

## ***NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK***

***Whereas***, 23 million Americans are victims of crime each year, and of those, 5.2 million are victims of violent crime; and

***Whereas***, a just society acknowledges crime's impact on individuals, families, and communities by ensuring that rights, resources, and services are available to help rebuild lives; and

***Whereas***, victims' rights are a critical component of the promise of "justice for all," the foundation for our system of justice in America; and

***Whereas***, although our nation has steadily expanded rights, protections, and services for victims of crime, too many victims are still not able to realize the hope and promise of these gains; and

***Whereas***, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity for us to strive to reach the goal of justice for all by ensuring that all victims are afforded their legal rights and provided with assistance as they face the financial, physical, and psychological impact of crime; and

***Whereas***, the victim service community also observes April 2008 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month, lending further emphasis to victim issues; and

***Whereas***, Glendale Police Department Victim Assistance Services is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout Glendale, Arizona, and America to raise awareness about victims' rights and to observe the 28<sup>th</sup> National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

***Now, therefore***, I, Elaine Scruggs, as Mayor of Glendale, do hereby proclaim the week of April 13 through 19, 2008, as

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***And reaffirm*** this city's commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and express our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

***In Witness Thereof***, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of April 2008.