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## Agency News

# National Crime Victims' Rights Week: April 21-27

APRIL 21-27, 2013

## 2013 NCVRW RESOURCE GUIDE

NEW CHALLENGES • NEW SOLUTIONS



**O**n April 22, crime victims, their advocates, representatives of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division and other victim services organizations throughout the state will gather together to mark the beginning of the 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week with a memorial tree planting at the state capitol to celebrate the life and honor the memory of Suzanne McDaniel, a pioneer in crime victims' rights. In 1976, when the needs of crime victims and their families were often overlooked by the criminal justice system, McDaniel founded Texas' first crime victims' support program in the Harris County District Attorney's office.

This year's theme, *New Challenges. New Solutions.* celebrates the progress activists like McDaniel have made in the fight for crime victim's rights. For most of our nation's history, crime victims had few rights and little access to compensation or services to help re-

build and restore their lives. They were often excluded from courtrooms and denied the opportunity to speak at sentencing or during the parole process. Today, after decades of hard work by crime victim advocates, Texas, along with other states, have enacted a variety of crime victims' rights laws and established crime victim compensation funds. National Crime Victims' Rights Week reminds us that many challenges remain. Crime victims must always be informed regarding their rights and these rights should always be respected and enforced.

"New Challenges. New Solutions. captures our mission in the 21st century," said Joye E. Frost, acting director for the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. "We must craft a new vision for reaching all victims of crime. We can achieve this only by substantially broadening our thinking, strategically planning our future, and creatively expanding our resources and tools."

National Crime Victims' Rights Week takes place April 21-27 throughout the nation. TDCJ Victim Services Division Director Angie McCown, a featured speaker at the Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Tree Planting, encourages participation in the week's events, saying, "National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to revisit our history, celebrate our achievements, and advance the progress of victims' rights. As we recommit ourselves to our mission of assisting crime victims' participation in the criminal justice system, we look forward to observing 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week."

For more information about the 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week and to learn how you can help crime victims in your own community, contact TDCJ Victim Services Division at 800-848-4284, or visit the TDCJ website.

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The year's Crime Victims' Rights Week events include:

## **Brazos County**

### **7th Annual Every Victim, Every Time**

#### **Conference**

**April 23 - 24**

**A&M University Church of Christ,  
College Station, TX**

This conference is designed for professionals who work with crime victims. For more information, visit <http://evetbv.org/index.html>

## **Collin County**

### **Victims of Crime Ceremony and Luncheon**

**April 22, 11:30 a.m.**

**Myers Park and Events Center,  
7117 County Road 166, McKinney, TX 75071**

For more information, contact Chris Jenkins at 972-548-4357. RSVP by April 18 to [crimevictimslunch@collincountytx.gov](mailto:crimevictimslunch@collincountytx.gov)

## **Dallas County**

### **Breakfast Ceremony in Celebration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

**April 25, 9:30 a.m.**

### **Dallas First Assembly of God, 11000 E. Northwest Highway, Dallas, TX 75231**

For more information contact Sumer Was-sef by phone at 214-393-2492 or by email at [sumer.wassef@dps.texas.gov](mailto:sumer.wassef@dps.texas.gov) or Lorelei Gregory by phone at 214-393-2492 or by email at [lorelei@victims-outreach.org](mailto:lorelei@victims-outreach.org). RSVP by April 19.

## **El Paso County**

### **Crime Victim Information Booths April 27, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**El Paso Public Library, 501 N. Oregon**

### **National Crime Victims' Rights Week Annual Memorial Service**

**April 28, 8 a.m.**

**Crime Victims' Memorial Reading Garden Pavilion, 610 Yarbrough Drive**

The memorial service will honor those in the El Paso community who have lost their lives to violent crime. A tolling bell will be followed by a reading of the names engraved on the Crime Victims' Memorial. For more information, contact Gladys Carmona at 915-538-2237.

## **Lubbock County**

**April 25, 2 p.m.**

**LakeRidge United Methodist Church, 4701 82nd Street, Lubbock, TX 79424**

For more information, contact Dawn Bevan at 806-793-6233.

## **Midland County**

### **New Challenges, New Solutions Presentation**

**April 25, 2 p.m.**

**Midland County Courthouse, 500 North Loraine, Auxiliary Courtroom, Midland, TX 79701**

A Stopping the Crime Cycle training session will be held one hour before the presentation. For more information, contact Tom Cooper at 432-498-2168.

## **Travis County**

### **Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Tree Planting**

**April 22, Noon - 1 p.m.**

**Texas State Capitol Grounds (South lawn, east of the main sidewalk)**

A tree will be planted to celebrate the life and honor the memory of Suzanne McDaniel, a pioneer in crime victims' rights, who ushered in a new era of support and assistance for victims of crime across Texas and the nation.

### **Heaven's Rain\***

**April 22, 7 - 9:30 p.m.**

**University of Texas, Utopia Theatre, 1925 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin, TX 78712**

Join Brooks Douglass for a screening of

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Heaven's Rain, based on the true story of crime survivors, Brooks and Leslie Douglass. Question and answer with Brooks to follow. \*NOTE: Heaven's Rain includes brief flashbacks to the crime scene, which are handled discreetly and respectfully, but are not appropriate for children.

## **Annual Crime Victims' Rights Ceremony**

**April 23, 7 - 8:30 p.m.**

**First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, 4700 Grover Ave., Austin, TX 78756**

Austin's signature Crime Victims' Rights Week event, the evening will include three survivor-speakers and tributes to victims of crime. This event will be available for viewing via live video stream.

For more information about these Austin-area events, or to view the live stream video of the Victims' Rights ceremony, visit [crime-victimrights.eventbrite.com](http://crime-victimrights.eventbrite.com).

## **Walker County**

### **Breakfast Honoring Victims of Crime, Service Providers and First Responders**

**April 25, 9 a.m.**

**Huntsville Public Library Community Room, 1219 13th Street, Huntsville, TX 77341**

For more information, contact Lisa Anderson at 936-291-5480 or [landerson@huntsville.tx.gov](mailto:landerson@huntsville.tx.gov). Please RSVP by April 15. ●