



## MEDIA RELEASE

### OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

April 5, 2011

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

#### **“Reshaping The Future. Honoring The Past.”**

The Anderson County Sheriff's Department joins national commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This year's theme – *Reshaping the Future. Honoring the Past.* – evokes victims' past struggles and our nation's duty to help them rebuild stronger lives.



For victims, reshaping the future means confronting many challenges. After a crime, victims need to know what rights and resources they can count on. They may need funds to bury a loved one or pay medical bills. They may want information on the criminal justice process, their rights to be present or heard in court, and to be notified about court proceedings and offenders' whereabouts. Yet many victims do not find the help they need.

Honoring the past also means recalling a time, not too many years ago, when victims had no voice in the criminal justice system. Murder victims' families were excluded from courtrooms and assault victims paid all their own medical bills. National Crime Victims' Rights Week honors the victims and advocates who confronted such injustices and helped produce a nationwide system of victim compensation and victims' rights. It also reminds us that failures to enforce these laws or to fund programs for victims jeopardize the success of these reforms.

Please join the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole for a tree planting event honoring victims of crime at **1:00pm on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**, at the Hoskins/Lane Gazebo Park on Market Street in Clinton.

**For more information on this event, please contact the Clinton office of the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole at 865-457-4995, extension 118.**

Visit the Office for Victims of Crime: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc).

**Sheriff Paul White**