



APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

FROM OUR DIRECTORS



As we step into spring, we're reflecting with pride and gratitude on an incredibly active and inspiring month for our community. From meaningful moments of healing to powerful shows of advocacy, your participation and dedication have made a lasting impact.

Annual Walk for Hope and Healing – April 19th

Our annual walk was a beautiful reminder of the strength we hold when we come together. Held on April 19th, this year's event included both a 5K walk and a 1-mile option, ensuring that all could participate at their own pace. The heart of the day was our Healing Pavilion, which offered a peaceful space for reflection and featured Art Therapy sessions that many found deeply moving. Thank you to everyone who joined us—whether in memory, in solidarity, or in support of a shared vision of hope and justice.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 6–12

We were honored to participate in and support a series of events during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which ran from April 6th through 12th. A particular highlight was the Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference on April 9th, where our beloved Roberta Roper delivered a deeply powerful keynote during the lunch hour. Her words reminded us of how far we've come—and how much we still must do.

We also celebrated the recipient of the Vince Roper Award and were thrilled to honor David Sanford for his groundbreaking legal advocacy on behalf of the Lee family in the Syed case. His work helped secure a landmark opinion from the Maryland Supreme Court that has propelled victims' rights forward by decades. Congratulations, David, and thank you for your unwavering commitment to justice.

Thank you to all who walked, spoke out, showed up, and stood strong. Whether you were with us in person, in spirit, or behind the scenes, know that your efforts are seen—and they matter.

Let's keep moving forward, together.

Joanna D. Mupanduki
Deputy Director



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



My journey to becoming a Board Member of MCVRC was personal and driven by a longstanding friendship with Norm Workman. Norm's wife tragically became a victim of homicide, and he, too, became a victim in the process. In time, Norm served on the MCVRC Board, and his dedication to the organization left a lasting impression on me.

As I neared the end of my third career and approached full retirement, I felt I still had more to contribute. I reached out to Norm, asking if he knew of any Board opportunities where I could apply my skills. He connected me with Kurt Wolfgang, and from there, my journey with MCVRC began.

Now, as I approach the end of my first year on the Board, I've gained a deeper understanding of MCVRC's mission and the profound impact it has on victims of crime. While I'm not a victim myself, my active participation in nearly all of MCVRC's events this past year has given me a genuine appreciation for the challenges faced by victims.

Looking ahead, I am eager to contribute further, particularly through my work on the Board's Strategic Planning Committee. I hope to use my expertise in Executive Management Consulting to help guide MCVRC's strategic direction and support its vital mission of aiding victims in our community.

George Langbein

Member, Executive Management Consultant

HB-853

The turnout of our press conference was incredible—community members, survivors, and allies came together to make their voices heard. Major media outlets, including NBC Washington (Channel 4), WBAL (Channel 11), Telemundo, and Univision, covered the event, helping us amplify our message across the state.

For those who couldn't attend, you can watch a recap of the press conference here:

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/.../advocates.../3892934/>

<https://www.wbal.com/maryland-house-bill-that-could-grant...>

House Bill 853 passed the legislature on April 7th, and Governor Moore signed it into law on April 22nd. But our work is not done! We urge all of our supporters to write to Governor Wes Moore, asking him to monitor this bill closely—especially the rates of offenders being released and

committing further crimes. [Petition · Petition to Governor Moore - Veto House Bill 853 - United States · Change.org](#)

We need your voice now more than ever. Please respectfully contact the Governor's office to share your concerns:

- (410) 974-3901
- 1-800-811-8336
- MD Relay 1-800-735-2258
- TEXT: (301) 750-3111
- FORM FOR EMAIL: <https://md.accessgov.com/governor/Forms/Page/cs/contact-the-governor/1>

Remember, those you'll be speaking with are not the decision-makers on this legislation, so please be kind and respectful as we continue to advocate with integrity.

BURIAL PLOTS AVAILABLE

We are grateful to William and Jean Tighe and Yancy Seitz for their generous donation of burial plots at Lorraine Park Cemetery.

These four plots are available to families of crime victims, offering peace during their time of grief.

If you or someone you know is in need, please contact Jennifer Abell, Chief Finance & Operations Officer, at Jabell@mdcrimevictims.org.

NATIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK



MCVRC is proud to be recognized during National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) for our unwavering dedication to supporting crime victims.



David Sanford being awarded with the Vince Roper Award.



MCVRC staff attended the Maryland Crime Victims Conference and had the opportunity to meet the parents of Gabby Petito -- an American woman and travel blogger who was tragically killed by her fiancé in a highly publicized and widely followed case.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Survivors of Homicide Victims Support Group

PLEASE NOTE that the next meeting will take place on **Thursday, May 1, 2025, and will be held on Thursday's moving forward.** It will be held in a hybrid format, both virtually and in person at the Upper Marlboro Office (1001 Prince George's Blvd, Suite 750, Upper Marlboro, MD).

The Support Group is a safe place for friends and family members of victims of homicide to meet, discuss, and support each other. All participants need to call us and request a referral to the

homicide support group only (if you prefer individual counseling, we offer that too). **You can reach MCVRC at 877-VICTIM1 to get put on the referral list.**

2. Townhall Series - Southern Maryland



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL: VICTIMS RIGHTS IN MARYLAND

presented by 

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church
13025 Good Samaritan Drive; Waldorf
5:00 -7:00 PM

Learn about your Legal Rights

- Domestic Violence
- Children as Victims
- Homicide
- And more

Open Q&A

Ask real life
questions and get
real life answers!

Onsite Resources

Apply and get details
about resource
partners

OUR MISSION

To ensure that victims of crime receive justice and are treated with dignity and compassion through comprehensive victims' rights and services.



Visit Our Website
mdcrimevictims.org



1-877-VICTIM-1



**1001 Prince Georges Blvd Ste 750,
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774**

*The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services funded this project under subaward number VO CG-2025-0025
All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State or Federal agency.*

 We're kicking off our Townhall Series and our first stop is in Southern Maryland!

Join us for an empowering community event where you can:

- ✓ Learn about your legal rights
- ✓ Ask questions during an open Q&A
- ✓ Connect with onsite resources that support YOU

 Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church
13025 Good Samaritan Drive, Waldorf, MD

📅 Thursday, May 8 | 5PM–7PM

This is your space to get informed, get connected, and get support. Know someone who could benefit? Spread the word and bring a friend!

3. Save The Date: Ceremony of Remembrance

October 11, 2025

Join us at the Ceremony of Remembrance, a peaceful event dedicated to honoring those whose lives were tragically lost to criminal violence. This meaningful ceremony will take place at the Prince George's County Courthouse, where the pathway and garden not only honor those taken from us but also symbolize your journey of healing and remembrance.

The bricks laid along the path represent the lives lost to violence, and each one serves as a powerful reminder of the impact these individuals had on their communities and families. We invite you to be a part of this moving tribute as we come together in solidarity to remember, reflect, and heal.

More details coming soon!

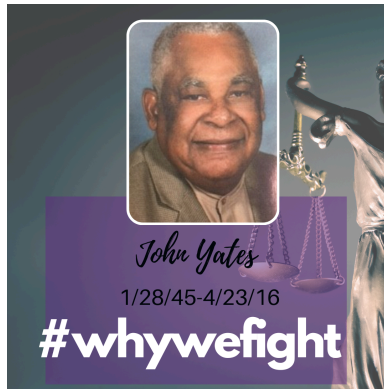
In the meantime, you can submit your brick order form [here](#) OR submit an online order [here](#)

#WHYWEFIGHTWEDNESDAY

Each day we find motivation to continue to be a voice for those who need one. We started these posts on social media last year, but since some of you are not on social media, we are now including our monthly motivations here.

These are a small fraction of the faces that motivate us. Their names and photos are taken from our Ceremony of Remembrance event slideshow. Each Wednesday, we share a life that was taken on that date and we celebrate them and use their face to remind us that crime is not victimless. These people are real and their families miss them. These faces are "why we fight."





**Do you have events you want us to attend?
Do you have something you would like to
share in our next newsletter?**

[EMAIL US AND LET US KNOW!](#)

Feeling the love ❤️ ? Share it here by
supporting our work 💪 ! Your 💰 goes
a long way to support victims of crime
and their families!

Donate now!

MCVRC is a non-profit organization funded by government
and community grants, and generous contributions from
former clients and the public who believe in our cause.

Copies of this newsletter will be made available on our website: [Access it here!](#)



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.
1001 Prince George's Blvd, Ste 750, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
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