

Proclamation
National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 13-19, 2008

- Whereas,** as a nation devoted to liberty and justice for all, America must increase its efforts to protect, restore, and expand crime victims' rights and services so that they apply to **every victim, every time**; and
- Whereas,** 23 million Americans are victims of crime each year, and of those, 5.2 million are victims of violent crime; and
- Whereas,** all victims of crime deserve respect, resources, restoration, and justice; and
- Whereas,** all fifty states, the District of Columbia and the federal government grant crime victims certain legal rights; and
- Whereas,** National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 13 - 19, 2008 – offers us all the opportunity to recommit ourselves to ensuring that every victim is afforded his or her legal rights and treated as a crucial participant in our criminal justice system; and
- Whereas,** as we carry crime victims' rights into 2008 and beyond, we must strive to create a nation where the legal rights of victims are honored and individuals are accountable for their treatment of victims; and
- Whereas,** despite significant progress in providing rights and services to crime victims over the past two decades, large segments of our population, including crime victims with disabilities, victims with mental illness, victims who are immigrants, victims who are teenagers, victims who are elderly, and victims in rural areas, are still underserved; and
- Whereas,** *Tom Green County Coalition Against Violence* is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout *Tom Green County*, Texas and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and to observe *National Crime Victims' Rights Week*;

Now, therefore, I, Tom Green County Judge Michael Brown, do hereby proclaim the week of April 13-19, 2008, as

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

And reaffirm this County's commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and Express our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

 (signature)

4-8-08 (date)

