Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole
Acting Chairman John Tuttle

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the **Green** sheet

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims.

The kick-off rally for National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) was held on Monday, April 20 in the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg. This year's theme was Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims. The event speakers were Victim Advocate Jennifer Storm, Natalie Parkinson, mother and advocate for victims' rights; Erica Clark, surviving victim of abuse; Cumberland County District Attorney David J. Freed; and Charlene Sciarretta, member of the York Heroin Task Force and the Pennsylvania Parent Advisory Council, to show support for strengthened crime victims' rights.

"National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a wonderful opportunity to renew our commitment to underserved crime victims, to create partnerships, and to enhance the services and offerings from local providers to ensure that all victims of crime receive the necessary support to address their victimization and begin the healing process on their terms, Storm stated.

" It emphasizes that everyone in the community is an integral part of creating safe and welcoming environments for all individuals regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, living and family situation, disability, immigration status, or for any other reason."

Parkinson's 26-year-old daughter Rene was the victim of a fatal DUI automobile crash. She stated those who choose to drive under the influence are making the intentional decision to endanger others, and that crime should not be treated lightly. She believes there is an imbalance between the rights of victims and defendants, and that life is not equally represented across the Commonwealth.

"We are all at risk. There is no bubble to protect us," Parkinson said. "We grieve for the normalcy we will never get. There are no words to describe a devastated soul. And no one should ever wonder what their loved one's last breath on the hot asphalt was like."

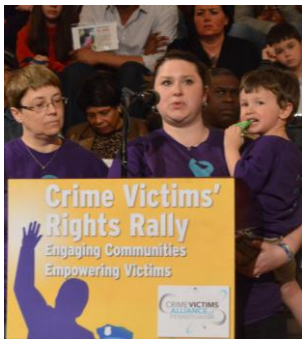
Clark detailed her experience as a young person and survivor of a physically abusive relationship, and as the survivor of being raped and physically assaulted by a stranger. She said there needs to be an enhanced sensitivity to the rights of victims, and that victims of crime should not be discriminated against.

"Scars remind us of where we've been and should not define us," Clark said. "We are here to enrich the world."

Freed shared two stories of two separate crimes that took place within the community. After detailing both crimes,

Jennifer Storm
Commonwealth's Victim Advocate

Natalie Parkinson
Mother and Advocate



Erica Clark
Abuse Survivor

David Freed
District Attorney
Cumberland County

Charlene Sciarretta
York Heroin Task Force

Freed said, "Both crimes are very different, but share a common theme: the lives of those individuals and families were both ruined.

"Our community is large. Our voices need to be loud and strong," Freed added. "Every day we need to remember that people are thrust into this victim status through no fault of their own. Let's empower our crime victims in the way they inspire and empower us."

Sciarretta retold the story of her 26-year-old son Danny, who died from a heroin overdose in 2004. She explained that medical help could have saved her son's life but was prevented by a friend of Danny's, who left him in his car to die. She said the defendant was sentenced to prison for involuntary manslaughter.

Since the death of her son, Sciarretta said she is active in the prevention and treatment of drug addictions and advocacy to help stop heroin deaths and drug related crimes.

She added that in 2007 legislation was drafted to address the offense against her son, and has been rewritten and is currently awaiting a new bill number. She explained if the proposed bill is passed, the offense against her son would be upgraded to a felony of the second degree.

"Two lives were altered forever the day Danny died," Sciarretta said. "One mother whose son made a choice not make a call that could have saved a life. And another mother whose son died from a heroin overdose."

Following the rally, Governor Tom Wolf talked with a number of family and friends who attended the event in the Rotunda.

After the opportunity to meet with the governor, Jennifer Storm moderated a panel discussion about the unique issues facing their respective communities and how the victim services community can engage underserved populations throughout the commonwealth to ensure all crime victims have access to services.

Panel participants included:

Executive Director Jose Angel Molina of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs; Executive Director Devon Grant of the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities; and Executive Director Ted Martin of Equality PA.

Governor Tom Wolf looks at a mother's photo of her loved one lost to crime.

Devon Grant

Jose Angel Molina

Ted Martin

A mother's loss that touched a nation

After the birth of her first daughter, Debbie Borza gave her the name "Deora" which is Gaelic for tears. Tears of joy. Tears of happiness.

On September 11, 2001, those tears of joy and happiness turned to tears of sadness and grief when her 20-year-old daughter died along with 39 other passengers and crew on Flight 93, which crashed in a field outside the town of Shanksville in rural southwestern Pennsylvania.

Deora was the youngest female passenger on board Flight 93, and was a junior at Santa Clara University in California. She was studying French and psychology, aspiring to become a child psychologist. She loved children and volunteered with many charity groups including the Special Olympics and the San Diego Zoo. On September 11, she was flying home after visiting friends in New Jersey. She is survived by her mother, her sister, Muriel, and her grandparents.

On Tuesday, April 21, Debbie spoke to a small group of staff at the Board's Central Office as part of Crime Victims' Rights Week which was recognized this year from April 19-25. Debbie is part of the Resilient Voices program. The goal of Resilient Voices is to provide a space for survivors to share their personal experience, strength and hope in a forum that best suits their individual goals.

Debbie shared with the group her personal story of 9-11 and its aftermath and impact on her.

"There were 44 people on board Flight 93 that day," Debbie began. "Thirty-three were passengers and seven were crew members. Deora was a stand-by on that flight. The plane took off 45 minutes late and just minutes before the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center.

Debbie Borza

The four hijackers took control over Cleveland and turned the plane around.

"I have listened to the cockpit tape," Debbie said. "It captured a lot of noise outside the doors and in the cockpit. They used a food cart to ram the cockpit door to get inside. During the final minutes, there is a lot of commotion. You hear struggle. You hear chaos. And then it just…ends."

Debbie stated that the plane turned to its side and the wing tipped and hit the ground. After impact, the plane was driven 40 miles down into the ground below. She explained that the crash site is over an old mine and had a large number of caverns and paths below that collapsed beneath the plane. On impact, the plane was flying at 500 mph.

"When 93 crashed in Pennsylvania, it was 10:10 a.m. here. It was 7:10 a.m. in California," Debbie said. "I was at work when Deora's friend Allie in New Jersey called me on my phone screaming, 'It's all my fault. It's all my fault. Deora was on that plane that crashed in Pennsylvania. I took her to the airport early this morning because I had class. Why did I go to that class? It's all my fault. It's all my fault.'"

Debbie said her first reaction was one of disbelief. That wasn't her daughter's flight number. She called United Airlines. No one there could confirm anything for her. Her co-workers started recognizing that something was wrong and she couldn't take waiting at the office. Debbie said she walked across the street to a Catholic church.

Once inside, Debbie began to ask herself, "Where is my daughter? Where is Deora? Tell me where she is." A person of faith, Debbie said she heard a voice say, 'She's with me.' Seconds later, her cell phone rang and it was an official from United Airlines calling to confirm the unthinkable: Deora was on Flight 93 and had perished.

In the first two weeks after 9-11, the Shanksville crash site was an FBI site. Debbie said they retrieved a photo of the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. that they believed was to be used for sight recognition of the terrorist's target. The passengers and crew are credited with saving a lot of lives that day as the U.S. Capitol was full of government officials, visitors and others conducting business that day.

Debbie explained that after the FBI released the site, Somerset County coroner Wally Miller took over. Debbie spoke very highly of Coroner Miller as not only the county coroner, but as a very caring and compassionate individual determined to do what he could for the families

and friends of those killed in the crash.

"For weeks, Wally combed the area for personal effects and remains," Debbie said. "He used a sieve to go through all of the miles of dirt. If there was a tree that held a plane part or a personal belonging that could not be reached, they cut down the tree to retrieve it. He made personal phone calls to each of the families involved to let us know about his progress in the investigation and the recovery efforts.

"He asked for volunteers for three years after the crash to continue to comb the area to search for anything remaining from Flight 93.

"When he was done, Wally found approximately four pounds of remains and belongings from each person on board Flight 93, including the four hijackers," Debbie said. "I feel for the mothers of those hijackers because those four men were once babies and their remains went unclaimed."

Debbie shared a very personal detail about the recovery process. "Wally found Deora's left hand at the crash site. The ring she always wore on her hand is now worn by her sister Muriel."

In the years that have passed since 9-11, Debbie and many other surviving family members and friends have joined together with government officials to create the Flight 93 memorial. "We are the stewards of our loved ones' lives," Debbie said.

Debbie stated that in the first few years after the crash, there was a chain link fence that surrounded the crash site. There was one make-shift building with a heater

At left, Deora's name on the Flight 93 Memorial is touched by a visitor. At right, a photo of Deora.

and no air conditioning at the gate of that fence. She explained that the "shack" was manned by volunteers 365 days of the year. By 2007, 1 million people had come to visit the site to pay their respects.

Working tirelessly with the National Park Service, the memorial was dedicated in 2011 on the 10th anniversary of the crash. Debbie said the Park Service was amazed at the families who worked to get everything done by the 10th anniversary. She said other memorials have taken much longer to complete, but those who were involved were determined to have the first phase completed by the 10th anniversary.

An education center is scheduled to be dedicated later this year. And, in 2016, a ground breaking ceremony will be held for the Tower of Voices, which will be a 93 foot high tower with 40 wind chimes.

Through all of the grief and recovery process, Debbie said that in addition to herself, two other people very close to Deora have found their voices: Deora's friend Allie and her sister Muriel.

Debbie explained that for the first 10 years after 9-11, Allie would go "off the grid" on September 11th. She would never talk to anyone about that day or about Deora.

Debbie said she continued to blame herself until she attended the 10th anniversary and memorial dedication of the Flight 93 crash. There she saw current and past presidents and other famous people that she had only seen on TV. She listened to what they said about that day and as Debbie recalled, "she finally, finally, stopped blaming herself."

Allie is a teacher now and is very active in a group that involves students and teachers who share information not known about themselves. Allie shares her story of Deora.

At the first anniversary of the Flight 93 crash in 2002, at age 11, Debbie remembered, "Muriel stood up on the stage with thousands of people watching her at the crash site and millions all over the world and asked for one thing…world peace."

After her remarks, the media wanted to interview her but Muriel declined. Despite the 10-year difference, her daughters were close but their personalities were very different. Muriel has become more social. She volunteers as Deora would have wanted her to do so. And Muriel expresses herself through her artistic talents.

And Debbie talked about her involvement with the Resilient Voices program.

"Through this program, I have been speaking in prisons to the inmates. When I share my story with the inmates, they get my message of the impact of 9-11 and the affect it had on me, Debbie concluded.

"I suffered a personal loss with the death of my daughter and we were all impacted by the same crime as our nation was violated on that day. I then ask them, 'How did you feel on 9-11? How did this crime impact you?'

And then I ask them, 'now, how do you think your crime impacted your victim?' And then they understand."

Devastating tragedy turns into advocacy

"I knew what it meant to have a broken heart," said Lynn Shiner, a survivor of a mother's worst nightmare.

Lynn's children, 10-year-old Jennifer and 8-year-old David, were brutally murdered by her ex-husband on Christmas Day 1994 after the children spent the night at his home in Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin County. After stabbing his children to death, he committed suicide.

On Monday, April 27, Lynn was the final speaker in conjunction with Crime Victims' Rights Week recognition at Central Office.

Lynn began her presentation for everyone in the room by saying, "I am going to start with a reality check," she said. "All of us will be touched by crime at some point in our lives." And with that statement, she began the horrific journey that began approximately 30 years ago.

With a collage of adorable images behind her, Lynn fondly remembered her two children. "When Jen smiled my heart smiled," she said. "When David smiled, he made me wonder what he was up to."

She shared stories of how her children were growing up and their individual personalities were starting to develop.

Lynn also shared the details of her tumultuous relationship with her ex-husband Tom. "He would wait for me. He would follow me. He would call me many times in one day," Lynn recalled. "It wasn't called stalking back then.

"After I told him I didn't want to see him anymore, his home burned down and he lost everything in the fire and I felt sorry for him," she said. "I let him move in with me."

Looking back, a part of her believes he started the fire in an effort to get her back.

"I became pregnant with Jennifer in 1983 and Tom and I got married," Lynn said. "We got married even after a marital counselor advised against it. During the wedding, I prayed that someone would stand up and say something at the part where the minister asked if anyone objected."

Lynn Shiner

Jennifer was born in April 1984. In 1986, she gave birth to David. In 1988, she left Tom for eight weeks, but had to leave her children behind. As she spoke to the group, Lynn said, "You know what I did. I had to go back. I had to go back for my kids."

Over the next few years, Lynn endured horrendous abuse. In 1990, Tom installed a surveillance camera so he could watch her sleep. He installed "the club" on her car so she couldn't drive. He questioned her about her fidelity. He physically abused her. "I told myself 'as long as he is only hurting me,'" Lynn said.

"In 1992, after he came close to killing me, I packed up the kids' stuff and we left," Lynn said. "I filed for a PFA (Protection from Abuse order).

At the hearing, I had to provide all of the details about our relationship that I had kept hidden for so many years in open court. None of my family or friends knew what he had done to me. I asked the judge for supervised visitation.

"I will never forget what the judge said to me that day,"

Lynn said. "'Mother…just because he hurt you doesn't mean he'll hurt the kids.'

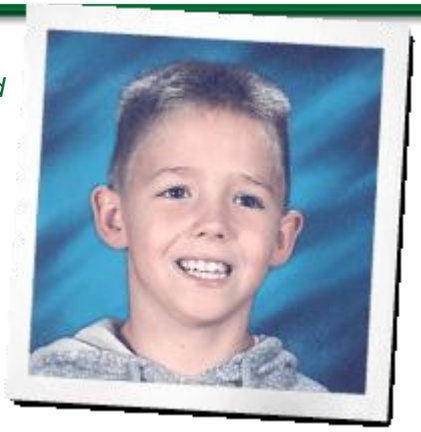
"On June 30, 1993, my divorce decree was final," Lynn said. "A short time later at a social gathering, I met Paul. Anyone who knows me knows I didn't talk a lot, but that night, we sat and talked for 10 hours and this wonderful, new relationship began. My children and I did more things together with Paul in the next 18 months than we had ever been able to do before. We were happy."

It was the week before Christmas 1994. "We were busy decorating, wrapping presents, baking...getting ready for Christmas Day," Lynn said. "Their father came to the house to pick up the children on Christmas Eve. He was in a good mood. As the children were preparing to leave, Jen kept running in and out of the house as she remembered things.

"After the third time, I said to her in an annoyed tone, 'Jen…what now?'" Lynn recalled and Jennifer said, "'I forgot to hug you and tell you that I love you.' How was I to know those were going to be the last words my daughter would ever say to me?"

On Christmas morning, Lynn decided to drive over early to her ex-husband's house to get the kids. She said the house was very quiet and she thought they were possibly away at a neighbor's house. "I knocked on the door and opened it. Usually, I knocked and just went in, but on this day, I opened the door a few inches, then closed it and went back home."

Jen and Dave



Lynn stated that around 9 a.m. Paul encouraged her to go and pick up the kids. He made the trip with her. When they arrived at the house, it still looked like no one was home. Lynn said she and Paul walked around the back of the house. She looked in through the sliding glass door and saw Tom, who appeared to be sleeping on the couch. After she looked at him more closely, she said, "I just started screaming when I saw all of the blood."

Paul and a neighbor went into the home together while Lynn sat on the curb, rocking back and forth. "Paul came out of the house and was very white. I kept saying to him, 'They are OK, right? They aren't in there are they?'

"He found Jennifer and David. He had stabbed Jennifer once in the heart," Lynn said. "But David…he struggled to defend himself and died of multiple stab wounds.

"After their murders, a checklist was found in Tom's house," Lynn said. "Last on the list of things to do, the list said 'kill Jen and Dave.' He had been planning to do this for a year.

"The sadness. The grief. My family and friends stayed with me for a long time after their deaths," Lynn said. "In the beginning, I got through one minute at a time. Then, one day at a time. I only wanted to be with Jen and Dave."

In the days and weeks after their tragic deaths, certain events would take place that would shape the role Lynn was going to play in the victim advocacy community.

At the time of their funeral, an uninvited reporter got in to see the casket and reported on the items Lynn had chosen to bury with her children. Lynn said the same reporter followed them to the cemetery and somehow overheard what her last words were to her children before they were buried and reported that as well.

"I felt violated by the media," Lynn said. "When I speak to the media now, I remind them that it takes just minutes to prepare a story but the effects of that story lasts a lifetime on the victim. I encourage them to ask for permission first."

At the time the murders occurred, Lynn was complying with a custody order by allowing the children to visit their father. After their deaths, Lynn learned about pending stalking charges against her ex-husband that involved another woman in a different county. If she had known, Lynn could have petitioned the court to modify her ex-husband's visitation rights to protect her children from potential violence.

Using her personal tragedy as the catalyst, legislation was introduced in March 1996 to create a new reporting system. The bill

JEN & DAVE PROGRAM

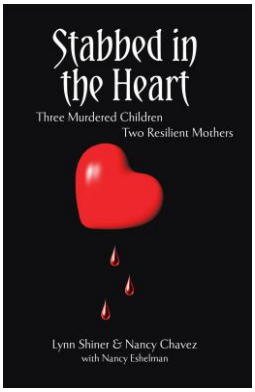
Through the Jen & Dave Program, individuals have access to the following criminal charges filed against the other individual named in the child custody case:

- Homicide
- Aggravated assault
- Terroristic threats
- Harassment and stalking
- Kidnapping
- Unlawful restraint
- False imprisonment
- Luring child into vehicle or structure
- Rape
- Statutory sexual assault
- Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse
- Sexual assault
- Aggravated indecent assault
- Indecent assault
- Indecent exposure
- Sexual intercourse with animal
- Withhold information from law enforcement relating to sex offender
- Harbor, attempt or assist harboring sex offender
- Conceal, attempt or assist concealing sex offender
- Give false information to law enforcement relating to sex offender
- Arson
- Incest
- Conceal death of child
- Endangering the welfare of children
- Dealing in infant children
- Promoting prostitution
- Disseminating explicit materials to minor
- Admitting minor to explicit show
- Corruption of minors
- Sexual abuse of children
- Unlawful contact with minor
- Sexual exploitation of children
- Contempt for violation of a Protection from Abuse order or agreement
- Driving Under the Influence
- Manufacture, sale or delivery of controlled substance

unanimously passed the General Assembly. "Jen & Dave's Law" (Act 119 of 1996) was officially signed into law by Governor Tom Ridge on October 7, 1996. After an initial roll-out of the program, the Jen & Dave Program was available statewide on October 22, 1997, to all individuals involved in child custody cases.

Lynn is the Director of the Office of Victims' Services with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). Lynn has turned VCAP (Victims Compensation Assistance Program) into a national model through streamlining processes, legislative changes and technology enhancements that ensure that the program is victim-centered and eases the financial burden on victims and their families.

When Lynn isn't at work with PCCD, she has raised more than $160,000 for the fight against domestic violence and to help individuals improve their parenting skills. In 2004, she was presented with the National Crime Victim Service Award by former Attorney General John Ashcroft. In 2014, she was presented with the Visionary Voice Award by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.



Lynn is also a recently published author of *Stabbed in the Heart*, a book she co-wrote with Nancy Chavez, whose daughter was murdered by her husband. All book sales go to charity.

Lynn has worked hard to make a life without her children. She is proud that she now can embrace each day by asking how she can make a difference in someone else's life.

It's her small gift to her children.

She closed with this quote from Pablo Picasso: "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

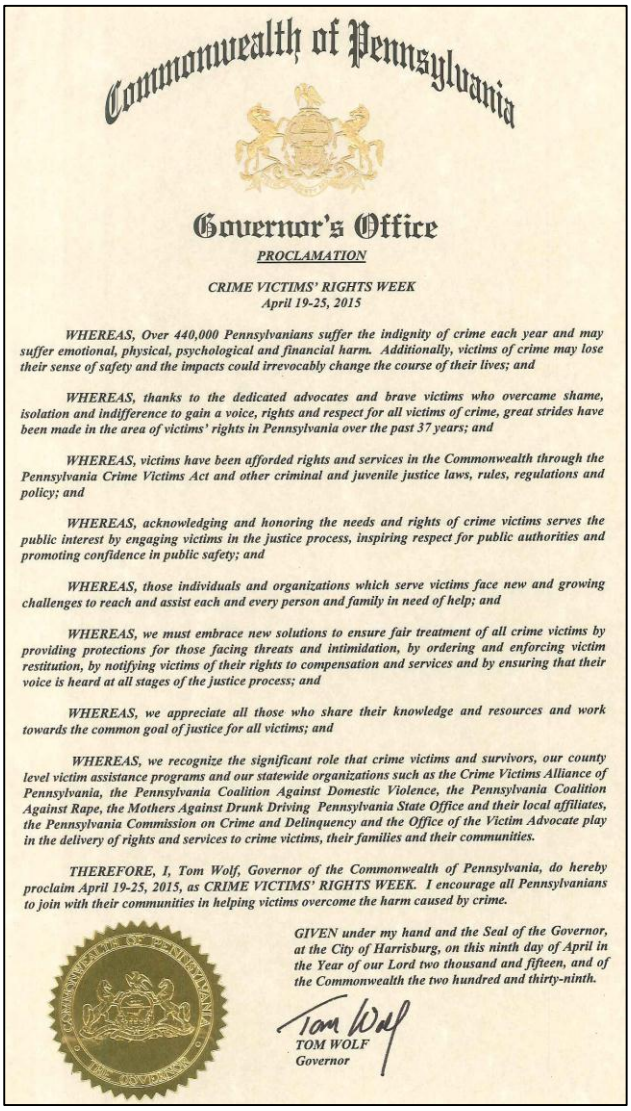
Additional notes from National Crime Victims' Rights Week

The Hunting Ground

Commonwealth Victim Advocate Jennifer Storm attended the viewing of *The Hunting Ground* at the State Theater in State College. "The Hunting Ground" chronicles the efforts of campus rape survivors Andrea Pino and Annie Clark, who can be seen in the feature film literally connecting the dots to reveal the breadth and depth of campus rape culture, reframing it as a violation of female students' rights under Title IX.

Family Services Inc.

Ms. Storm (seated right) is pictured with the full staff of the Family Services Inc. of Altoona. She was invited to attend a day-long training session on bystander intervention, sexual assault impact and community response. The training was held at the Altoona Campus of Penn State University.



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK
April 19-25, 2015

WHEREAS, Over 440,000 Pennsylvanians suffer the indignity of crime each year and may suffer emotional, physical, psychological and financial harm. Additionally, victims of crime may lose their sense of safety and the impacts could irrevocably change the course of their lives; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the dedicated advocates and brave victims who overcame shame, isolation and indifference to gain a voice, rights and respect for all victims of crime, great strides have been made in the area of victims' rights in Pennsylvania over the past 37 years; and

WHEREAS, victims have been afforded rights and services in the Commonwealth through the Pennsylvania Crime Victims Act and other criminal and juvenile justice laws, rules, regulations and policy; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging and honoring the needs and rights of crime victims serves the public interest by engaging victims in the justice process, inspiring respect for public authorities and promoting confidence in public safety; and

WHEREAS, those individuals and organizations which serve victims face new and growing challenges to reach and assist each and every person and family in need of help; and

WHEREAS, we must embrace new solutions to ensure fair treatment of all crime victims by providing protections for those facing threats and intimidation, by ordering and enforcing victim restitution, by notifying victims of their rights to compensation and services and by ensuring that their voice is heard at all stages of the justice process; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate all those who share their knowledge and resources and work towards the common goal of justice for all victims; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the significant role that crime victims and survivors, our county level victim assistance programs and our statewide organizations such as the Crime Victims Alliance of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Pennsylvania State Office and their local affiliates, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Office of the Victim Advocate play in the delivery of rights and services to crime victims, their families and their communities.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim April 19-25, 2015, as CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to join with their communities in helping victims overcome the harm caused by crime.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this ninth day of April in the Year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

TOM WOLF
Governor

PCVA Annual Luncheon

Ms. Storm was the keynote speaker for the annual Philadelphia Coalition for Victim Advocacy (PCVA) luncheon. The event was held in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office on Friday, April 27. PCVA honors those who have gone above and beyond to assist crime victims.