

# PROCLAMATION

OF THE

## MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### RECOGNIZING VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK IN MENDOCINO COUNTY, APRIL 10-16, 2011

WHEREAS, 20 million Americans are victims of crime each year and each crime affects many more, including families, friends and communities; and

WHEREAS, crime exacts an emotional, physical, psychological, and financial toll on victims as they have lost loved ones, life savings, physical and mental health, and often their sense of security that has the potential to irrevocably change the course of their lives forever; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 years of progress for crime victims stands on the shoulders of dedicated advocates and brave victims who overcame shame, isolation, and indifference to gain a voice, rights, and respect; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the progress that our nation has made in recognizing crime's impact on victims and celebrate advocates and survivors who through their determination brought rights and resources for victims and have changed the course of history; and

WHEREAS, victim assistance programs across the country are reaching more victims and criminal justice officials are honoring victims' rights more consistently, public understanding of victims' rights remains minimal, and our nation's victim services system remains fragmented, under funded, and uncoordinated; and

WHEREAS, more work remains to be done to address the mental health impact of crime, and to meet the needs of victims of non-violent crime, victims of terrorism, and other underserved victims; and

WHEREAS, our history teaches us that, by working together, we can help victims of crime reshape their destinies and ensure that they receive the support they need, the respect they deserve, and the rights they have earned; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10 - 16, 2011, provides an opportunity for us to reshape the future for victims by honoring the past and reflecting on hard-won victories, and to recommit to working together to insist on better treatment for victims to help them overcome the harm caused by crime; and

WHEREAS, The Mendocino County District Attorney and Victim Witness Assistance Program is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout California and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaim April 10 - 16, 2011, as:

"Victims' Rights Week"

Dated:

Kendall Smith

Kendall Smith, Chair

