



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DA Villalobos recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Brownsville, Texas – September 28, 2011 – Armando R. Villalobos, County and District Attorney for Cameron County, will be recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month for the month of October to raise public awareness of domestic violence in Cameron County.

On Friday, September 30 volunteers from the DA's Office will place purple ribbons on trees surrounding the Cameron County Judicial Courthouse. Beginning on Monday, October 3 purple lapel ribbons will be handed out to Cameron County employees. The purple ribbon is the symbol used to represent domestic violence awareness. The ribbon is a unifying symbol of courage, survival, honor, and dedication in ending domestic violence.

The DA's Office is hosting its annual poetry and art contest for all county high school students in an effort to educate our children about the cycles of domestic violence. The contest began on September 8 and ends on October 14 by 5 p.m. All educators should encourage their students to participate in this event. The students' poetry and artwork will be displayed in the lobby of the Cameron County Judicial Courthouse.

On Wednesday, October 26 the Cameron County and District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit will host its annual Petals on the Lake event at 5:30 p.m. at the Dean Porter Park – Outdoor Pavilion. The event is open to the public and all interested members of the community are welcome to attend and participate in releasing petals of flowers in the Town Resaca. A proclamation from the State of Texas and the Cameron County Commissioners' Court will be presented to the Cameron County and District Attorney's Office for their collaborative efforts in working with other community agencies to end domestic violence. The Cameron County and District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) was established in September 2006 to assist and provide a voice for victims of domestic violence. The goals of the unit are to improve the level of victim support services, expedite the domestic violence case process, and to proactively monitor domestic violence cases to insure compliance.

LIST OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- September 8 to October 14 – DA's Office Poetry and Art Contest. Open to all Cameron County high school students.
- October 6 – Family Crisis Center Candlelight Vigil at 6pm at TSTC Cultural Arts Center in Harlingen.
- October 15 – Friendship of Women Walk for Safe Families at 8am at Veterans Park in Brownsville.
- October 20 – Friendship of Women Candlelight Vigil at 6pm at Christ the King Parish Hall in Brownsville.
- October 20 – Family Crisis Center Domestic Violence Conference at 8am to 5pm at TSTC Cultural Arts Center in Harlingen.
- October 26 – Cameron County and District Attorney's Petals on the Lake Ceremony at 5:30pm at Dean Porter Park – Outdoor Pavilion in Brownsville.

For more information, contact the Cameron County and District Attorney's Office at (956) 544-0849.

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