

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas,** 20 million Americans are victims of crime each year and each crime affects many more, including families, friends and communities;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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, underfunded, and uncoordinated;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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 Town of Payson joins forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials and concerned citizens throughout the City of Payson and Gila County to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week;

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

APR 07 2011 D.2

APRIL 10-16, 2011
AS
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Payson reaffirms its commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their 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.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Payson, Arizona, this 7th day of April, 2011,

Kenny Evans, Mayor

ATTEST:

Silva Smith, Town Clerk