



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 6th through April 12th, 2014

“30 Years: Restoring The Balance Of Justice.”



The Anderson County Sheriff's Department will commemorate our nation's progress in advancing victims' rights by honoring those champions in advocating for expanded support and services to communities affected by crime. This year's theme – ***30 Years: Restoring The Balance Of Justice*** – presents a perfect opportunity to salute those who have helped and their long-term commitment to aiding crime victims. As we celebrate three decades of defending victims' rights, we are reminded of how far we have come – and how much work is yet to be done.

Only 30 years ago, crime victims had virtually no rights and no assistance. The criminal justice system often seemed indifferent to their needs. Victims were commonly excluded from courtrooms and denied the chance to speak at sentencing. They had no access to victim compensation or services to help rebuild their lives. Victims were on their own to recover their health, security, and dignity.

Today, the nation has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims. Every state has enacted victims' rights laws and all have victim compensation programs. More than 10,000 victim service agencies now help people throughout the country. In 1984, Congress passed the bipartisan Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which created a national fund to ease victims' suffering. Financed not by taxpayers but by fines and penalties paid by offenders, the Crime Victims Fund supports victim services, such as rape crisis and domestic violence programs and victim compensation programs that pay many of victims' out-of-pocket expenses from the crime, such as counseling, funeral expenses, and lost wages.

Please join the Anderson County Sheriff's Department in honoring 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 6th through April 12th.

For more information visit the Office for Victims of Crime website: www.ovc.gov.

Sheriff Paul White

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