



Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

- WHEREAS**, Americans are victims of more than 22 million crimes each year, and these crimes also affect family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and
- WHEREAS**, crime can leave a lasting physical, emotional, or financial impact on people of all ages and abilities, and of all economic, racial, and social backgrounds; and
- WHEREAS**, in addition to these challenges, crime victims face criminal, military, and juvenile justice systems that, at times, ignore their rights and treat them with disrespect; and
- WHEREAS**, in 1984, the Crime Victims Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to provide a permanent source of support for crime victim services and compensation through fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders; and
- WHEREAS**, the Crime Victims Fund today supports thousands of victim assistance programs who provide help and support to child victims of violence and sexual abuse; stalking victims; survivors of homicide victims; victims of drunk-driving crashes; and victims of domestic, dating, and sexual violence and other crimes; and
- WHEREAS**, by ensuring that federal offender criminal fines and penalties are deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, Congress affirmed that those who commit crimes should be held accountable for the impact of their actions; and
- WHEREAS**, the Crime Victims Fund provides victim assistance to more than 3.5 million crime victims annually and also provides compensation funds to thousands of crime victims each year for reimbursement of expenses related to their victimization; and
- WHEREAS**, the victim assistance community faces new challenges to reach and serve all victims, including victims of newly recognized crimes, such as domestic minor sex trafficking and cybercrime, and victims who have not always trusted the criminal justice system, including immigrant victims, urban youth, and victims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender; and
- WHEREAS**, now is the time to embrace a new emphasis on learning what works in reaching underserved victims and meeting victims' needs; and
- WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 6-12, 2014, provides an opportunity to celebrate the energy, creativity, and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime victims; and
- WHEREAS**, the Manatee County Victims' Rights Council is joining forces with victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned citizens throughout Manatee County and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that April 6-12, 2014, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in Manatee County, Florida, and reaffirm Manatee County's commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address victims' needs during National 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.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 25th day of March 2014.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____

Larry Bustle, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

R. B. "Chips" Shore
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: _____

Deputy Clerk