

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Rick Malone
April 16, 2007 Executive Director
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Georgia Joins with the National Crime Victims Rights Week Observance

In Atlanta and across Georgia, citizens are meeting for candlelight vigils, informational meetings and tributes to honor individuals whose lives have been impacted by crime in observance of **National Crime Victims' Rights Week** from April 22-28, 2007. The theme this year is "***Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time,***" envisioning a strengthened national, state and local commitment to the nearly 24 million Americans harmed by the many aspects of crime each year.

During the past three decades, the United States has made dramatic progress in securing rights by enacting crime victims' rights legislation in every state, but the future is focused with concern in areas of more protection, compensation and services for crime victims.

"We are all diminished when victims go without the protection and help they need," said John W. Gillis, director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. "Anytime a crime is not reported, a witness is intimidated, or an order of restitution is not enforced, we are all less secure. Achieving justice means repairing the harm suffered by all victims of crime."

Community members and individuals who have been impacted by crime are encouraged to join other victims, advocates and legislators in a ceremony at the Georgia State Capitol on April 19, 2007 at 11:30 AM in the North and South wings. Governor Perdue will sign the 2007 Crime Victim proclamation and there will be a very special guest speaker. The goal is to honor and commit to better serve individuals impacted by crime.

For more information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week and how you can participate at the state capitol, contact Kitty Ulmer at 404-651-6582, or visit the following Web sites for more general information: www.ncvc.org or www.pacga.org/vs/index.shtml.