

CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WALK

April 23 -29, 2023 marks National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Please join the Grand Traverse Prosecuting Attorney's Office by raising awareness of victims' rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

The first National Crime Victims' Rights Week was declared in April of 1981 by President Ronald Reagan. Soon after he issued an Executive Order that established the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime.

In 1984, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund was created to provide federal support to state and local programs dedicated to assisting victims of crime.

On December 24, 1988, Article 1, Section 24 was added to the Constitution of the State of Michigan giving constitutional authority for the statutory rights of crime victims.

In September of 1994, President Bill Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act, which changed several statutes and brought attention to the issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Today, we continue to work toward more awareness of the effects of crime on those in our community. In times when we hear so often about clean-slate laws, jail reform and reductions in incarceration and probation terms, it is more important than ever that we remember those men and women who have been affected by crime.

The theme for NCVRW 2023 is *Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change.*

This theme calls upon communities to amplify the voices of survivors and commit to creating an environment where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

In honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Grand Traverse County Prosecuting's Office is hosting a Crime Victims Support Walk on April 26th. The walk will begin at 5:30 at the Historic Courthouse and end at the Open Space with a brief presentation. In keeping with this year's theme, several crime victims will be speaking about their experiences. Please join us in honoring and showing support for all crime victims.

For questions about this event please contact the Grand Traverse Prosecutor's Office at (231) 922-4611. For more information about how to support all victims of crime, visit OVC's website at ovc.ojp.gov.