



MEDIA ADVISORY

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release
September 30, 2009

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Silent Witness Ceremony to Honor 2008 Victims of Fatal Domestic Violence

Ceremony to be Held on First Tuesday of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Columbia, SC – SC Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that the annual Silent Witness Domestic Violence ceremony would be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. on the south steps of the State House in Columbia. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

At the ceremony, the names of each **2008** fatal domestic violence victim will be released and announced.

For twelve (12) years, the SC Attorney General's Office has sponsored the Silent Witness ceremony to honor the memory of those who lost their lives as a result of domestic violence in the previous year.

During the solemn ceremony, the Attorney General will call the name of each **2008** fatal domestic violence victim as family members, friends or volunteers carry a life-sized silhouette representing the victim to the State House steps, including an additional silhouette representing the potential unknown victims.

Also during the ceremony, a bell will be rung once for each victim. Domestic violence survivors, officials and victim advocates will make special remarks to highlight the problem of criminal domestic violence.

Last year's ceremony remembered the thirty-two (32) men and women from across the state who lost their lives in the year **2007** as the result of domestic violence.

The event is open to the public. Additional information about the Silent Witness ceremony is available on the Attorney General's Office web site at: www.scattorneygeneral.com/fraud/cdv/index.html

NOTE: A very limited number of victims' family and friends have agreed to speak with members of the media following the ceremony. To arrange an interview, please contact Mark Plowden at 803-734-3670 or via email at: mplowden@scag.gov

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