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NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

As proclaimed by the City of Fort Collins and the City of Loveland, National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed April 21 – 27 in our community and communities throughout the country to raise awareness of victims' rights, reflect on the progress that has been made in the field, and bring forth new solutions to better serve crime victims.

This year's theme – New Challenges, New Solutions – could not be more fitting for current times. From the recent tragedies headlining the news to the unnamed victims yet to report, the victim services field faces challenges not seen before which call for solutions not previously recognized.

Locally, victim service providers continue to work tirelessly to provide crime victims the rights so justly afforded to them. Advocates work day-in and day-out to ensure victims are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. These advocates also make certain victims are notified and informed and they stand for a victim's right to be heard.

District Attorney Cliff Riedel will be recognizing these advocates at the District Attorney Awards of Distinction on Thursday, April 25th, 2:00 p.m., at the Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak, in Fort Collins. The award for Exceptional Service Provider will be presented to Ana Pasini with Larimer County Child Advocacy Center; the Larimer County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 909 will be presented with the Youth Service Award; and Susan Webster will be honored for Innovative Service Provider awarded posthumously.

The National Crime Victims' Rights Week Planning Committee will also be hosting a Resource Fair in Old Town Square on Friday, April 26 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm in an effort to raise awareness of victims' rights in our community and the services available to victims.

For additional information about 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week and how to help victims in our community, please visit the Office for Victims of Crime website at www.ovc.gov.