

NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Attorney General Honors Pennsylvania Advocate with National Crime Victims Award

ENOLA, Pa. (April 24, 2006) – On Friday, April 21, 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales presented Delilah Rumburg, executive director of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR), with the National Crime Victim Service Award during an awards ceremony at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

The awards ceremony and preceding candlelight vigil opened national observance of 2006 National Crime Victims' Week, April 23-26. Coordinated by the Office for Victims of Crime, a component of the Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice, the awards honor those whose outstanding work on behalf of crime victims has earned them the esteem of their colleagues in the victim service and criminal justice fields. The recipients are nominated by their colleagues and approved by the U.S. Attorney General

“I am truly humbled to be recognized with the Victim Service Award,” remarked Rumburg. “For more than 19 years, I have been working on behalf of victims of crime and recognize that while we have made significant advances in our work there is still much to be done. This award simply affirms my commitment to furthering victims' rights.”

Rumburg has served as executive director of PCAR since 1995. During her tenure, she has been a member of numerous state and national task forces and advisory councils dedicated to advancing victims' rights. Most recently, she was appointed by Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to the Department of Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies, where she served as co-chair.

She is a former member of the National Advisory Council (NAC) on Violence Against Women, the only person on this committee to have served under three Attorneys General: Janet Reno, John Ashcroft and most recently Gonzales.

Recognized for her extraordinary efforts in direct service to crime victims, Rumburg was joined in the receipt of the National Crime Victim Service Award by Sharon Rocha, mother of Laci Peterson and the grandmother of Laci's unborn son Conner who were murdered on Christmas Eve in 2002. Along with other families of victims, Rocha lobbied for the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which was signed into law by President Bush.

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Additional recipients include Steven R. Siegel of Denver, Colo. and Hogar de Ninos Regazo de Paz of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Siegel was a founding member of the National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network and has served crime victims for more than 29 years. Hogar de Ninos Regazo de Paz of Aguadilla, is a home for abused and abandoned children, which opened in 1995 and has provided care and services for 186 boys and girls throughout Puerto Rico.

Other award winners include:

Allied Professional Award: Recognizes an individual or organization outside the victim assistance field for services or contributions to the victims' field. Recipient: Dr. Anna I. S. Binkiewicz, Tucson, AZ.

Crime Victims Fund Award: Recognizes outstanding work in pursuit of federal criminal offenders and in the collection of fines, penalty fees, forfeited bail bonds and special assessments that constitute the Crime Victims Fund. Recipient: U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Indiana, Financial Litigation Unit.

Federal Crime Victim Service Award: Honors exceptional contributions and extraordinary impact on behalf of victims in Indian Country, on military installations, in national parks, or other areas governed by federal jurisdiction. Recipient: Susan Shriner, Washington, DC.

Professional Innovation in Victim Service Award: Recognizes the development of effective methods for expanding the reach of victims' rights and services. Recipients: Regina Mainor, Philadelphia, Penn.; the Colorado State Patrol Victims' Assistance Unit, Denver, Colo.; and the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award: A new award category honoring individuals whose leadership, vision, and innovation results in significant changes to public policy and practice benefiting crime victims. Recipients: Jeffrey R. Dion, Woodbridge, Va.; and Andy Kahan, Houston, TX.

Special Courage Award: Recognizes extraordinary bravery in the aftermath of a crime or courageous act on behalf of a victim or potential victim. Recipients: Carolyn E. Thomas, Waco, TX; and Pan Am Flight 73 - flight attendants and Pan Am Director for Pakistan.

Volunteer for Victims Awards: Honors uncompensated efforts to reach out to crime victims. Recipients: Alan Gross, New York, N.Y.; and W. Gregory Wims, Gaithersburg, MD.

Descriptive narratives about the award recipients can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov.

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP is headed by an Assistant Attorney General and comprises five component bureaus and an office: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office for Victims of Crime, as well as the Community Capacity Development Office, which incorporates the Weed and Seed strategy and OJP's American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Desk. More information can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov.

PCAR is an organization working at the state and national levels to prevent sexual violence. Since its inception in 1975, PCAR has been at the forefront of the anti-sexual violence movement challenging public attitudes, raising public awareness and effecting critical changes in public policy, protocols and responses to sexual violence.

To contact your local rape crisis center, please call 1.888.772.PCAR.

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Photo Caption: National Crime Victims' Rights Week Award Ceremony, April 21, 2006 Recipient with Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, Regina B. Schofield and Director for the Office for Victims of Crime, John W. Gillis Photo credit: U.S. Department of Justice