

# The VICTIM'S INFORMER

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

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*By Angie McCown, Director TDCJ Victim Services Division*

During the first two weeks of May, Peace Officer Memorial Ceremonies are held in every corner of every state to honor the families of law enforcement officers and correctional officers who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting us and died in the line of duty.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as National Police Week. The National Memorial Service in Washington D.C. began in 1982 and today continues to be held

on the Capitol lawn to honor all officers killed in the line of duty. The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, which is sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, is one in a series of events which includes the Candlelight Vigil, which is sponsored by the National



*Angie McCown*

Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and seminars sponsored by Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.).

This year we honor those 144 officers killed in 2016, and sadly Texas tops that list with 19 deaths, including Texas Department of Criminal Justice Correctional Officer IV Mari Anne Johnson, whose end of watch was July 16, 2016. Please keep these officers and their families in your thoughts, and please take a moment to thank an officer for the sacrifices they make every day when they kiss their families goodbye and head out the door to protect you and me.★

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# *Mary McCaffity Named as Deputy Director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division*

*The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) is proud to provide you with an email notification service. Email notifications may be retrieved directly from your computer, mobile device, or wherever internet access is available. Email notifications are time sensitive and notify you of changes in an offender's status. Being a current Victim Notification System (VNS) registrant will not automatically register you for this email service.*

*To register, contact the TDCJ VSD at 800-848-4284 or visit our website at [www.tdcj.texas.gov](http://www.tdcj.texas.gov) and complete the victim email notification form. You continue to have the option to receive notifications by letter, email, or both. We would like to encourage all victim service providers who utilize the VNS to elect to receive email notifications only whenever possible.*

Mary McCaffity has been selected as deputy director for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division, effective February 1. The mission of the Victim Services Division is to provide a central mechanism for crime victims to participate in the criminal justice system.

Mary has worked more than nine years in government service, to include time spent with the City of Cedar Park, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the TDCJ and the Office of the Governor of Texas. During this time she has developed professional expertise in the areas of grant administration, public policy, strategic planning, training and technical assistance, and victim services.

Victim Services Division Director Angie McCown commended the selection, saying "Mary brings great experience, innovative ideas, proven leadership and enthusiasm to her new position, and I am confident that she will serve our division well."

Mary is passionate about helping victims of crime and improving the system in order to provide effective and meaningful service.



*Mary McCaffity, Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division Deputy Director*

She states, "I am honored to serve as the VSD Deputy Director and look forward to working with our partners throughout Texas to continue our commitment to outstanding services for victims of crime."

Mary holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Arts in Political Science and Legal Studies. ★

*Much of this article has been excerpted and reprinted with permission from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Criminal Justice Connections Newsletter*

# VICTIM'S INFORMER

SPOTLIGHT ON

## Volunteer Service

By: Julie Jespersen, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

In this edition of *The Victim's Informer*, the spotlight article shines a light on volunteers. Webster's Online Dictionary defines volunteerism as:

The policy or practice of volunteering one's time or talents for charitable, educational, or other worthwhile activities, especially in one's community.

Today the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) has 24,500 approved volunteers that give their time and energy to volunteering with the TDCJ. These volunteers support numerous worthwhile endeavors, many that are essential in achieving the goals of the TDCJ.

The TDCJ Victim Services Division (VSD) could not fulfill its objectives without the contribution of volunteers who donate their time and effort in support of programs and services of the TDCJ VSD. The VSD volunteers support crime victims, reduce recidivism and promote positive change in offender behavior by sharing their insight and personal experiences of victimization and resilience at Victim Impact Panels that take



*From left to right Honorable Dale Wainwright Texas Board of Criminal Justice Chairman; Honorable Sharon Keller Texas Court of Criminal Appeals presiding Judge; Jackie Taylor Victim Services Division Volunteer Pathfinder Award Recipient; and Bryan Collier, TDCJ Executive Director. Photo by: Jene Anderson TDCJ Media Services*

place at prison units, parole offices, and other locations around the state. Victim Impact Panel attendees include incarcerated offenders, parolees, criminal justice professionals and victim services professionals. The impact of volunteers is truly immeasurable.

The Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards ceremony took place this April. Since 1995, the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards have been presented to honor a select group of notable and outstanding citizens who voluntarily donate

their time and effort to help the agency achieve its mission.

This year Jackie Taylor of Austin was awarded the Pathfinder Award at the 22nd Annual Volunteer Service Awards ceremony, in recognition of her volunteer work with the TDCJ VSD. ★

*To learn more about becoming a TDCJ Victim Services Division volunteer you may contact Carol Ellis at [carol.ellis@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:carol.ellis@tdcj.texas.gov) or by calling 512-406-5916. You can also visit the Volunteer Services web page by clicking on [Volunteer with the TDCJ](#).*

# *Many Thanks to the Volunteers that Make the Work of Organizations and Agencies Possible*

“A pessimist, they say, sees the glass of water as being half empty; an optimist sees the same glass as being half full. But a giving person sees a glass of water and starts looking for someone who might be thirsty.”

*Quote excerpted from the 2017 Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards Program*

- G. Donald Gale

*Thank you, TDCJ Victim Services volunteers! It is our sincere wish that your volunteer work supports you and lifts you up. You may never know how many lives you touch as you quietly go about volunteering. You are a source of inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to work with you.*

*With gratitude,  
TDCJ Victim Services Division*

*Domestic violence organizations rely on the generosity of volunteers to continue our work to support and empower survivors of domestic violence. Thank you to all the volunteers who support our movement and work to make communities safe. Your commitment and support are greatly appreciated.  
Texas Council on Family Violence*

**Thank You**  
Thank you so much to the thousands of active volunteers that shared their time and talent with one of Texas' 70 children's advocacy centers (CACs) last year. These volunteers assist child victims of abuse and their families both through direct services to clients and indirectly through a range of activities from office help to donated professional services. These dedicated volunteers are critical to helping CACs achieve their mission and provide the highest quality services to children and families.

*Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas*

**Thank You**

**A BIG THANK YOU - to all volunteers and interns on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Without all of your time, dedication, passion and spirit we could not accomplish all that we do!**

**Mothers Against Drunk Driving**

# *Unpacking Consent: A Sex-Positive, Social Justice, and Human Rights Approach*

By: Dukes, Primary Prevention Specialist, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault



As many in Texas are working to legally expand the definition of consent, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) also strives to raise awareness that consent means something much deeper to our society.

TAASA acknowledges that the ability to give or not give consent is a social justice issue that may not fit nice-and-tidy into some legal definitions. Legal definitions that teach us that consent (or lack thereof) is determined by a verbal “yes or no” or if a person exerts physical force to reject someone, do not consider instances where there are threats, coercion, a culture of expectations and obligations, power disparities, or lack of access to health and reproductive autonomy. Laws set a legal standard for the crime of sexual assault and provide a legal definition of consent, but they struggle to encompass the less concrete indications that consent is absent from an encounter.

As Preventionists, we at the TAASA take a holistic approach to consent, working to help society unpack the interpersonal dynamics at play when navigating sexual encounters and negotiating consent. The TAASA defines

consent through a social justice lens and strives toward a world where all persons have equal opportunities to give consent and equal opportunities to explicitly communicate any other thoughts, feelings, and concerns.

The TAASA also looks toward a multitude of sex-positive and sexual health concepts and models to fortify our movement. Currently the World Health Organization (WHO) defines “sexual health” with a working definition that helps us acknowledge that as society furthers a trauma-informed dialogue on sex with a social justice lens, then we as a society will start to unravel some of the pains, shame, and trauma that have been woven into our culture and work to address the root causes of sexual disparities and inequities.

The current form of the WHO’s working definition of sexual health is as follows:

“A state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion,

discrimination, and violence. For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled.” (WHO, 2006a)

Thus, as society strives to expand our legal definition of consent and the consequences for violations, we can hope to integrate and educate on sex positivity and see a society that embraces sexual rights as human rights. For more information, please check out the World Association of Sexology, World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control definition of sexual health, and the United Nations.★

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The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse recently hosted a webinar titled: *Sexual Assault Awareness: What Advocates Need to Know*, presented by Wende Hilsenrod, TAASA Training Director. This webinar provides information about the TAASA programs and services, the dynamics of sexual assault, and crime victims’ rights related to sexual assault. For more information about this and other webinars you may click [here](#) to go to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division webinar page.

## *Melissa Headrick Retirement*

*By: Texas Juvenile Justice Department*

Melissa Headrick began her career with the former Texas Youth Commission in 1989, as a secretary for the Health Services Department. She promoted to the Institutions Department in 1992 as the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Executive Director and moved to the Executive Department where she supported the Deputy Executive Director and many executive staff in the Executive Office for several years. Melissa has always been a team player and had tremendous compassion for the youth and her co-workers.

In 1998, Melissa was promoted to the Administrator of Sex Offender Registration & Victim Services. She expanded the Victim Services Program within the agency by working closely with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division. She has served as the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's (TJJJ) sole agency representative on many victim services committees, task forces, and coalitions for the past 18 years. She participated on the TDCJ Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) Conference planning committee for several years. The TJJJ youth provided hand-made center pieces for this conference

for over 10 years. This was a wonderful way for the youth to give back to victims and was incorporated into the youths' treatment program. Melissa's compassion and empathy have been demonstrated through the years, as she has fought for victims of TJJJ youth to ensure they were treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

She has implemented several initiatives during her tenure. During her participation on the Victim Impact Statement Revision Committee in 2011, she saw the need to have separate



Melissa Headrick, Texas Juvenile Justice Department Administrator of Sex Offender Registration & Victim Services.

Melissa's compassion and empathy have been demonstrated through the years, as she has fought for victims of TJJJ youth to ensure they are treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

documents for victims of juvenile offenders since many policies and procedures for juvenile offenders are so different than those for adult offenders. She developed the Juvenile Victim Impact Statement. She also developed the Juvenile Justice in Texas: Information for Victims and Survivors brochure for victims of juvenile offenders.

Melissa was the recipient of the 2004 Adult/Juvenile Probation or Parole Award for outstanding

leadership in a probation or parole based program from the TxCVC.

She has dedicated her career to helping people and doing the right thing. She has announced her retirement from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department effective April 28, 2017. The thing she will miss most will be the wonderful people and victims she has had the pleasure of working with and serving, many of whom will remain lifelong friends.★

# Texas Victim Assistance Training

## T★V★A★T Academy

By: Julie Jespersen, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) strives to continually serve as a central source of information and training for criminal justice and victim services professionals and others who provide direct services to crime victims. In furtherance of these goals, the TxCVC, with funds awarded by a grant from the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, hosted the Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Academy in March 2017.

The TVAT Academy curriculum promotes consistent, coordinated high-quality assistance to victims anywhere in the state of Texas.

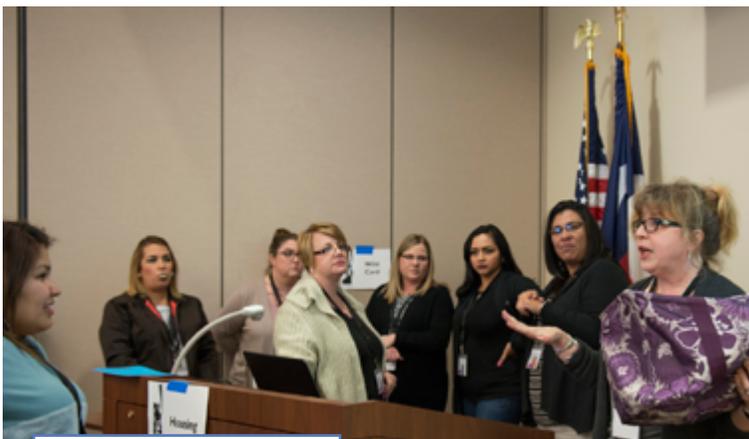
The TVAT Academy consists of a three and a half day comprehensive, practitioner based education for persons who routinely work with victims of crime and is designed for professionals with less than three years experience in the field.

The TVAT Academy areas of study include knowledge and understanding of crime victims' rights, ethics in victim services, stress management, crime victims assistance standards in criminal justice, principles and practices

of the victim services field, an overview of the criminal justice system, effective communication skills for working with victims of crime, victim advocacy with additional attention to the unique elements of specific crime types, the influence of cultural factors, victim restoration strategies, compassion fatigue, and resiliency.

TVAT Academy attendees gain a better understanding of how a case moves throughout the criminal justice system beginning at the

**The TVAT Academy provides an experiential format for learning, with case studies and real-life scenarios supplemented by student text readings**



TVAT Academy attendees  
Photos by: Jene Anderson  
TDCJ Media Services

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# Texas Victim Assistance Training

## T★V★A★T Academy

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moment of victimization through the investigation, pre-indictment, prosecution, trial, and post-conviction phases.

The TVAT Academy provides an experiential format for learning, with case studies and real-life scenarios supplemented by student

text readings. Group activities with short informative lectures have meaningful application to victim service providers in their day-to-day work experience. The TVAT Academy has a diverse faculty of victim service practitioners who have expertise in various victim issues. Benefits of attendance

include:

- Acquisition of foundational skills necessary to serving people who have been victims of violent crime,
- Recognition of specialized victim service training and experience,
- Acquisition of knowledge essential in providing victim-centered service delivery,
- Opportunities for professional development and networking with other professionals.

Attendees of the March 2017 academy said :

“The entire academy was very helpful to me. In learning about all categories, departments, agencies that are involved in victim rights, I learned so much and feel that this will help in my career as a victim advocate.★

*TVAT Academy attendees  
Photos by: Jene Anderson  
TDCJ Media Services*



### The Next TVAT Academy October 2 - 5, 2017.

The next TVAT Academy will be held at the Public Safety Operations and Training Center located at 3500 D B Wood Road Georgetown, Texas 78628. Individuals applying to the TVAT Academy will be required to provide verification of completion of the TVAT Online before attending the TVAT Academy. The TVAT Online provides four hours of baseline victim assistance training at no cost and is available any time online at <https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/tvatonline/index.php>.

TVAT Academy registration is available at no cost, however, registrants will be responsible for hotel and per diem (meal allowances). To register for the upcoming TVAT Academy [click here](#). Space is limited and participants from a variety of organizations and disciplines will be selected to ensure a diverse training experience. More information regarding the in-person TVAT Academy is available online at <http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/tvatacademy/index.php>.

# Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse Training Opportunities

## **In-Person Trainings:**

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) staff provides training on a variety of topics, which can be tailored to the needs of the requestor. If you would like to host a training in your community, contact the TxCVC at [tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov) or 512-406-5931.

## **Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Academy:**

The TVAT Academy provides a three and a half day, in-person, foundational level training for victim assistance providers. Information regarding the TVAT Academy is available on-line [here](#).

## **Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online:**

The TVAT Online is a statewide online victim assistance training focused on victim-centered service delivery and professional development that enables new advocates to acquire

baseline professional skills and competence. To register or obtain more information click [here](#).

## **Webinars:**

The TDCJ VSD TxCVC hosts a webinar series. Webinar descriptions and registration information, as well as recordings of past webinars may be accessed on the TDCJ VSD website:

[http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/victim\\_webinars.html](http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/victim_webinars.html)

## **Webinar Highlights:**

### **The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) Programs and Services**

This webinar provides attendees with knowledge of the free resources provided by the NCMEC. The webinar discusses the scope and prevalence of missing and exploited children's cases, provides information about how to identify children at risk of exploitation, and resources for reporting and asking for guidance

throughout an investigation. To register and view this previously recorded webinar, click [here](#).

### **VNS and VINE: An Explanation of Notification Services**

This webinar discusses the notification services available in the state of Texas for victims of crime. Information on county level Victim Notification Information Everyday (VINE) and the TDCJ VSD Victim Notification System (VNS) will be provided. Tips and suggestions for assisting victims with their right to notification will also be covered. To register and view this previously recorded webinar, click [here](#).

### **Sexual Assault Awareness: What Advocates Need to Know**

This webinar will provide information about the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault programs and services, dynamics of sexual assault, and related crime victims' rights. To register and view this previously recorded webinar, click [here](#).

## Texas Victim Assistance Training Online

T ★ V ★ A ★ T

## CALENDAR

The TxCVC wishes to remind our readers that a calendar feature is available on the TVAT Online. Criminal justice and victim services professionals can view, search, and submit victim-related trainings and events on the TVAT Calendar webpage. [www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/vscalendar/](http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/vscalendar/)

STRENGTH ★ RESILIENCE ★ JUSTICE

By: Julie Jesperson, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

National Crime Victims' Rights Week was commemorated on April 2-8, 2017, and this year's theme of Strength, Resilience, Justice, reflects this vision of the future: a vision in which all victims are strengthened by the response they receive, organizations are resilient in response to challenges, and communities are able to seek collective justice and healing.

Numerous events were held around the state. Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services (VSD) staff attended events in Bexar, Colin, Dallas, Tarrant, and Travis counties.

In Travis County, a gathering, organized by the Victims' Rights Week Coalition was held at the Central Christian Church in Austin on April 6, 2017. The event brought together victims and victim advocates to raise awareness of crime victims' rights and services throughout the state. The program included a keynote address by Andrea Sparks, Director of the Child Sex Trafficking Team at the Texas Governor's Office, and the presentation of the Suzanne McDaniel Award to Dan Guerra.



Travis County Commissioner's Court  
Photo provided by the Travis County Victims' Rights Week Coalition

The Bexar County National Crime Victims' Rights Week Committee organized several events to recognize National Crime Victim Rights Week including a memorial wreath laying ceremony honoring victims.

The event included a keynote address by the Honorable Crystal Chandler, Judge of Court-at-Law Number Thirteen and a memorial wreath laying, a lighting of a victims' flame and dove release. The public, crime victims, and victim service agencies and organizations participated in the ceremony including staff from the TDCJ VSD. ★



Color Guard Presentation at the Travis County ceremony at the Central Christian Church in Austin. Photos provided by Jene Andersen with TDCJ Media Services

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STRENGTH ★ RESILIENCE ★ JUSTICE

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TDCJ VSD staff attend the 2016 Bexar County Wreath Laying Ceremony in San Antonio, Texas. Photos provided by TDCJ VSD.



# The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles

By Elizabeth Hamilton, Victim Services Program Liaison Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles



As mentioned in the last edition of the *Informer*, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (the Board) began building a new program in February that will work in conjunction with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) to assist victims of crime. The new program will focus specifically on victims' interactions with the Board and the parole review process. This article will highlight the review process, the different ways a victim can provide input to a parole panel, and how to obtain information about an offender.

Beginning with an offender's sentencing, it's important to know that the law determines the amount of time that must be served before an offender becomes eligible for parole consideration, otherwise known as a Parole Eligibility Date (PED), not the Board. The TDCJ has a specific division that is responsible for actual time calculations, and the Board is not involved with these calculations.

For example, some offenders are given credit for "good conduct time" for things such as involvement in self-improvement or work programs, however some offenders only receive "flat time" and must serve 50% of

their sentence before reaching their PED. This topic can be complicated, and the severity of the offense plus many other factors have to be taken into consideration when calculating an offender's PED. For further information on time calculation contact the TDCJ Classification and Records Department or refer to the *Parole in Texas* publication, available on the Board website.

Once an offender is transferred to the TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division, victims and concerned citizens may obtain offender status information through the online offender search at <https://offender.tdcj.texas.gov/OffenderSearch/index.jsp>, or by calling the TDCJ VSD at (800) 848-4284. The VSD is also the avenue to register to receive written notifications, request an interview with the Board, and to submit protest material for the parole panel's review.

The VSD will notify registrants when an offender enters the parole review process. This notification is usually 4-6 months prior to the PED or next review date. This is a great time to provide input to the Board. Written protest material can be sent in at any time via mail, fax, or e-mail using the contact information found here: [http://tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/victim\\_](http://tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/victim_)

[address\\_telephone.html](#).

In addition to written materials, victims may also request to speak with the lead voter on the parole panel. Although the Board is not required to meet with someone who is not the victim as defined by law, they have the discretion to do so.

We at the Board want victims and survivors to know that if they are going to speak with the lead voter, they have the option to choose a telephone or in-person interview. We acknowledge that it is not always convenient to travel to the designated Board office. However it is often very important for some victims to meet with the voter in person. If an in-person Board interview is something you would like to request, we may also be able to provide accompaniment services. ★

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For more information, please visit: <http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/bpp/index.htm> For specific questions or concerns about interacting with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, please contact me at (512) 406-5833 or Elizabeth.Hamilton@tdcj.texas.gov.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

OUR GOAL IS TO PRINT NEWS OF INTEREST FOR VICTIMS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES

The Victim's Informer newsletter is published quarterly. Articles, meeting notices, and other submissions should be sent to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD), Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse, 8712 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 265, Austin, Texas 78757-6899; faxed to 512-452-0825; or e-mailed to [tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov). If you would like to submit materials, the deadline dates for articles, meeting notices, and other submissions are identified in the box on this page. For questions or comments, please call us at 800-848-4284 or 512-406-5931.

### Please Note:

You may access the publication at the TDCJ VSD internet website. If you wish, we will notify you via e-mail each time *The Victim's Informer* becomes available on the TDCJ VSD internet website and provide an electronic link to *The Victim's Informer*. Send your e-mail address to:

[tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov)

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Austin, Texas 78757

# Dan Guerra Presented the Suzanne McDaniel Award

By: Julie Jesperson, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse and Verna Lee Carr, People Against Violent Crime



Dan Guerra, Suzanne McDaniel Award Recipient

The Suzanne McDaniel Award is named after a self-effacing crime victim advocate whose pioneering work in the field garnered national accolades and opened the door for better treatment of victims and witnesses. In 1995, McDaniel's work earned her the attention of President Bill Clinton, who presented her with a Crime Victim Service Award, given to Americans who guide victims through the recovery process. Sadly, Suzanne lost her battle with cancer in May 2012 at the age of 59. In 2013, Ms. McDaniel's legacy was recognized when the Crime Victim's Rights Week Coalition

decided Suzanne would forever be honored for her advocacy for the rights of victims with an award to a recipient who has had a positive influence in the crime victim services community. The award is presented to honorees that exemplify excellence and this year's honoree was Mr. Dan Guerra.

Dan began his career with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in 1977 as a Parole Officer in Victoria, TX. He went on to become a Liaison for the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles and was later named Victim Services Liaison for the TDCJ. He was promoted to Assistant Director of the TDCJ Victim Services Division (VSD) in 1994. Dan was responsible for creating the execution preparation process for victims' surviving family members who choose to witness the execution of the offender. In 2001, Dan was appointed as a Board Member for the Board of Pardons and Paroles. In 2004, Dan retired and after a brief reprieve, he returned to the TDCJ VSD as a mediator for the Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue program. Verna Lee Carr stated that:

"Dan has always been an identifiable team player when it came to interagency collaboration. People Against Violent Crime has always been proud to be associated with Mr. Guerra as a colleague with integrity. He is worthy of being honored with this special award."★

***The Victim's Informer newsletter is published quarterly. If you would like to submit materials, you may e-mail them to the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse at [tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov).***

***The deadline dates for articles and other submissions are:***

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