



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
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Applington-Parkersburg Residents to be Honored at Iowa's National Crime Victims' Rights Week Celebration

DES MOINES, IA - Nicholas A. Klinefeldt, US Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, announced today that the Offices of the United States Attorney for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa will celebrate National Crime Victims' Rights Week at the Wallace State Office Building with representatives from the Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC), the Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance (IOVA), the Iowa Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAD), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

When: 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Thursday, April 14, 2011 *(Media set-up: 9:30 am)*

Where: Wallace State Office Building Auditorium, 502 E. 9th Street

Iowa's celebration during National Crime Victims' Rights Week will include:

Chris M. Luhring, Parkersburg City Administrator and Parkersburg Police Chief 2004-2009, will receive the 2011 Law Enforcement Victim Service Award for a single act. This prestigious award is presented by the Offices of the United States Attorney in Iowa and honors a law enforcement officer who goes beyond the call of duty to assist victims of crime. Chris Luhring will be honored for his service as the Police Chief to the Parkersburg community following the response to the Applington-Parkersburg High School where twenty-two students witnessed the fatal shooting of Coach Ed Thomas. Chief Luhring was a constant for an entire community traumatized by the criminal actions of Mark Becker.

Gary Flanagan, Applington-Parkersburg High School Counselor will receive the 2011 John and Kay Egan Memorial Award. This award is presented by the Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance (IOVA) in honor of John and Kay Egan whose daughter, Ellen, was murdered in 1983. Gary will be honored by IOVA for his expedient actions to arrange expert counseling and debriefing sessions for students and other citizens in the community following the fatal shooting of Coach Ed Thomas.

Kirby White will speak as a victim/survivor. Kirby is the father of Elizabeth White, a 2007 Graduate of North Scott High School. Elizabeth was enrolled at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) when she became an innocent victim of a fatal drunk driving crash on November 15, 2007. Kirby and his wife, Kim, find solace in sharing their story about survival following the death of their daughter.

*This year's theme for National Crime Victims' Right Week is
"Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past."*