

NEWS:



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

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Orange County Participates in National Crime Victims' Rights Week *Diana proclaims Crime Victims' Rights Week in Orange County*

Goshen – The Orange County Coalition for Crime Victims' Rights, comprised of citizens and government officials, recently held a National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony that included a tree blessing and dedication at Delano-Hitch Park honoring victims of crime, followed by a candlelight vigil and speak out service at Sacred Heart Church in the city of Newburgh, NY.

"In light of the terrible tragedy that just took place at the Newburgh waterfront, I would remind all residents that there are many support services available to those in need through the Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health, Employee Assistance Program, and 2-1-1," said County Executive Edward A. Diana.

Serving as the evening's master of ceremonies was Gregory T. Gaetano, Chief Criminal Investigator, Orange County Sheriff's Office, in a program that included remarks by Orange County District Attorney Francis D. Phillips, and an Orange Crime Victims' Rights Week proclamation under the theme Reshaping the Future – Honoring the past by County Executive Diana. Personnel from Orange County's Stop-DWI program and Probation Department were also in attendance.

"It's very important that we remember victims of crime and provide support and assistance to them," said Sheriff Carl E. DuBois. "This year's service reminds us that we should not forget the victim, but ensure that their rights are preserved in our system of criminal justice."

For more information, please contact the Orange County Sheriff's Office at (845) 291-4033 or visit them at www.orangecountygov.com.



City of Newburgh Police Chief Michael Ferrara and Orange County Sheriff Carl E. DuBois at the Tree Blessing and Dedication in honor of Crime Victims' Rights Week, Delano-Hitch Park, city of Newburgh, NY.



The Fox Hill Youth Choir of the Town of Montgomery sings at the 2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony, Sacred Heart Church, city of Newburgh, NY.

ORANGE COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2011

RESHAPING THE FUTURE, HONORING THE PAST

WHEREAS, 20 million Americans are victims of crime each year and each crime affects many more, including families, friends;

WHEREAS, crime exacts an emotional, physical, psychological, and financial toll on victims as they have lost loved ones, life savings, physical and mental health, and often their sense of security that has the potential to irrevocably change the course of their lives forever;

WHEREAS, more than 30 years of progress for crime victims stands on the shoulders of dedicated advocates and brave victims who overcame shame, isolation, and indifference to gain a voice, rights, and respect;

WHEREAS, we applaud the progress that our nation has made in recognizing crime's impact on victims and celebrate advocates and survivors who through their determination brought rights and resources for victims and have changed the course of history;

WHEREAS, victim assistance programs across the country are reaching more victims and criminal justice officials are honoring victims' rights more consistently, public understanding of victims' rights remains minimal, and our nation's victim services system remains fragmented, underfunded, and uncoordinated;

WHEREAS, more work remains to be done to address the mental health impact of crime, and to meet the needs of victims of non-violent crime, victims of terrorism, and other underserved victims;

WHEREAS, our history teaches us that, by working together, we can help victims of crime reshape their destinies and ensure that they receive the support they need, the respect they deserve, and the rights they have earned;

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10 – 16, 2011, provides an opportunity for us to reshape the future for victims by honoring the past and reflecting on hard-won victories, and to recommit to working together to insist on better treatment for victims to help them overcome the harm caused by crime; and

WHEREAS, Orange County Government is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout the County to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Edward A. Diana, Orange County Executive, do hereby proclaim the week of April 10 – 16, 2011 as:

ORANGE COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

throughout Orange County and honors crime victims and those who serve them during this week and throughout the year and we stand united in our commitment to victim justice as individuals, communities and a Nation.

HONORED THIS THIRTEENTH DAY OF APRIL, TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN

Edward A. Diana, County Executive