



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
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OHIO RECOGNIZES NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

Department Continues to Remember and Honor Former Employee, Other Victims

(COLUMBUS) – The Ohio Department of Public Safety's (ODPS) Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) recognizes the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. Around the nation, September 25 is a day to honor murder victims and recognize the impact of homicide on surviving family members, friends, co-workers and loved ones.

“The National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims reminds us of the incredible impact murder can have on an individual, his or her family, an entire office, state, and nation,” said ODPS Director Thomas J. Stickrath. “This Department is committed to both preventing and reducing violence by assisting victims of crime and giving communities’ the tools and resources to fight crime as they continue the fight to keep everyone safe.”

At the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims touches many employees. In 2002, family, friends and co-workers of then-Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) employee Jill J. Hand experienced the loss and tragedy murder causes first-hand when Jill was murdered by her husband in their Delaware County home. On Sept. 25, 2009, the Department dedicated a Memorial Bench in Jill's and all murder victims' honor. The Memorial Bench has been permanently placed on display in the main lobby of the BMV at ODPS where Jill worked for nearly 22 years.

Tragically, murder continues to impact far too many Ohioans. Last year, 519 Ohioans were murdered and 15,241 people were murdered nationally in 2009. For Ohio, that meant 519 mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, husbands and wives whose lives were taken and hundreds more individuals who are left grieving. For more crime statistics, log onto http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/data/table_04.html.

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OCJS is the state's lead criminal justice planning agency and works to reduce violence in Ohio through various programs and partners. The agency works with communities and agencies offering funding opportunities, technology, research and training, as well as publications.