



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
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THREE UPCOMING CANDLELIGHT VIGILS WILL HONOR CRIME VICTIMS

RIVERSIDE – District Attorney Mike Hestrin will host three Victims’ Rights Week candlelight vigils next week at three Riverside County locations – Murrieta, Palm Desert, and Riverside.

Each year, in conjunction with National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office pays tribute to those who have lost their life to violent crime through a series of candlelight vigils held in three locations across the county.

DA Hestrin will address those in attendance at each event that will also feature a keynote speaker. The names of victims who died as a result of violent crime will be read at each venue and candles will be lit to remember them.

This year’s keynote speakers are:

Murrieta: Patty Cardenas is a supervising victim advocate at the DA’s Office. Her brother, Alex, 20, was murdered in 1992 in a gang-related shooting in Orange County. Patty will be talking about the healing process since the tragedy and the sense of community she sees at these annual candlelight vigils.

Palm Desert: Denise Rodriguez Bowman is a child forensic interviewer at the Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center in Rancho Mirage who has interviewed thousands of young victims. Denise and her family endured a tragedy when her cousin died after a violent confrontation in Indio. She will be talking about being a voice for others and our role as a community to protect children and adolescents from violence.

Riverside: Jessica Ceren is an employee at the Riverside County Probation Department. She is a survivor of domestic violence who was brutally attacked by her abuser with a hammer and threatened with a shotgun.

All three vigils begin at 7 p.m. and the DA’s Office invites the public and media to all of the free events.

The dates and location for each vigil are:

- Tuesday, April 10 -- Murrieta Town Square Park (behind City Hall), 1 Town Square, Murrieta
- Wednesday, April 11 -- at Palm Desert Civic Center Park, 43-900 San Pablo Ave., Palm Desert
- Thursday, April 12 -- at Riverside County Historic Courthouse, 4050 Main St., Riverside

PLEASE NOTE: Immediately following the Riverside vigil on Thursday, there will be a gathering at the nearby District Attorney’s Office Victim Memorial Courtyard, 3960 Orange St., to unveil new names on the Victims Memorial Wall.

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