



# ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

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Approved: LOL  
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022  
Release No.: 22-042

### **National Crime Victims' Rights Week Commemoration**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that in commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 24, 2022, through April 30, 2022, the District Attorney's Office is hosting a Crime Victims' Rights Week Commemoration. On April 28, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center, the commemoration will raise awareness about crime victims' rights, and the resources and services available for crime victims.

The theme for this year's commemoration is "Rights, Access, Equity, for all Victims." District Attorney Erik Nasarenko stated, "Crime victims are our family, friends, neighbors, and community members. The trauma from crime can have a lasting impact on not only the victim but on our entire community for generations. It is our commitment to enforce the rights of crime victims in an equitable, inclusive, culturally appropriate, and gender responsive manner. Please join us for this very special event."

This year's ceremony will honor crime survivors and those who advocate on their behalf. The Honorable Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard Police Department Senior Detective Erica Escalante, and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Sheri Dungan will be presented with the Justice for Victims award in gratitude for their tireless leadership and service for victims and survivors of crime. Crime survivor and author Karen Moe, will read excerpts from her newly released book, and receive the Ellie Liston Crime Victim Hero Award for her courage and heroic actions. Crime survivor Leonor Hernandez will receive the Resilience Award in recognition of her strength and resilience.

The event will spotlight a panel of representatives from the Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project, Líderes Campesinas, Ventura County Farmworker Resources Program, the District Attorney's

Office and the Oxnard Police Department, who will discuss challenges and best practices in providing accessible services to underserved crime victims in our community.

More than 30 community-based organizations and governmental agencies will also be on hand providing information and resources to the public.

The event will conclude with a dance performance by Ballet Folklórico Mestizo, and a taco lunch sponsored by the Ventura County Family Justice Center Foundation.

Members of the public unable to attend this in-person event can watch the event live streamed at [www.vcdistrictattorney.com/crvw](http://www.vcdistrictattorney.com/crvw). Simultaneous Spanish language interpretation will be provided in-person and live via the Zoom platform.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.