

**Belinda Hill
First Assistant**

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**Criminal Justice Center
1201 Franklin, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77002 901**

Contact
Jeff McShan
Camille Hepola
(713) 755-0122

Harris County District Attorney

DEVON ANDERSON

DA's Office Celebrates National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19 -25

District Attorney Devon Anderson announced today that her office will recognize National Crime Victims' Rights Week which begins on Sunday, April 19th. Every April, the National Crime Victims' Rights Week is promoted to honor crime victims. In 1984, Congress passed the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), creating the Crime Victims' Fund which is financed from fines and penalties paid by offenders. The fund supports victim services, including rape crisis and domestic violence programs and victim compensation programs that pay many of the crime victims' out-of-pocket expenses such as counseling, funeral expenses and lost wages.

"The National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a great opportunity to raise awareness about victims' rights and to pay tribute to the victims we serve," said DA Anderson. "Our office works tirelessly to hold offenders accountable and to seek justice for Harris County citizens." On Monday, April 20, at 10:30a.m., DA Anderson will hold a ceremony for the "Parents of Murdered Children" Houston and Heights Chapters honoring murder victims lost in the last several years. 240 names will be displayed on 5 plaques that will be hung in the lobby of the Harris County Criminal Justice Complex. The event will be held at 1201 Franklin Street, 6th floor. The families of the victims named on the plaque will be present.

On Thursday, April 23, from 11a.m. to 2p.m., the Office's Victim/Witness Division will hold an event called "Shoes without Souls" at the Family Law Center, 1115 Congress Street, to honor crime victims. There will be 10 agencies participating including Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), The Bridge, and The Houston Area Womens' Center (HAWC). These agencies will be available to answer questions and distribute information regarding help and support for crime victims. The Harris County District Attorney's Office has collected shoes from employees and will display them to symbolize the walk crime victims have to take through the criminal justice system. After the event, the shoes will be donated to the Salvation Army.

For additional information on how to help crime victims, please visit [the Harris County District Attorney's Office website](#) and click on the tab "Helping Victims".

NOTE: Media is invited to both events. For those attending and wanting interviews with victims' families, contact: Camille Hepola, 713-898-7823.