Above all, keep VOCAL in your prayers.

#### 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  
422 South Court Street  
P.O. Box 4449  
Montgomery, AL 36103  
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  
P.O. Box 7133  
Dothan, AL 36302  
(334) 702-7010  
Fax: (334) 702-7014

Chapters include Jefferson, Shelby, Shoals, and Southeast

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 mwheat@bellsouth.net.

**Counselor Joyce Miller is recovering from her second round of chemo. Many members have sent get well cards to her and she wanted us to thank you for all your well wishes. If you have not had a chance to write her, the address is 89 Easy Street, Dothan, Alabama 36305 and she really would appreciate it! All VOCAL chapters expressed their hope that Joyce will continue to show great progress.**

## SOME JUDGES HAVE FORGOTTEN THEY ARE NOT GOD

Judge Joseph Johnston of Mobile County decided that after three years of investigation by the Mobile County Sheriff's Office and the indictment from a grand jury, there was not enough evidence for a jury of twelve to decide if an illegal alien named Carlos Posada murdered 20-year-old Sharon Lee. This decision was made after Judge Johnston let the jury listen to four days of testimony--testimony which included experts that had been flown from New Jersey for forensics and testimony from the pathologist about the internal injuries suffered by Sharon Lee. After Sharon's family listened ad nauseam to the reprehensible crimes that happened to their child, this judge decided a jury is not as smart as he. He decided that the family had not suffered enough and gave a directive verdict of not guilty.

So, judge my question to you is, "Why didn't you do this on day one?" You have been with this case from the beginning. You are the judge that was continuously late for the hearings; not once or twice, but several times. So many times the family wrote a letter to Judge Graddick to complain about your lack of professionalism.

So if you felt there was insufficient evidence in this case, why would you let the family go through this trauma once again? Why wouldn't you let the jury make that decision? I guess after the 13 years on the bench you have forgotten you are a mere human and have put yourself in God's place. You made the judgment rather than letting the jury. Remember the defendant requested a jury trial, not a bench trial.

Shame on you for putting this family through such a horrific ordeal.

Joyce Miller

## A FAMILY'S SURVIVOR'S STORY

**Darline Larson, Sister of Danny Sledge**

You never do get over it because the littlest thing will take you right back to that terrible day. Joseph Daniel (Danny) Sledge was murdered by two teen brothers on a Friday evening the 12<sup>th</sup> of March in 1999. It was the next morning before he was found dead and we wondered for months how long he lay there, alone, suffering and dying. Law enforcement spent that weekend looking for the killer(s). We spent the weekend trying to hold each other up, sharing memories, notifying people, and wondering if we were safe. One family member refused to leave her home as it was the only place she felt safe.

That Monday we got the call that they caught them and we headed for the first of many trips to the courthouse. We were told the father of the two teens turned them in because he was afraid he was going to be next. The two were Nathan Boyd age 17 (AIS #214724) and Eric Boyd age 19 (AIS #216553). Nathan was well known to law enforcement. We would find out he was supposed to be in jail, but someone's mistake did not keep him there. The two murderers had spent the stolen money on drugs, partied at a club, and then stayed high in their apartment that weekend.

Danny knew Nathan from work. Danny ran a restaurant called "The Galley" on the banks of Shoals Creek in Florence, Alabama. Nathan had been thrown out of his house like his brother Eric when the parents got tired of dealing with them. We learned during the trials they had been abused by their parents as children and now were big enough to fight back; so frightened of retribution the parents put them out to fend for themselves. Danny had given Nathan a job more than once, but he only worked long enough for drug money and would not show for work. In July of 1998 we had a cousin murdered doing his job as a police officer. Danny gave Nathan another chance to work at The Galley so Danny could leave town with the rest of us for the funeral. It made the national news and Nathan and Eric assumed that we were a rich family given the funeral our cousin had.

Halloween was the first time they stalked him. They had a gun that time, watched the restaurant, waiting for Danny to be alone. Something happened and they left. There would be other times as well, bringing in different people with them who told their stories during the trials. Why none of them went to the police, we'll never know.

The Galley's busy season was during the warmer months and was pretty boring in the winter. That evening it was rainy and Danny let the one worker leave early and he was left alone. The brothers were there and went to the door as Danny was locking it and pushed their way in. Different family members have had their own businesses and the attitude had always been life over money. So we knew the fight that followed wasn't over money, Danny would have given it to them. Both Nathan and Eric were much bigger in size than Danny but he fought back through each of the 27 stab wounds and then a knife broke off in his back. They estimated this all started about 8 p.m..

The next morning the first worker to come in was Bonnie and she knew something was not right. The door was not locked, there appeared to be a struggle that ended up in the kitchen and she found our father, son, brother, cousin, nephew, friend sitting up against the wall in a pool of blood; his eyes were open.

A sister, Mary Anne, lived just down the road and was leaving her home when she looked in the direction of The Galley and saw all the police cars in the parking lot. She was the first of the family to learn that Danny was dead. The word had to spread fast because in such a small town someone might hear it from the press or a stranger. Family

members were awakened from their last night of sleep for some time to the terrible news that Danny was gone. Questions were answered with "I don't know", not wanting to be the one to tell the terrible details of Danny's last moments alive.

St. Patrick's Day had always been great fun for our Irish family but from now on it would be the day we buried Danny. He was not eulogized by anyone that knew him for we were all in shock and crying nonstop. The words were left to strangers to most of us. "Butterfly Kisses" a favorite of Danny's was played at the service as it was at his oldest daughter's wedding and would be again in a few months at his youngest daughter's wedding. "Danny Boy" never brought so many tears to a room. The one thing we knew for sure was that he was always at family gatherings and that made his absence even greater; he would have loved it.

There is a lot more to tell but what matters is that his death was described as heinous, like a passion killing. The two teenage brothers ravaged Danny and the horror of the crime scene confused the law enforcement officers. The detectives asked questions about his personal life that were painful to hear. We answered no, on and on, but they continued to ask. They needed our help, but we were at a loss as why anyone would want him dead and why the crime was so brutal. He had made a bank deposit that morning which was his usual; if it was robbery it could not have been for very much money. And we always said, hand over the money, it did not make sense. But then we were trying to make sense out of something that was senseless.

When we first saw the teen brothers in court we were surprised at their height and build; Danny did not stand a chance against them. He liked to say he was 5' 10" but that was pushing it. At his heaviest he was probably 160 pounds but he had lost weight those last few months. The difference in size did not stop Danny from fighting. He left many a wound on those two, but he had to have known they were there to kill him to fight back as hard as he did.

Both were charged with capital murder. There was a trial for each of them, a change in venue for the second to be sure he got a fair trial. Nathan, the younger and bigger of the two and the one with the criminal record, was sentenced to life without parole. It was probably all those stories of the father's drinking and abuse of prescription drugs that led to frequent beatings, one of which broke Nathan's arm that kept him from the death penalty. Eric, the older of the two got life but could possibly be paroled.

We tried to take comfort that maybe we would not be on the national news fighting for the death penalty for Nathan as it was cruel and unusual punishment for someone who was 17 at the time he did the crime. Maybe it was God's way of protecting us from that battle. Maybe so, but now it is legislatures trying to save a buck or two in the budget that we struggle with. There was one session that a bill was introduced to release terminal prisoner's home to their families. And now it's the efforts at the national level to consider the convicted criminal a child. There was nothing child-like in that crime scene or what had been delivered as so hard a blow as to break the handle off of a knife. No child ended Danny's life at age 43 years old. No child fought with him to enter 27 stab wounds. These murderers were not children in any shape or form; they were calculating, cold-blooded murderers.

My sister, Mary Anne, became involved in VOCAL after my family and I received so much help and guidance from Joyce Miller of Angel House after the murder of my brother Danny Sledge in March of 1999. None of us had ever been involved in the court system, so we were completely blindsided by the police investigation and the steps involved in the court system. My family was given counseling, guidance and information to help us navigate the system. I was so moved by all the assistance we had received I wanted to help other victims as my family had been helped. Along with Charles and Rebecca Condrey we started the Shoals Chapter VOCAL. Today the chapter continues to help family members of homicide victims in the Shoals area. Victims helping victims, to lean on, provide comfort and guidance so that we all may find peace in our minds and hearts.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Joyce Miller, MS LPC

One of the things about being a victim is the loss of control you feel. Before the devastation of being a victim, most of us feel in control of our lives. Once we are notified of a loved one being murdered, we realize we are not in control. I have often heard from victims that they just "did what they were told" through the process. Other people are in control and we are so traumatized we can't even control our thinking much less fight back to those who have taken control. It is very important for you to start taking back control, regardless of how small the gesture is or how unimportant it may seem or how much of your energy will be consumed by the battle. We must take the small steps, even though they seem like giant steps to us to regain control.

The more you know, the more empowered you will be. Go to criminal trials in your district, watch the process and learn about the system. When you are tired of the media's half truths and innuendos about your loved one, write a blistering letter to the editor. Tell the facts about your loved one (not about the case). When a reporter wants an interview, give them one and talk about your loved one; tell them what kind of a person they were, what their dreams and plans were. Remember the media is going to print something and if you don't talk to them the other side will. Also remember that the public reading the news is your jury pool. Wouldn't you much rather they know about your loved one?

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

### By Darlene Hutchinson Biehl

The 2011 legislative session began March 1 and will continue through mid-June. Many bills have already been proposed that could directly affect victims of crime and public safety. By visiting <http://www.legislature.state.al.us>, you can review bills in their entirety, determine the current status of legislation, review committee agendas, find your lawmaker's contact information, and listen LIVE to many of the legislative meetings. Following is a brief synopsis of a few of the bills we are currently monitoring. There are, of course, many other proposals related to criminal justice that we were not able to include in this list.

**HB 23, Sponsored by Rep. Chris England (D-70 Tuscaloosa).** This bill would allow a person charged or convicted of certain criminal offenses or traffic violations to petition the court to expunge the record of arrest and/or conviction. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 27, Sponsored by Rep. Chris England (D-70 Tuscaloosa).** This bill would allow a person charged or convicted of certain criminal offenses or traffic violations to petition the court to expunge the record of arrest and/or conviction. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 51, Sponsored by Rep. Jim Barton (R-104 Mobile).** This bill would increase the penalty for a third or subsequent conviction of indecent exposure. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 128, Sponsored by Rep. Chris England (D-70 Tuscaloosa).** This bill would allow defendants without a prior felony conviction or youthful offender adjudication to apply for special status as a "first offender," unless the person has been charged with capital murder or a Class A felony. If the first-offender status is granted, and the offender successfully completes probation and/or confinement, the defendant's case would be discharged and the criminal record would be sealed. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 129, Sponsored by Rep. Chris England (D-70 Tuscaloosa).** This bill would allow for probationers who comply with the terms and conditions of probation for the first two-thirds of their probation to be transferred to an unsupervised status for the final third of their probation. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 130, Sponsored by Rep. Marcel Black (D-3 Tuscumbia).** This bill relates to the revocation and suspension of probation. Also, it defines an administrative violation, eligible offender, nonviolent offender, and new offense. Further, the bill outlines when a successive petition for resentencing may be considered. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 134, Sponsored by Rep. Rod Scott (D-55 Fairfield).** This bill would eliminate the suspension of driver's licenses for those convicted of certain drug offenses. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 139, Sponsored by Rep. Arthur Payne (R-44 Trussville).** This bill would revise the existing Youthful Offender Law so that a minor defendant charged with intentionally inflicting serious physical injury or intentionally killed someone would NOT be eligible for Y.O. status. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

**SB 47, Sponsored by Sen. Cam Ward (R-14 Alabaster).** This bill would amend Section 15-22-36 of the Parole Notification Bill, and require crime victims to provide their contact information to the Board of Pardons and Paroles if the victim wants to receive notice of upcoming hearings. Additionally, victims would be required to update their contact information to continue receiving notice. If the victim does not provide the information, notice will not be sent. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**SB 91, Sponsored by Sen. Marc Keahey (D-22 Grove Hill) and Sen. Rusty Glover (R-34 Semmes).** This bill would require defendants convicted the first time of a DUI offense to attend a session conducted by a victims' impact program. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**SB 142, Sponsored by Sen. Jerry Fielding (D-11 Sylacauga).** This bill would establish early release and mandatory reentry supervision (for 6 months prior to end of sentence) of certain inmates convicted of nonviolent crimes. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**SB 145, Sponsored by Sen. Cam Ward (R-14 Alabaster) and Sen. Bryan Taylor (R-30 Prattville).** This bill would eliminate the suspension of driver's licenses for those convicted of certain drug offenses. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**SB 147, Sponsored by Sen. Cam Ward (R-14 Alabaster) and Sen. Tom Whatley (R-27 Auburn).** This bill would allow for probationers who comply with the terms and conditions of probation for the first two-thirds of their probation to be transferred to an unsupervised status for the final third of their probation. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

If you are interested in receiving a WEEKLY UPDATE about legislation affecting victims of crime, send your email address to [DFWeditor@aol.com](mailto:DFWeditor@aol.com). Also, **please indicate if you are interested in occasionally traveling to the State House in Montgomery.** Sometimes we only have 24 hours notice when advocates are needed to be at the State House to educate lawmakers on the effects of pending legislation.

**CANDLELIGHT VIGIL VICTIM'S TESTIMONY**

*VOCAL will produce a testimonial booklet for the Candlelight Vigil to be held during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in April 2010. If you wish to have a brief memorial or tribute statement included in this booklet, complete the following form and mail or fax to the VOCAL office by March 21.*

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_ WHO WAS  
(NAME OF VICTIM)

\_\_\_\_\_ ON \_\_\_\_\_  
(NATURE OF VICTIMIZATION) (DAY/MONTH/YEAR)

BRIEF MEMORIAL OR TRIBUTE STATEMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADDED IN THE TESTIMONIAL BOOKLET:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MAY WE ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST? \_\_\_\_\_

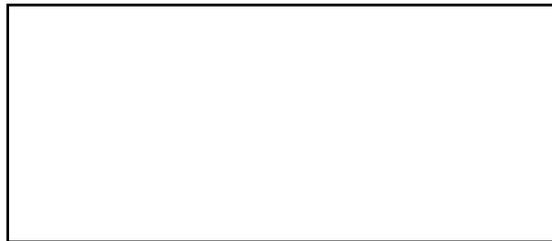
**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:**

VICTIMS OF CRIME AND LENIENCY  
P. O. BOX 4449  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36103-4449  
Fax 1-334-262-7197

Visit our website at [www.vocalonline.org](http://www.vocalonline.org)  
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**422 South Court Street**  
**P.O. Box 4449**  
**Montgomery, AL 36103**

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**DO YOU HAVE 3+ HOURS TO VOLUNTEER FOR VOCAL?**

We have a project we're working on at the Montgomery headquarters and could use some extra help. All we require is legible handwriting and good enough eyesight to review files. This is a critically important project that will greatly benefit the future of VOCAL. Please help!! To volunteer, contact Darlene at 334-450-5851 or [DFWeditor@aol.com](mailto:DFWeditor@aol.com).

**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 Jim Dease**  
 Miriam Shehane

**In Honor of Miriam Shehane's Birthday**  
 Darlene Hutchinson Biehl

Lee Jones

**Memorial for Ella Foy Riley**  
 Betty Kendrick

**Memorial for Karen Tipton**  
 Lee Tipton

Montgomery County Commission

Doug & Judy Powell

<p><b><i>VICTIM CONTACTS</i></b>          Governor Robert Bentley          State Capitol          Montgomery, AL 36130          Taylor Vice, Director          Constituent Services          (334) 242-7100          1-800-591-4217</p>	<p>Attorney General's          Office of          Victim Assistance          501 Washington Avenue          Montgomery, AL 36130          Patricia S. DeBortoli          Victim Services Director          (334) 242-7300          1-800-626-7676  <a href="http://www.ago.state.al.us">www.ago.state.al.us</a></p>	<p>Department of Corrections          Kim T. Thomas, Commissioner          P.O. Box 301501          301 South Ripley Street          Montgomery, AL 36130          VSO Janet Findley LeJeune          (334) 353-3871  <a href="http://www.doc.state.al.us">www.doc.state.al.us</a>          State inmate parole info.          1-888-726-9799, Option 4</p>	<p>Alabama Crime          Victims Compensation          Commission          Dr. Cassie Jones          Director          P.O. Box 231267          Montgomery, AL          36123          1-800-541-9388  <a href="http://www.acvcc.state.al.us">www.acvcc.state.al.us</a></p>	<p>State of Alabama          Board of Pardons &amp; Paroles          Cynthia Dillard, Director          P.O. Box 302405          Montgomery, AL          36130-2405          VSO Debra Bonds          (334) 242-8050          Fax (334) 353-7701  <a href="http://www.pardoles.state.al.us">www.pardoles.state.al.us</a></p>
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