

**NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**  
**April 26 – May 2, 2009**

- Whereas, more than 33 million Americans are victims of crime each year;
- Whereas, victims may suffer emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result of crime;
- Whereas, victim assistance and compensation programs across the country provide vital and supportive services for victims that help individuals, families, and communities cope with the impact of crime;
- Whereas, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, affirmed a national commitment to helping victims rebuild their lives by establishing the Crime Victims Fund, a major source of funding for services and compensation to victims of crime throughout the United States;
- Whereas, the Fund comprises fines and penalties levied on offenders and affirms the principle that those who commit crimes should be held accountable for their actions;
- Whereas, the Crime Victims Fund provides support to states for victim assistance and victim compensation programs. As well as support for federal victims of crime, child abuse prosecution, emergency reserve to assist victims of terrorism, and training and technical assistance for the victim services field;
- Whereas, the Crime Victims Fund supports more than 4,400 state and local victim assistance programs, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, victim assistants in law enforcement and prosecutor offices, and other direct service providers that help millions of victims every year;
- Whereas, victim compensation programs pay for medical and counseling costs, funeral bills, crime-scene cleanup, and lost wages for victims of crime;
- Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 26 – May 2, 2009 – provides an opportunity for our country to recognize the Victims of Crime Act as a major bedrock of support for victim services and to reaffirm our nation's commitment to addressing the needs of victims of crime; and
- Whereas, Tom Green County Coalition Against Violence, Inc. is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout San Angelo and America to observe the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VOCA during National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

Now, therefore, I, Mike Brown, as County Judge of Tom Green County, do hereby proclaim the week of April 26 – May 2, 2009, as

**Tom Green County Crime Victims' Rights Week**

And reaffirm the commitment of Tom Green County to helping victims of crime rebuild their lives through supportive services and victim compensation during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

 (signature)

April 28, 2009 (date)

