

Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

A Proclamation

Whereas, 1 in every 4 women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime;

Whereas, approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year;

Whereas, when a family member is abused, it can have long-term damaging effects on the victim that also leave a mark on family, friends, and the community at large;

Whereas, families are indispensable to a stable society, and they should be a place of support to instill responsibility and values in the next generation;

Whereas domestic violence is widespread and is devastating to society as a whole, but particularly women and children;

Whereas, violence against women and children is a prevalent social ill due to the historical imbalance of power in gender and age;

Whereas, the problem of domestic violence is not confined to any group or groups of people, but crosses all economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal barriers, and is sustained by societal indifference;

Whereas, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse;

Whereas, victims should have help to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and domestic abusers should be punished to the full extent of the law;

Whereas, victims of violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse;

Whereas, we encourage domestic violence victims and their families to seek assistance from appropriate victims' services organizations and the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE);

Whereas, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims of domestic violence and work to increase public understanding of this significant problem;

Whereas, it is battered women themselves who have been in the forefront of efforts to bring peace, equality, and healing to our homes and communities;

Whereas, local programs, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention and education;

Whereas, important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, healthcare providers, allied professionals, and victim services to assist victims of domestic violence and their families;

Whereas, the United States President and Congress as well as other federal agencies have expressed a commitment to eliminating domestic violence both nationally and internationally;

Whereas, our Nation must dedicate ourselves to protecting vulnerable members of our society;

Whereas, our Nation has a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence and to address its brutal and destructive effects;

Whereas, our Nation must make ending domestic violence a national priority;

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of the important work done by domestic violence programs and victims' service providers, the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors do hereby proclaim the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all citizens to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs sponsored by the YWCA Domestic Violence Prevention Center and Appomattox County Victim/Witness Assistance Program to work towards the elimination of domestic violence.

Samuel Carter, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

DATE: September 19, 2016

October 2016—Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Appomattox County Victim/Witness Assistance Program partnered with the YWCA/Domestic Violence Prevention Center to bring an awareness to the Community –

- **Sunday, October 23rd** Rocks Baptist Church, 393 Rocks Church Road, Pamplin, VA will be having a special service at the 11:00 worship hour – Rocks Quilters will be donating lap quilts to the SANE Nurse Program at Centra Health and Appomattox Victim/Witness Program. The SANE program provides direct service to crime victims for collection of evidence for domestic violence and sexual assaults for our locality. These lap quilts can provide comfort during a traumatic time. Appomattox County Victim/Witness Program provides lap quilts to all child sexual assault victims.
- **Silent Witness Initiative** --- Began in 1990 to promote, educate and support an end to domestic violence through community based exhibits. It started with a small group of volunteers in one state and grew into an international presence, with projects in all 50 states and 23 countries. The silent witnesses are red wooden life size silhouettes representing a life lost at the hands of an abuser with their stories on a Crest of each silhouette. The silhouettes will be placed at the entrance to Legacy Hall, United

Memorial Methodist Church, Morton Lane on **Thursday, October 20th** for a Domestic Violence Awareness candlelight vigil that will be held at 7:00 p.m. Please join the Appomattox County Victim/Witness Program and YWCA/DVPC on October 20th to show support to our community for those that have lost their lives, those that have broken the cycle, and those continuing to struggle with domestic violence.

- Appomattox Victim/Witness Program and YWCA/DVPC respectfully request that the Board sign the Proclamation proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.