



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

EMBARGOED UNTIL  
Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Contact: Starr Stepp  
(202) 307-0703  
[www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov)

### **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS MINN. MAN FOR SPECIAL COURAGE FOLLOWING BRUTAL HOME INVASION**

BURNSVILLE, Minn. — The Department of Justice will recognize Minnesota resident Paul Traub with the Special Courage Award for his exceptional perseverance and determination in surviving a vicious home invasion and becoming a strong voice for victims, during the annual National Crime Victims' Rights Service Awards ceremony Wed., April 9, in Washington, D.C.

“Through their courage and critical contributions to assist and empower victims, these individuals and organizations have given hope to countless Americans victimized by crime—even under the most difficult circumstances,” said Attorney General Eric Holder. “I am proud to recognize these extraordinary advocates by celebrating their achievements and assure them that the Department of Justice is more determined than ever to help ensure their continued success.”

In May 2008, Traub woke to find two armed individuals in his home. They stabbed him twenty times in the back, face and head, breaking off a knife tip in his skull. The invaders then started fires throughout the house, disabled smoke detectors and turned on the gas burners to conceal evidence.

Traub escaped through the flames, alerted his neighbors to the fire and called police. After the attack, he assisted the Burnsville police department in finding the perpetrators. He then fully cooperated with the investigation, courageously testified during the trial of one of his assailants and provided an impact statement at sentencing.

As a kickoff to National Crime Victims' Rights Week in 2013, Traub spoke to the Dakota County Chiefs of Police and crime prevention officers about the importance of victims' rights and services. He testified to the state legislature in support of continued funding for crime victim services in the face of budget cuts. He also appeared on the national television show *I Survived* to highlight the work of the police department and to send a message of survival, hope and healing.

“We are humbled and proud to recognize these extraordinary individuals, teams, and organizations for their outstanding service” said Deputy Attorney General James Cole. “These compassionate honorees have become beacons of hope for so many others who have endured shock and deep sadness in the face of too many incidents involving violence and loss.”

In addition to Traub, the Department will recognize nine other individuals and programs for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. Descriptions and videos of the honorees are available at the Office for Victims of Crime's Gallery: <https://ovcnvrvw.ncjrs.gov/Awards/AwardGallery/gallerysearch.html>.

President Reagan proclaimed the first Victims' Rights Week in 1981, calling for renewed emphasis on, and sensitivity to, the rights of victims. National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed this year from April 6-12, and the theme is "30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice."

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six components: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).