

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the week of April 21 through 27 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, during the week of April 21 through 27, thirty years after President Reagan honored crime victims in a Rose Garden ceremony and thirty years after the establishment of the Office for Victims of Crime as a national resource center, the citizens of the state of Louisiana pause to recognize and acknowledge the rights of crime victims; and

WHEREAS, every year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week affords victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned community members an opportunity to reflect on the history of crime victims' rights, on the many obstacles that they have already overcome, and the new challenges that require new solutions; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which established the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect that serves as an information clearinghouse and provides technical assistance and model programs; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, two major crime victims' rights organizations were formed: the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault to combat sexual violence and promote services for rape victims and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence to serve as a voice for battered women on a national level; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Frank G. Carrington founded the Crime Victims' Legal Advocacy Institute, Inc., to promote the rights of crime victims in the civil and criminal justice systems, and the organization changed its name in 1981 to Victims' Assistance Legal Organization; and

WHEREAS, also in 1979, the World Society of Victimology was formed to promote research relating to crime victims and victim assistance, advocate for victims' interests, and advance cooperation of international, regional, and local agencies concerned with crime victims' issues; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, congress passed the Parental Kidnaping Prevention Act and Wisconsin passed the first Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first national Crime Victims Week in April, and later that year the abduction and murder of six-year-old Adam Walsh prompted a national campaign to raise public awareness about missing children and enact laws to better protect them; and

WHEREAS, since President Reagan's proclamation, congress has enacted several landmark pieces of legislation that help to protect the rights and the interests of victims of crime, including the Victims of Crime Act in 1984, which established the Crime Victims Fund to support state victim compensation and local victim assistance programs, the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, which authorized more than one billion dollars for programs to combat violence against women, and the Justice for All Act in 2004, which provides substantive rights for crime victims; and

WHEREAS, each April, the Office for Victims of Crime helps lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week by promoting victims' rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the week of April 21 through 27, 2013, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week and does hereby commemorate this week as a period of reflection and educational awareness of the plight of crime victims.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES