

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS**, 33 million Americans are victims of crime each year;
- WHEREAS**, victims may suffer emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as a result of crime;
- WHEREAS**, victim assistance and compensation programs across the country provide vital and supportive services for victims that help individuals, families and communities cope with the impact of crime;
- WHEREAS**, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, affirmed a national commitment to helping victims rebuild their lives by establishing the Crime Victims Fund, a major source of funding for services and compensation to victims of crime throughout the United States;
- WHEREAS**, the Fund comprises fines and penalties levied on offenders and affirms the principle that those who commit crimes should be held accountable for their actions;
- WHEREAS**, the Crime Victims Fund provides support to states for victim assistance and victim compensation programs as well as support for federal victims of crime, child abuse prosecution, emergency reserve to assist victims of terrorism and training and technical assistance for the victim services field;
- WHEREAS**, the Crime Victims Fund supports more than 4,400 state and local victim assistance programs, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, Victim Assistants in law enforcement and prosecutor offices and other direct service providers that help millions of victims every year;
- WHEREAS**, victim compensation programs pay for medical and counseling costs, funeral bills, crime scene cleanup and lost wages for victims of crime;
- WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 26 – May 2, 2009 provides an opportunity for our country to recognize the Victims of Crime Act as a major bedrock of support for victim services and to reaffirm our nation's commitment to addressing the needs of victims of crime; and
- WHEREAS**, The Town of Payson joins forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials and concerned citizens throughout Gila County and America to observe the **25th anniversary** of VOCA during National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KENNY J. EVANS, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 26 – MAY 2, 2009

AS

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

APR 16 2009

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In Payson, reaffirms the commitment of Payson to helping victims of crime rebuild their lives through supportive services and victim compensation during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Payson, Arizona, this 16th day of April, 2009.

Kenny J. Evans, Mayor

ATTEST:

Silva Smith, Town Clerk