

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes April 21 through 27 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the week of April 21 through 27 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in  
3 Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, during the week of April 21 through 27, thirty years after President  
5 Reagan honored crime victims in a Rose Garden ceremony and thirty years after the  
6 establishment of the Office for Victims of Crime as a national resource center, the citizens  
7 of the state of Louisiana pause to recognize and acknowledge the rights of crime victims;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, every year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week affords victim service  
10 providers, allied professionals, and concerned community members an opportunity to reflect  
11 on the history of crime victims' rights, on the many obstacles that they have already  
12 overcome, and the new challenges that require new solutions; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1974, congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment  
14 Act, which established the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect that serves as an  
15 information clearinghouse and provides technical assistance and model programs; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1978, two major crime victims' rights organizations were formed: the  
17 National Coalition Against Sexual Assault to combat sexual violence and promote services  
18 for rape victims and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence to serve as a voice  
19 for battered women on a national level; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1979, Frank G. Carrington founded the Crime Victims' Legal  
21 Advocacy Institute, Inc., to promote the rights of crime victims in the civil and criminal

1 justice systems, and the organization changed its name in 1981 to Victims' Assistance Legal  
2 Organization; and

3 WHEREAS, also in 1979, the World Society of Victimology was formed to promote  
4 research relating to crime victims and victim assistance, advocate for victims' interests, and  
5 advance cooperation of international, regional, and local agencies concerned with crime  
6 victims' issues; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1980, congress passed the Parental Kidnaping Prevention Act and  
8 Wisconsin passed the first Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1981, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first national Crime  
10 Victims Week in April, and later that year the abduction and murder of six-year-old Adam  
11 Walsh prompted a national campaign to raise public awareness about missing children and  
12 enact laws to better protect them; and

13 WHEREAS, since President Reagan's proclamation, congress has enacted several  
14 landmark pieces of legislation that help to protect the rights and the interests of victims of  
15 crime, including the Victims of Crime Act in 1984, which established the Crime Victims  
16 Fund to support state victim compensation and local victim assistance programs, the  
17 Violence Against Women Act in 1994, which authorized more than one billion dollars for  
18 programs to combat violence against women, and the Justice for All Act in 2004, which  
19 provides substantive rights for crime victims; and

20 WHEREAS, each April, the Office for Victims of Crime helps lead communities  
21 throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week  
22 by promoting victims' rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their  
23 behalf.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
25 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the week of April 21 through 27, 2013, as  
26 National Crime Victims' Rights Week and does hereby commemorate this week as a period  
27 of reflection and educational awareness of the plight of crime victims.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Barrow

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