

OFFICE OF NANCY REAGAN

National Crime Victim's Rights Week
April 10–16, 2005

My Fellow Americans:

On April 8, 1981, my husband issued a proclamation calling for the first National Victims Rights Week. This year, during the week of April 10th–16th, we will celebrate the 25th observance of this special event.

When my husband first took office, there were few services for victims of crime and it was hard for them to find the help they needed. He knew that was not in keeping with the compassionate spirit of America, and our great country had to do more.

In 1982, he created the Task Force on Victims of Crime. This special group traveled across the nation listening to people most affected by crime. The Task Force made a series of recommendations, which led to the passage of the Victims of Crime Act in 1984.

Through the years, we have witnessed much improvement in the assistance offered to those who have been victimized, but more can still be done. I urge those of you who can find time to do what you can to help heal the hurt suffered by so many.

If you are a victim of crime who needs help or if you are looking for opportunities to help others, I urge you to visit www.crimevictims.gov. This site contains information about services, assistance, and resources available to victims and provides details about volunteer opportunities.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the countless volunteers and advocates who work tirelessly to give comfort and aid to victims. I know my husband would join me in thanking all of you for your selfless work.

Sincerely, Nancy Reagan