

The VICTIM'S INFORMER

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

VOL. 24, NO. 4 | DEC 2019/JAN 2020

REFLECTING ON 2019

By Angie McCown, Director
TDCJ Victim Services Division



*"Once you choose hope, anything's possible."
- Christopher Reeves*

The New Year is a time of reflection. It is an opportunity to reflect on everything that has happened throughout

2019. That oftentimes includes successes and failures, as well as times of joy and times of sadness. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division has experienced many successes in 2019 such as the Integrated Victim Service System, to include the implementation of a portal that allows easy access to our services for victims, concerned citizens and criminal justice professionals. Another great success was the completion of training 49 new victim services professionals at the Texas Victim Assistance Academy. And then there is the simple yet powerful act of our staff showing up each day ready to serve crime victims with compassion, no matter how difficult or painful the task may be. As we begin 2020, we

celebrate those successes in 2019, analyze and learn from the failures, and look forward to both the challenges and the opportunities that the New Year holds for us.

As each of you evaluate 2019 and how it changed your life in both positive and negative ways, take this opportunity to see 2020 as a new beginning. If New Years' Resolutions are useful to you, set some that are achievable, and if New Years' Resolutions are not your thing, then think about how you want your world to be on 12/31/2020, and identify what it would take to get there. Let your hope that things can always get better guide you into 2020 and know that if there is anything TDCJ Victim Services can do to support your journey in this coming year, we are here for you.

"Whether you want them or not, the New Year will bring challenges; whether we seize them or not, the New Year will bring new opportunities."

- Michael Josephson

In this issue ...

- 2** Board of Criminal Justice
- 3** Board of Pardons and Paroles
- 4** Deborah Tucker
- 6** Legislative Update
- 10** Patriot Guard Riders
- 12** STRIVE! Program
- 14** Spotlight on Victim Services Division Staff
- 16** Revised Victim Impact Statement
- 17** Coping with the Holidays
- 18** Victim Awareness Dates



TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Coping with the Holidays

by Derrelynn Perryman, Texas Board of Criminal Justice



"The best people possess a feeling for beauty, the courage to take risks, the discipline to tell the truth, the capacity for sacrifice.

Ironically, their virtues make them vulnerable; they are often wounded, sometimes destroyed."

-Ernest Hemingway

The holidays are upon us, and for many people this can be a complicated time – rushing around trying to get everything done, meeting family and social obligations, and dealing with a whole spectrum of feelings, especially when there has been a loss or other traumatic event. I know that for some, celebrating the holidays can seem hollow in the shadow of tragedy, whether recent or remembered during this time. And honestly, sometimes I just get caught up in trying to make the holidays something super special but then wind

up missing out on enjoying the season, because it can be so exhausting.

I was talking with a survivor recently; his brother had been murdered. He said something that stuck with me: He said that if his brother could, he knows his brother would tell him not to worry about things that aren't really important. I'm going to try to keep those words in mind this holiday season. The things that are really important to me are the people I cherish in my life. Everything else is just circumstance. I want to do my best to focus my attention not so much on doing,

but on being with them, being present and appreciating them.

I hope your holidays are filled with many special moments where you are able to connect with those in your life who are important to you. And I hope that you will be gentle with yourself if this is an especially hard time for you, and reach out when you need support.

I wish you joy and peace,

Derrelynn Perryman

For more information about coping with grief during the Holiday Season:

View the webinar, "Grief and the Holidays," presented by Janice Harris Lord and recorded on 11/20/2019. To view this and other recorded webinars, go to <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/search-training-event/> and select, "Webinar," in the Type of Event dropdown box.

You may also read the article, "Coping with the Holidays," on page 17 of this issue of The Victim's Informer.

TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

Increasing Training to Better Serve Survivors

by Libby Hamilton, Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles



Since the launch of the Board of Pardons and Paroles' Victim Liaison Program in early 2017, one of our focuses has been on training. Who can we meet with and talk to that will ultimately help improve the criminal justice experience for victims and survivors? So I was really excited when the Fort Bend County District Attorney's office and the TDCAA Training Director both inquired about training recently.

Often there's a lengthy break between sentencing and an offender's parole eligibility date (PED), and I appreciate any opportunity to try and bridge the gap between DA's offices and the Board. A few examples of the questions we were asked to address include, "How do a DA's actions affect an offender's parole eligibility?"; "What makes a difference to the Board?"; and "What do Victim/Witness Counselors and VACs need to know when trying to prepare survivors?" In August I went to Richmond, along with our Director of Institutional Parole Operations Tracy Long, Parole Commissioner Marsha

Moberley, and Board Administrator Jessica Dillard, to speak with around 50 Assistant District Attorneys and Victim Witness Counselors in Fort Bend County about these very topics.

Between the four of us, we were able to provide a comprehensive look at the parole review process, an overview of Board operations, describe parole "hearings" from a victim's perspective, prosecutorial protests, and the potential consequences from plea bargains. We were then able to end by facilitating a very engaging Q&A session.

One of the most important topics of the day was plea bargaining. I recently received an email from a victim's family member asking that we, "educate and advocate for changes that will protect and bring more satisfaction to victims in the long run." He added, "Please make sure victims have all the facts before lending their approval to a plea deal."

To elaborate a little on this subject, the parole eligibility date is not the only thing

potentially affected by a plea deal. A plea can limit the special conditions the Board can impose when the offender is released on parole and can change the number of years the Board can deny or "set-off" the offender until his or her next parole review.

For example, if there is an intoxication manslaughter case and the deadly weapon finding is dropped in a plea deal, the offender will become parole eligible as soon as his or her good time credit plus actual calendar time equals one quarter of the sentence. However, if the deadly weapon finding is upheld, the offender will have to serve half of the sentence prior to becoming eligible and will not receive good conduct time.

The percentage of a sentence that must be served to reach parole eligibility varies according to the date of the offense and as specified by statute. On the Board's website there is a publication entitled *Parole in Texas* where, in the appendix, you can view the entire Parole and Mandatory Supervision Eligibility Chart. It is currently

continued on page 20

DEBORAH D. TUCKER

2019 National Women's History Alliance Honoree

by Mike Jones

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse



Deborah D. Tucker has been recognized for many achievements throughout her life. Most recently, she was an honoree for the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) for her dedication in ending domestic violence. The National Women's History Project was founded in 1980 to help recognize and publicize women's achievements throughout history. In 2018 they evolved into the National Women's History Alliance. Their mission is to promote women's history, and they are committed to the goals of education, empowerment, inclusion, and equality. Ms. Tucker shares this honor with many extraordinary women, including Helen Keller and Coretta Scott King, both of whom have made huge contributions to our society. Ms. Tucker expressed that out of all the awards and recognition she's received, her parents were the most proud of her receiving this one.

Speaking in an easy, soothing cadence, she had us captivated almost as soon as she began talking with her low, clear voice, her distinct Texas drawl, and her elegant Southern charm.

I have to admit that when we first got the assignment to write an article about Debby Tucker, I didn't know much about her. As we listened to her speak and jotted down our notes, we began to come to the conclusion that we had the very special privilege to be in the company of this extraordinary woman. We quickly realized that we could listen to her talk all day.

If you have been working in victim services and advocacy in Texas for very long, chances are you have crossed paths with Debby and may already know her incredible story. She was active during the early days of the victim rights movement, and much of what we do today for victims of domestic and family violence in Texas

is because of the foundation laid by Debby and others who were committed to providing rights and access to services for individuals affected by intimate-partner violence.

As a young college graduate in the early 1970s, Debby was pursuing a career as a teacher. After a young woman was sexually assaulted in the college apartment of a friend she was visiting, Debby became involved in supporting the victim and working closely with law enforcement. The experience stimulated her interest in helping other women, so she began volunteering at the Austin Rape Crisis Center. During a summer break from teaching, she was offered a full-time position at the Center. She accepted the job and started her remarkable professional career of working to end violence against women.

To better overcome the challenges faced by local rape crisis centers, Debby – executive director of the Austin Center for Battered Women by this time – and representatives from nine Texas counties held the first meeting of the Texas Council on Family Violence in 1978. The goal of TCFV was to form an organization that would “provide a unified statewide presence and coordinate efforts with community service providers and political office holders.”



Celebrating passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 with Congressman Jack Brooks of Texas.

“Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace.
The soul that knows it not, knows no release from little things;
knows not the livid loneliness of fear.”

- Amelia Earhart



Left to right: Rhonda Gerson, Chair, Board of Directors, Texas Council on Family Violence, Laura Bush and Debby celebrating a donation from George W. and Laura Bush of \$10,000 towards establishing the National Domestic Violence Hotline in 1995. Debby says, “I’ve always liked this photo, since we all knew what to wear!”

With Toby Myers from the Houston Area Women’s Center as the first TCFV Board Chair, the group began planning how to approach the Texas legislature to seek legal and financial support to protect battered women all over Texas.

While working full-time on these crucial projects, Debby also earned a master’s degree in public administration from Southwest Texas State University in San

Marcos, Texas (now Texas State University) and was named a Distinguished Alumna of the College of Liberal Arts in 2014.

Working closely with former Vice President, Joe Biden, and Congressman, Jack Brooks, Debby helped secure the passage of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act.

In 1995, Debby was instrumental in establishing the National Domestic Violence Hotline and was the organization’s first executive director. In 1998 she co-founded the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence and still serves as president of its Board of Directors.

Later she was appointed co-chair of the Department of Defense Task Force on

Domestic Violence, serving from 2000 to 2003.

For the last four years Debby has been doing critical work as the Domestic Violence Specialist for Child Protective Services at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, a position created by Senate Bill 434, 82nd Legislature, 2011, to address the relationship between domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.

I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to meet and talk with Debby Tucker, hear her stories, and help write this article. She is an incredible role model and mentor for many young professional men and women in victim advocacy and the criminal justice field.

The late and wonderful D’An Anders accepting the Vivian Miles Lifetime Achievement Award for Debby in 2015. To the left in the background is Annette Burrhus-Clay, long-time Executive Director of Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. “To this day,” Debby says of D’An, “I am not sure what she actually said, but people assure me it was hilarious and loving.”



**Click this link to learn more about the Task Force to Address the Relationship Between Domestic Violence and Child Abuse and Neglect Report.*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

86th Legislative Session Review

by Mary McCaffity, Deputy Director
TDCJ Victim Services Division

During the Regular Session of the 86th Legislature, 6,631 bills were introduced and 1,211 passed (Texas Legislature Online Statistics Report). Of the bills that passed, many will impact the criminal justice system

and the victim services field. Below is a summary of bills tracked by VSD. Please refer to www.capitol.texas.gov for the full bill text.

HB 8

Topic: Criminal statute of limitations for certain sex offenses and the collection, analysis, and preservation of evidence of sexual assault and other sex offenses. Known as the Lavinia Masters Act.

Status: HB 8 took effect September 1, 2019.

Discussion:

- Extends or removes the statute of limitations for sexual assault under certain circumstances;
- Requires the contents of certain sexual assault exam kits, and other biological evidence, to be retained for 40 years, or until the statute of limitations expires, whichever period is longer;
- Requires a publicly accredited crime lab to complete analysis of the evidence of a sexual assault, or other sex offense, within 90 days of receipt of the evidence; and
- Requires a completed database comparison of DNA profiles within 30 days of analysis.

HB 616

Topic: Reimbursement for a certain portion of a forensic medical examination of a sexual assault survivor and for the evidence collection kit required for the examination.

Status: HB 616 took effect September 1, 2019. The change in law made by HB 616 applies to a forensic medical examination that occurs on or after September 1, 2019. A forensic medical examination that occurred before September 1, 2019 is governed by the law as it existed immediately before that date.

Discussion:

- Extends the period during which the victim may arrive at a health care facility to be entitled to a forensic medical exam from within 96 hours of the offense to within 120 hours;
- Establishes a process for health care facilities, sexual assault examiners, and sexual assault nurse examiners to apply directly to the attorney general for reimbursement for costs associated with the forensic medical examination of a victim of sexual assault; and
- Adds the definitions of “sexual assault examiner” and “sexual assault nurse examiner” in the crime victims’ rights.

HB 1343

Topic: Persons who may be prosecuted for the criminal offense of improper contact with a victim and required protective order applications.

Status: This bill took effect September 1, 2019. The changes in law regarding

protective orders apply only to a conviction/deferred adjudication community supervision entered on or after September 1, 2019. The changes in law regarding no contact violations applies only to an offense committed on or after September 1, 2019. An offense committed before September 1, 2019 is governed by the law as it existed immediately before September 1, 2019.

Discussion:

- Requires the attorney representing the state to promptly file an application for a protective order (if an application had not previously been filed in the case) for each victim of a sexual assault, stalking or trafficking offense following the offender’s conviction of or placement on deferred adjudication community supervision for the offense;
- Allows an exception when the victim is at least 18 years of age, the victim can request that the attorney not file the application;
- Requires the court to issue a lifetime protective order if the respondent is convicted of one of these crimes and is required to register for life as a sex offender;
- Enhances the offense of violating a protective order in specific circumstances;

- Expands the offense of improper contact with a victim to include contact with all sexual assault victims, not only those who were under 17 years old at the time of the offense; and
- Requires the director of a correctional facility to receive written and dated consent from adult victims or from parents, guardians, or adult family members if the victim was a minor at the time of the offense before an offender who is incarcerated for an offense that is reportable under the Sex Offender Registration Program can contact the victim of the offense or a member of the victim's family.

HB 2298

Topic: Designating January 28 as Sexual Assault Survivors Day.

Status: HB 2298 takes effect September 1, 2019.

Discussion:

- Establishes January 28 as Sexual Assault Survivors Day and allows for regularly observed appropriate ceremonies and activities.

HB 2613

Topic: The offense of the operation of a stash house and to the use of proceeds from a civil asset forfeiture of contraband related to that offense and to human smuggling and trafficking offenses to fund certain crime victim services.

Status: HB 2613 took effect September 1, 2019 and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Discussion:

- Creates the offense of operation of a stash house for a person knowingly using or permitting another to use any property owned by the person or under the person's control to commit human smuggling, continuous human smuggling, human trafficking, continuous human trafficking, aggravated promotion of prostitution, or to compel prostitution; or renting or leasing property to another intending it be used for those purposes; and
- Requires prosecutors or law enforcement to use the proceeds of the seized assets:
 - A. to provide direct victim services by the victim services division or other similar division of the office of the attorney representing the state or of a law enforcement agency, as applicable; or
 - B. to cover the costs of a contract with a local nonprofit organization to provide direct services to crime victims.

HB 2758

Topic: Changing the eligibility of persons charged with certain trafficking and prostitution offenses to receive community supervision, including deferred adjudication community supervision

Status: HB 2758 takes effect September 1, 2019. Changes in law apply to an offense committed on or after September 1, 2019. An offense committed before that date is

governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed.

- Prohibits probation for defendants convicted of continuous human trafficking and aggravated promotion of prostitution;
- Allows a judge to place a defendant on community supervision if the judge makes a finding that the defendant committed the offense solely as a victim of Trafficking of Persons, Continuous Trafficking of Persons, Promotion of Prostitution, Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution, or Compelling Prostitution; and
- Modifies the list of applicable offenses that would cause the revocation of a paramedic's certification or emergency medical services provider's license if the person were convicted or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision or deferred disposition.

HB 4173

Topic: This is a non-substantive recodification of certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Status: HB 4173 takes effect January 1, 2021.

Recodifies:

1. Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 7A Protective Orders [to become Chapter 7B] (Bill Section 1.02);
2. Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 56 Rights of Crime Victims and Crime Victims' Compensation [to become

continued on next page

Chapters 56A and 56B, respectively] (Bill Section 1.05); and

3. Code of Criminal Procedure article 56A.602.

Adds:

1. Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 58 Confidentiality of Identifying Information and Medical Records of Certain Crime Victims (Bill Section 1.07); and
- Enters various conforming amendments to include amending Civil Practice and Remedies Code section 154.023() [Mediation includes victim-offender mediation by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice described in Article 56A.602, Code of Criminal Procedure] (Bill Article 2).

SB 20

Topic: the prevention of, reporting regarding, investigation of, prosecution of, criminal and civil penalties for, and other consequences of prostitution, trafficking of persons, and related criminal offenses, to treatment, services, and compensation available to victims of those offenses, and to orders of nondisclosure for certain persons who are victims of certain of those offenses.

Status: SB 20 took effect September 1, 2019.

Discussion:

- Increases protections for human trafficking survivors by increasing access to nondisclosure orders that can keep criminal records sealed;
- Increases penalties for individuals involved in online human trafficking; and
- Creates new offenses of online promotion of prostitution and aggravated online promotion of prostitution. These new offenses are included in provisions making defendants civilly liable to victims of

certain prostitution crimes for related damages.

SB 194

Topic: The creation of the offense of indecent assault, to judicial protection for victims of that offense, and to certain criminal acts committed in relation to that offense.

Status: This bill took effect September 1, 2019. The changes apply to protective orders issued or convictions entered after September 1, 2019.

Discussion:

- Creates the offense of indecent assault as a Class A misdemeanor; Adds Indecent Assault to the offenses eligible for a protective order under Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 7A and temporary ex parte orders; and
- Grants victims of indecent assault the rights of victims in Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 56.021.

SB 234

Topic: Vacating and avoiding residential lease liability following the occurrence of family violence.

Status: SB 234 took effect September 1, 2019 and applies only to a lease entered into or renewed on or after September 1, 2019. A lease entered into or renewed before September 1, 2019 is governed by the law as it existed immediately before September 1, 2019.

Discussion:

- Expands the current list of allowable documentation a tenant may use to vacate a lease to include an emergency order of protection, a certification letter provided by a family violence center advocate, a licensed health care provider who examined the victim, and a mental health provider who examined the victim.

SB 325

Topic: Establishes a family violence protective order registry and the duties of court personnel and other persons and entities in regard to the registry.

Status: SB 325 took effect September 1, 2019.

Discussion:

- Applies only to an application for a protective order filed or a protective order issued on or after September 1, 2020;
- Defines an applicable order to be those issued by a Texas court to prevent family violence, as well as magistrates order for emergency protection issued for an offense involving family violence;
- Requires the Office of Court Administration, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and the Texas courts, to establish and maintain a centralized Internet-based registry for applications for protective orders filed and issued in Texas;
- Requires the registry to include:
 - the county of issuance;
 - the case number;
 - the full name, county of residence, birth year, and race or ethnicity of the person who is the subject of the protective order;
 - the dates the protective order was issued and served;
 - the date the protective order was vacated, if applicable; and
 - the date the protective order expired or will expire, as applicable.
- The registry must be searchable by:
 - the court that issued the protective order;
 - the name of a person who is the subject of the protective order;
 - the birth year of a person who is the subject of the protective order;
- Requires that the registry include a copy of each application for a protective

order and a copy of each order issued, including vacated or expired orders. Only authorized users, the attorney general, a district attorney, a criminal district attorney, a county attorney, a municipal attorney, or a peace officer may access that information under the registry;

- Requires the court clerk to enter a copy of the application into the registry as soon as possible but not later than 24 hours after the time an application is filed;
- Allows a protected person to request that the OCA either grant access to the protective order information in the registry if the OCA approves the request or to request removal of public access; and
- Requires the OCA to establish the protective order registry by not later than June 1, 2020, but provides for the delay of establishing the registry for a period not to exceed 90 days if the delay is authorized by resolution of the Texas Judicial Council.

SB 1268

Topic: Statements presented in a criminal case by a victim, close relative of a deceased victim, or guardian of a victim.

Status: SB 1268 took effect September 1, 2019. The change in law applies to a defendant who is sentenced for an offense on or after September 1, 2019, regardless of whether the offense is committed before, on, or after that date.

Discussion:

- Prohibits a court from imposing a limit on the number of victims, close relatives, or guardians who may provide an allocution statement after sentencing.

SB 1801

Topic: Orders of non-disclosure for certain victims of trafficking of persons or compelling prostitution.

Status: SB 1801 took effect September 1, 2019.

Discussion:

- Enhances opportunities for trafficking survivors to obtain orders of nondisclosure for certain crimes that they were forced to commit by their traffickers;
- Applies only to those convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for Delivery of Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana, certain cases of Theft or Prostitution and who assisted with prosecution efforts; and
- Adds the right that a victim of Trafficking of Persons, Continuous Trafficking of Persons, or Compelling Prostitution be informed that they may petition for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information if they meet the above criteria.

SB 2390

Topic: The confidentiality of certain personal information of a person protected by a magistrate's order for emergency protection.

Status: SB 2390 took effect September 1, 2019 and applies only to a magistrate's order for emergency protection issued on or after September 1, 2019. An order issued before September 1, 2019 is governed by the law in effect on the date the order was issued.

Discussion:

- Authorizes a court that issues an emergency protective order to protect the applicant's mailing address by requiring the person protected under the order to:
 - disclose their mailing address to the court;
 - designate another person to receive any notice or documents filed with the court related to the order and disclose that person's mailing address to the court;
- Prohibits the release of the information to the defendant;
- Requires the court clerk to strike the mailing address of the protected person from the public record and maintain a confidential record of the mailing address for use only by the court or a law enforcement agency; and
- Requires confidential information relating to an active order in the NCIC/TCIC system to include the residence address and place of employment or business of the person who is protected by the order as well as the child-care facility or school where a child protected by the order normally resides or which the child normally attends.

STANDING WITH THOSE WHO SERVED

Ten Years of Riding with the Patriot Guard Riders

by Mike Jones

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse



Ten years ago I rode to Gatesville to meet and stage for the first time with members of the Patriot Guard Riders. Since then, I've had the honor to ride and stand alongside them on countless missions.

Many PGR missions seem routine – flag lines at a church or graveside – but having a PGR presence seems to mean a lot to the family and friends of the fallen veteran. For us, shaking the hand of the father of a fallen vet or hugging his or her mom is always a heartwarming honor.

Some other missions I have been honored to be a part of include flaglines at the airport when the body

of a young soldier or Marine was brought home from Afghanistan or Iraq, and when the remains of a soldier and a pilot – both killed in action a lifetime ago in Korea and Vietnam – were finally identified and repatriated to Central Texas. Sometimes, we have been the only “family” available for the funerals of some vets. Sometimes, entire communities have turned out to honor a fallen vet, waving thousands of US flags as PGR Harleys roared by.

For me, it has always been an honor that my first mission was at Fort Hood. Unfortunately, it is also fitting that my first mission was to honor victims of a violent crime.

I realize that some smart person at some future time is going to suggest that I probably should not ride Harleys anymore, but I hope I'm able to keep riding with the Patriot Guard for at least a few more years.

Here is the original article about that first mission at North Fort Hood:

November 5, 2009 was the day thirteen soldiers and civilians were gunned down at Fort Hood. It was a horrible day for the Fort Hood community as well as the entire Killeen area. A few weeks before I had looked into joining the Central Texas Patriot Guard Riders.

A while back, I remember seeing a large group of bikers following a funeral procession along US Highway 183 in Austin. I will never forget the sound of all those motorcycles, maybe 60 or 70 or more. The riders were wearing their leathers decked out with all kinds of military insignia. Most all of the bikes had

US flags of all sizes attached, flapping as the group rumbled down the highway. I started to find out who they were and what was going on.

I was aware that there was a group who had begun protesting at funerals of US veterans. Many of those veterans had been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The PGR is formed

In early August 2005 the American Legion Riders Chapter 136 from Kansas learned that this group was going to protest at the funeral of a US veteran from Oklahoma. They mustered a number of riders to make the trip for the funeral, and so provided

separation between the family and the protestors. Soon after that, they decided to try to get veterans and motorcycle organizations involved in every state, so that riders from each state could handle similar situations. In October 2005 the Patriot Guard Riders name was established and announced to the 100 plus motorcyclists present at the funeral of another fallen soldier from Tonganoxie, Kansas.

Following missions in South Haven, Kansas and Edmund, Oklahoma, the group decided to do more than just ride. They made plans to get strong nationwide communications and recruiting programs



That first Flag Line at the 2009 PGR mission at North Fort Hood. That's my flag in the forefront.

in place. Working from the experiences, suggestions, and encouragement of the American Legions Riders, the Patriot Guard Riders was established, and a nationwide campaign to garner support began.

My first mission

A few days after the tragedy at Fort Hood, I got an email from the Central Texas Patriot Guard Riders. They were mustering riders for a mission at North Fort Hood. As I often do, I rode my Harley-Davidson to work that day, and my work schedule allowed me to take off. Since I had only recently looked into joining the PGR, I was a little nervous. I am not a veteran, and most of the Patriot Guard Riders are. I replied to the email to tell the Ride Captain that I was available and to ask what I needed to bring. He told me that all I needed was, "my heart in the right place."

It was November 10th, the day of the memorial service at Fort Hood. The mission for the PGR was to form a flag line at North Fort Hood. There was a reception planned for the surviving soldiers attached to the unit that had been attacked. They were going to be brought from the memorial service to North Fort Hood by bus, and our flag line would flank the road

to the reception building.

As I rode into Gatesville, I was soon joined by other riders. When everyone arrived, there must have been around 50 or so motorcycles. It was like I remembered the first time I had seen the group: all kinds of leather, military emblems, and flags! Most everyone there was a veteran of some era: Iraq and Afghanistan, Desert Storm, Vietnam, and even a pair of Korean War veterans. The Ride Captain asked if there were any first time Patriot Guard Riders there. I raised my hand with a few others. He presented us with PGR pins and the group clapped and cheered. When we got the word, all the bikes roared and we rolled down the highway in formation to North Fort Hood with a Gatesville Police squad car escort. It was an awesome and exhilarating experience.

Once on base, our "Flag Wrangler" began handing out the US flags we would form the Flag Line with. I was reminded more than once by alert veterans how not to carry my flag. We formed the line and waited, flags unfurled. Because of delays at the memorial service, we stood with our flags for a couple of hours, which turned into a wonderful experience as well. As we waited, soldier after soldier, enlisted

and officer alike, some who had been wounded during the attack, came by each of us and shook our hands. They told us how much they appreciated the display. I was so humbled. Finally the buses rolled through, and we could see the soldiers inside waving to us. When they got off the buses, we got to meet them and have a bite to eat. It was dark when I finally got on my

continued on page 20



Standing in a Flag Line on a cold day at Fort Sam in 2016 to honor my father-in-law, Joe Stephenson, a Korean war vet.

STRIVE! PROGRAM

Preparing Women for Success

by Jenny Brantley, Special Projects Coordinator
TDCJ Victim Services Division

When we walked into the classroom, there was an uplifting atmosphere of positivity and hope. Just ten weeks earlier the students were transferred from their previous unit assignments to the Mountain View unit.

For many, the change was a surprise, since they were only about three months from release.

These students, or “Women in Training,” as they prefer to be called, are the first group to participate in TDCJ’s newest reentry program called STRIVE. Strength Through Restoration, Independence, Vision, and Empowerment (STRIVE) is a female-specific reentry program offered by TDCJ. The *Women in Training* are provided with trauma-informed education by their teacher and case manager to give them the ability to see how their choices and their own victimizations might have lead them to their current situation and to provide them with new coping techniques and tools to build healthy relationships and make better choices. This trauma-informed curriculum helps the women to process issues like domestic violence, childhood or adult traumas, sexual assault, substance abuse, and even parenting. The students are encouraged to create their own self-care plan.

The program director, Ms. Melody Nelson, likes to remind the women that they are also Citizens in Training. The STRIVE program provides the women

with financial training, including classes about taxes and taking care of the debt that is still owed even though they have been in prison. The program provides assistance with securing housing for the offenders who may not have anywhere to go and help with preparing resumes and filling out job applications.

The STRIVE computer room is also the first TDCJ classroom with Wi-Fi. In general terms, incarcerated offenders in TDCJ do not have access to the Internet. This program is different in that regard, providing the *Women in Training* with the resources to be able to secure job interviews, resolve pending legal actions or issues with obtaining state identification, and complete trainings that will provide them with skills that are attractive to potential employers, all while their browsing is being closely monitored by a correctional officer in real time. The staff also have the ability to review the history if there is ever a question that a woman was using the computer inappropriately.

While in the computer room with their Windham School District teacher, the *Women in Training* have completed a ten-hour course for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Outreach

Training Program and are working through the Professional Communications Certification offered by Southwest Airlines, and classes on Business Communication Information Systems, similar to Microsoft Office software. They are also completing job applications and, with the assistance of Ms. Nelson, scheduling and completing telephonic job interviews with many successes. All of the women have secured jobs, which are waiting for them when they are released.

Successful reentry
is essential for
maintaining public
safety and helps to
contribute to fewer
future victims.

Among the *Women in Training* are women who have never had a job or have only stayed at any job for a few weeks at most. The STRIVE Program is providing these women with training and practice for job interviews.

Another important aspect of the program is parole orientations. The *Women in Training* are well-prepared for what they should expect while on parole, and some are already aware of who their parole officer will be. They are given trainings about the expectations of parole, what their special conditions will be, and a long list of resources to contact for any assistance that might be needed.

The STRIVE Program was inspired by the Second Chance program of the Arizona Department of Corrections. The Second



STRIVE! participants have a special embroidered patch on their prison-issued uniforms.

Chance program began in March 2017. By March 2019 more than 2,300 inmates had graduated from the program and more than 1,400 of those graduates have jobs. Arizona Governor Doug Ducey recently authorized an additional \$500,000 budget to expand the program from approximately 300 students to well over 1,200.

In contrast, the STRIVE Program began with 34 students. The program is twelve weeks long, and this inaugural class is due to graduate before the end of November. The next group of 34 will begin class around November 25th. A second set of 34 students will begin class near the six week mark, with the program maintaining a double class for the foreseeable future.

The students are selected from a list of female inmates who have been approved for parole or are at the end of their sentence and will be releasing from custody shortly after the end of the twelve week program, have no felony detainers, and have a G1 or G2 custody level. The goal is to target women who do not qualify for other programing, like

Sex Offender Treatment Programs, Pre-Release Substance Abuse Program, or In-Prison Therapeutic Community Program, but have a greater risk of recidivism without the additional support. With the help of community donations, the women will leave the program with three to five sets of clothes that are appropriate for their workplace and other care items that will assist them during their transition.

Ms. Nelson, a former warden of the Mountain View unit who also served as a regional director for Region VI of the Correctional Institutions Division of TDCJ until her retirement in early 2019. Ms. Nelson is a force; her care and compassion for the *Women in Training* is clear, while still drawing a clear distinction that she will not tolerate anything less than excellence from the students. It is obvious that Ms. Nelson is a true believer in the STRIVE Program, seeing each day the progress that the women have made since arriving for the program ten weeks ago. Ms. Nelson will personally meet, one on one, with each student prior to graduation and will maintain contact with them after their release. She is invested in their success and her follow-ups will be integral to the women maintaining the accountability and drive to turn their lives around. Outcomes will be monitored after release of program participants and feedback will be sought from the graduates in order to continue enhancing the

STRIVE Program.

Successful reentry is essential for maintaining public safety and helps to contribute to fewer future victims. The STRIVE Program contributes to successful reentry by not only helping the women find jobs and housing, but addressing attitudes about crime and connections with resources within the community.

When I asked the *Women in Training* if they've noticed the difference in themselves since beginning, there was a resounding "Yes!" from the room. The women were very happy to share their feelings regarding the STRIVE program and what they hope it will mean for their futures. One student, who has been to confined in a TDCJ unit or state jail a total of five times, shared that she has "never felt this good coming out of prison. I'm never coming back."



SPOTLIGHT ON VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Meet Jenny Brantley, Lloyd Bjorgo, and Chris Burns

by Mike Jones

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

The Victim Services Division has an array of outstanding programs that we offer victims, victim advocates, law enforcement, and other mental health and criminal justice professionals across the state. For many years,

these highly regarded programs have been setting the standard for post-conviction services around the country.

Since our humble beginnings as a three-person section in the Parole Division of the newly-formed Texas Department of Criminal Justice, victim notification has been one of the primary functions of the Victim Services Division. Since the days of mainframe terminals, dot-matrix printers, and hand-stuffed window envelopes, our notification services have come a long way. We still mail letters, speak with victims and concerned citizens over the phone, and send and receive the occasional fax, but today we've added automated email notification, text messages, and the new, state-of-the-art Integrated Victim Services System, a public portal, cloud-based system.

The Victim Services Division has a dedicated, caring, and capable staff. Part of that staff is the special projects coordinator, Jenny Brantley, and two very knowledgeable and committed analysts, Lloyd Bjorgo and Chris Burns. In addition to other *special projects* that come her way, Jenny follows pertinent bills during the Texas Legislative Sessions, performs in-depth research for the annual report and other projects, and organizes the quarterly state victim services coalition meetings. Lloyd and Chris provide advanced notification assistance including

in-depth case review regarding special conditions to an offender's parole, when an offender has been placed in special review, recommended for Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision, or has made a request for executive clemency. Lloyd Bjorgo and Chris Burns also provide notification to victims whose offenders have requested transfer to another state, are to be released due to "Retzlaff" legislation, or are being considered for removal from the Super-Intensive Supervision Program.



Is Jenny from Minnesota? You Betcha!

When she was a senior in high school, Jenny joined the US Army through the Delayed Entry Program, just before the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. After basic training, Jenny became an automated logistical specialist and served at Fort Drum near Watertown, New York in the 642nd Engineer Support Company maintenance platoon. The 642nd supports an equipment company that is trained to deploy worldwide by air, sea, and land in support of the 10th Mountain Division and the 18th

Airborne Corps. Jenny would celebrate her nineteenth birthday in Iraq.

While in the Army, Jenny met Marcus. They married in 2005 and have two kids ages 13 and 11. Marcus is an engineer with 3rd Battalion, 315th Regiment Bridage Engineer Battalion and operates heavy equipment. In Iraq, Marcus and his unit maintained and repaired air fields and landing strips. He is still active duty and stationed in Mississippi.

Jenny began working at Victim Services in 2016 as a Hotline operator. In December 2017 Jenny was promoted to analyst, replacing long-time Victim Services analyst, Molly Silva, who retired.

Party World Rassler

Native Austinite, Lloyd Bjorgo, recently promoted to analyst, replacing Jenny, who promoted to special projects coordinator after this article was written. Lloyd came to Victim Services by way of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, where he worked on the Parole Status Hotline. He joined the Victim Services Hotline team in June 2018 and promoted to analyst in September 2019.



“If you want to change the world,
measure a person by the size of their
heart, not the size of their flippers.”

- Admiral William H. McRaven

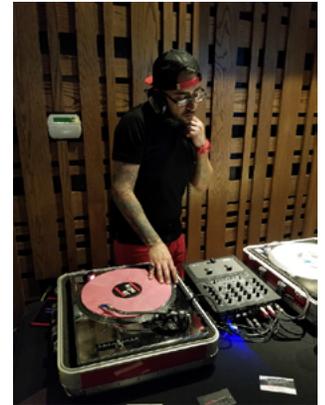
When he's not working, Lloyd is usually at home either playing video games or taking care of his two calicos, Maya and Mishka. Lloyd is also a fan of “Party World Rasslin,” an amateur wrestling show and spectacle that started in Austin and combines absurdist comedy with the physical actions of people in costumes. Lloyd has yet to body slam any of his peers, but he does enjoy sharing trivia and interesting historical tidbits with his coworkers when allowed. The best way to get him distracted is to ask him about his favorite topics.

Analyst by day ...

Another native Texan, Chris Burns came to TDCJ in 2005 after working as a trainer for Microsoft. Beginning as a clerk in the Central File Coordination Unit, Chris transferred to the Victim Services notification section in April 2012. He promoted a couple of times, serving as the Tech Team supervisor before making the lateral move in 2018 to become an analyst.

After hours and weekends, Chris is a DJ. Performing at evening gigs three times

a week and on Saturday mornings, he has been rocking people's worlds since 2001. One of the groups



Chris DJs for is [Make a Vet Sweat](#), a nonprofit organization that sponsors exercise and energetic wellness programs for Texas veterans who suffer from anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Chris is married to Cindy, an “amazing singer, artist, baker, mother, wife, and avid Hello Kitty collector.” Before getting married, they were neighbors, three doors down from each other, and their daughters played together. It was not long after, as the homemade sweets and pies rolled over, that Chris was sold. They started dating in 2015 and were married in 2017.

Lloyd's areas of responsibility include:

- Subsequent indictments (HB 104)
- Out-of-state transfer notification
- Sending updated victim info to the BPP
- Special Review notification
- Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision notification
- BPP Executive Clemency notification
- Special Bulletins
- Victim requests for offender photos
- Referral to the Office of the Inspector General
- Assist with hotline questions and challenging calls
- Manage correspondence received through TDCJ executive staff
- Special Conditions transmittals
- Notification concerning sex offender requests for higher learning
- Public Information letters
- Case management
- Analyst emails

Chris's areas of responsibility include:

- Legacy and Offender Information and Management System (OIMS) transmittals
- Super-Intensive Supervision Program and Electronic Monitoring (SISP/EM) notification
- Offender death notification
- Civil Commitment notification
- Unit transfer requests
- Offender telephone system requests from registrants
- BPP Executive Clemency notification
- OIG/AD 04.82 Violations (Offender forfeiture of good conduct time for unauthorized or prohibited contact with a victim)
- Notification concerning sex offender requests for higher learning
- Victim requests for offender photos
- Analyst emails
- Case management
- Hotline call waiting
- Training

To learn more about the specialized expertise and support that Jenny, Lloyd, and Chris offer victims and victim advocates, contact Jenny at 512-406-5916 | jennifer.brantley@tdcj.texas.gov; Lloyd at 512-406-5928 | lloyd.bjorgo@tdcj.texas.gov or Chris at 512-406-5903 | christopher.burns@tdcj.texas.gov.

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

The Victim Impact Statement Gets a Fresh New Look

by Mike Jones

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

This past summer, the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse convened the Victim Impact Statement Revision Committee. Committee members represented the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Office of the Texas Attorney General, the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, as well as TDCJ Divisions of Community Justice Assistance, Classification and Records, and Victim Services. The committee also had representatives from 17 district attorneys' offices from around the state.

As required by the Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.03(h), the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse is responsible for reviewing and revising the Victim Impact Statement following the legislative session each odd-numbered year to "reflect changes in law relating to criminal justice and the rights of victims and guardians and relatives of victims."

The challenge for each revision committee – besides including new law that affects the Victim Impact Statement – is to provide a useful document that is recognizable and easy to use for a large, diverse population of crime victims.

We hope the new Victim Impact Statement provides a lasting voice for all victims in Texas and that it remains an effective tool for the criminal justice professionals that will review it during their critical decision making process.

The Clearinghouse, along with the 2019 Victim Impact Statement Revision Committee, is pleased to announce the new look of the Victim Impact Statement. The VIS is available on the TDCJ Victim Services Division website in a fillable pdf form to complete electronically or it may be downloaded, printed, and completed by hand. A Spanish version of the Victim Impact Statement will be available soon, as well as a version for victims of juvenile offenders.

In addition to the Victim Impact Statement, an updated VIS Supplemental Page, Recommended Processing Procedures, and Victim Impact Statement Just For Kids are available on our website.

The accompanying brochure, "It's Your Voice," has also been updated and is available from the IVSS portal.

A training curriculum to introduce the new Victim Impact statement is being developed and will be offered in 2020 via webinar, customized trainings in your local community and round table discussions between criminal justice system participants. For more information, including how to attend or host a training session, please contact the Clearinghouse at 512-406-5931 or by email at tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov or access the Integrated Victim Service System at <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov> (Select Trainings from the Request dropdown menu.)

Victim Impact Statement *It is your right!*

▶ **ATENCIÓN: Si Ud. requiere asistencia en español o tiene preguntas sobre este documento, favor de llamar al # _____** ◀

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT PURPOSE AND IMPORTANCE

This Victim Impact Statement (VIS) will be used throughout the criminal justice system (by the prosecutor, the judge, and the parole board) to better understand the emotional/psychological, physical, and financial impact of the crime.

The contact information you provide in this Victim Impact Statement is important and will be used to contact you if you wish to receive case information from:

- Community Supervision and Corrections Department (probation);
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (prison); and
- Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

**Please return
the Confidential Victim Contact Information page and
the Victim Impact Statement to the Victim Assistance Coordinator
at the agency assisting you.**



COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

Concerns of Police Survivors
Reprinted with permission

This article has been a feature in the quarterly newsletter for many years, as it is highly recommended by the C.O.P.S. membership. Please read it, think about how the words apply to you, and remember that everyone grieves in his or her own way.

C.O.P.S. knows how traumatic holidays can be for survivors. Here are a few suggestions on how to reduce your holiday stress and make the holiday season more bearable for you.

To avoid the crowds, shop early or over the internet. You may find it difficult to shop in malls with all their holiday decorations, carols, and smiling faces. Survivors say hearing Christmas songs can be depressing and can bring about grief spasms.

If you've always spent Christmas at home, plan a trip. There is no written rule that says you must be home for the holidays.

Attitude will play a major role in your holidays. If you have predetermined that the holidays will be terrible, they will be. If you allow yourself to enjoy the holidays, they may be more enjoyable than you would ever believe.

Pity parties are OK as long as they don't last the entire holiday season.

If you need to visit the cemetery, visit early in the day. If you want to have a good cry, set aside some time in the morning, too. That will free up the rest of the day for better things.

Honor your deceased loved one. Make a donation to a worthy cause, work at a soup kitchen, buy flowers for the church, and do it in memory of your loved one.

If you feel up to it, make meaningful Christmas gifts. Giving scrapbooks, a compilation of stories about the deceased, valued belongings of the deceased which, when presented with "I know they would want you to have this," will make the holiday so much more memorable.

Don't be afraid to make your loved one part of the holidays. Christmas ornaments they loved or a special memorial candle – anything that your family is comfortable with is acceptable.

Talk about holidays past, happy shared moments that happened, etc. And remember, if other people don't think your deceased loved one's inclusion in your holidays is appropriate, that's their problem – not yours.

Consider prayer. Many aren't able to handle what has occurred in their lives without prayer. Visit your place of worship more often during the holiday season.

Laugh. Laugh as long and as hard as you dare to laugh! Give yourself permission

to laugh. Sometimes grieving people forget that laughter is a great stress reliever and healer.

Party if you want to. Don't party if you don't feel up to it.

Honesty is the best policy. If it isn't a good day, accept it and don't apologize for it.

Don't overdo. If you want to make a fancy meal, make it. If you aren't up to a big meal, cook a small meal, or eat out!

Alcohol is a depressant. Limit your consumption of alcohol during the holidays.

Strengthen your ties with other family members. If you've had family problems, make amends. What a wonderful gift an honest attempt to make amends can be.

While all these suggestions may be right for some people, they may not be right for you. Nobody knows what you want to do for the holidays better than YOU! Just remember that everyone is different and these suggestions, though well-meaning, may not work for you.

The most important thing is to be kind and compassionate to yourself.

VICTIM AWARENESS DATES

DECEMBER 2019

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

According to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, 28 people every day in the United States die on average in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This is one death every 51 minutes. The annual cost of alcohol-related crashes totals more than \$44 billion. Drugs other than alcohol – legal and illegal – are involved in about 16 percent of motor vehicle crashes.

In many cases, the impact of impaired driving on survivors can be similar to the impact of other types of crimes, especially homicide. Impaired driving offenses often result in much lower charges and sentences – and sometimes no sanction. The survivor perceives that the offender “got away with” a serious crime.

Effective measures to help prevent deaths and injuries from impaired driving include actively enforcing existing 0.08 percent blood alcohol content laws, minimum legal drinking age laws, and zero tolerance laws for drivers younger than 21 years old in all states, as well as using community-based approaches to alcohol control and DWI prevention.

JANUARY 2020

Sexual Assault Survivors Day

In order to bring awareness to the issue of sexual assault and to recognize the courage of survivors throughout Texas, the 86th Legislature designated January 28th as Sexual Assault Survivors Day.

National Mentoring Month

Mentoring, at its core, guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and makes them feel like they matter. Quality mentoring relationships can have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. Ultimately, mentoring connects a young person to personal growth and development,

and social and economic opportunity. Yet one in three young people will grow up without this critical asset.

National Mentoring Month is an annual campaign that aims to recruit volunteer mentors to help America’s youth achieve their full potential.

The National Mentoring Partnership, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is committed to raising awareness and sharing resources that support this important cause.

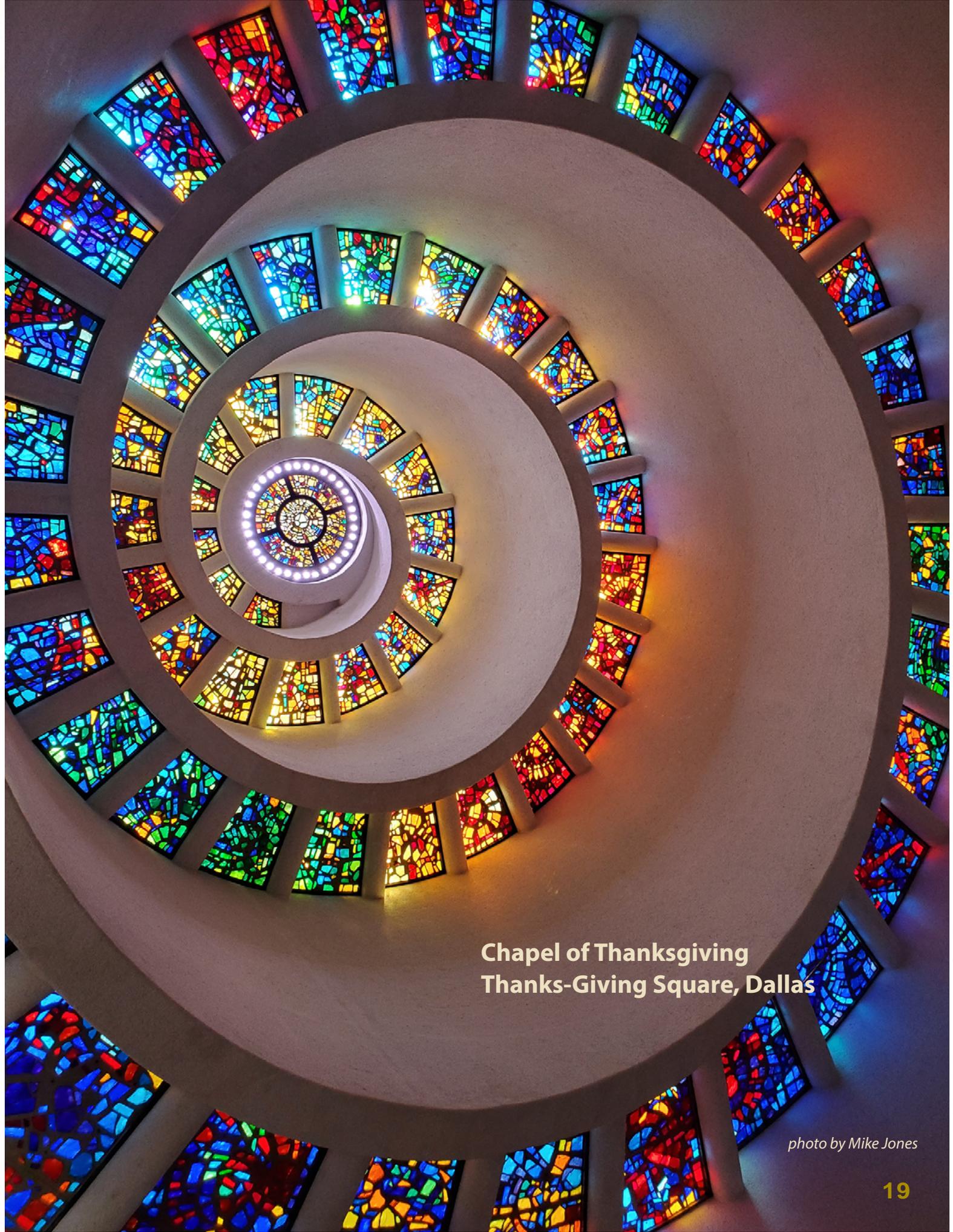
For more information on how to become a Mentor, visit the CNCS Mentor Program at <https://www.nationalservice.gov/mentor>.

National Stalking Awareness Month

In January 2004, the National Center for Victims of Crime launched National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM) to increase the public’s understanding of the crime of stalking. NSAM emerged from the work of the Stalking Resource Center, a National Center program funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, to raise awareness about stalking and help develop and implement multidisciplinary responses to the crime.

NSAM began in response to a 2003 call to the Stalking Resource Center from Debbie Riddle, the sister of murdered stalking victim, Peggy Klinke. Riddle wanted to transform her family’s painful tragedy into a force for good – and to help improve law enforcement’s response to stalking and save lives.

In the United States, 7.5 million people are stalked each year. The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know, especially regarding victims of femicide, where 54 percent of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by the stalkers. For more information about stalking awareness, visit the Stalking Resource Center at <https://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/past-programs/stalking-resource-center>.



**Chapel of Thanksgiving
Thanks-Giving Square, Dallas**

photo by Mike Jones

BPP: *continued from page 3*

in the process of being updated, but can be found here: https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/bpp/publications/PIT_2017_Eng.pdf.

I've heard several times that the most beneficial things advocates can do for victims and survivors are 1) be able to tell them what they can expect next, and 2) be honest. Nobody wants to be the bearer of bad news, but if survivors are blind-sided, for example by an offender's parole eligibility coming right after conviction, they will feel even more victimized. I feel strongly that if we can bridge the gap between county and state, we can increase victims' trust in the entire criminal justice system.

Chairman Gutierrez and I will be presenting at the Texas District and County Attorney's Association Key Personnel & Victim Assistance Coordinator Seminar in November to address similar topics. We want to make sure victims know that regardless of how much time passes post-conviction, there will be plenty of people ready, willing, and able to assist them if they choose to be involved in the parole review process.

The Board's frequently asked questions for victims and a video that shows the review process and meeting with the Board can be found here: <https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/bpp/VictimLiaison/VictimLiaison.html>. If you would like additional information about training or any of the topics discussed in this article, please feel free to contact me directly at libby.hamilton@tdcj.texas.gov or 512-406-5833.

PGR: *continued from page 11*

bike for the two-hour ride home. I had a hard time going to sleep that night, thinking about everything I had experienced during the day.

The PGR started as an impromptu response. It has turned into a nationwide show of honor and respect for our fallen veterans. As a civilian, it was fascinating to hang out with all of those veterans and active soldiers. And what an honor it was to ride with the men and women of the Patriot Guard Riders.



INFORMATION ABOUT THE VICTIM'S INFORMER

The Victim's Informer e-newsletter is published quarterly. Articles and other submissions should be sent to the TDCJ Victim Services Division, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse, 8712 Shoal Creek Blvd, Suite 265, Austin, Texas 78757-6899 or emailed to tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov if you would like to submit materials, the deadline dates for articles, meeting notices, and other submissions are below. For questions or comments, please call us at 800-848-4284 or 512-406-5931.

Deadlines for articles and other information:

January 2, 2020 for March/April issue

April 2, 2020 for June/July issue

Please Note: You may access the publication at the TDCJ VSD website by going to https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/publications/victim_informer_newsletter.html. If you wish, we will notify you via email or text each time The Victim's Informer becomes available on the TDCJ VSD website and provide an electronic link to The Victim's Informer.

Subscribe/Unsubscribe/Update your email address here: <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/newslettersubscribe/>.

Angie McCown, Director
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Victim Services Division
victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov