

Official
Proclamation

Town of Malabar,
Florida

Whereas, 23 million Americans are victims of crime each year, and of those, 5.2 million are victims of violent crime;¹ and

Whereas, a just society acknowledges crime's impact on individuals, families and communities by ensuring that rights, resources and services are available to help rebuild lives;

Whereas, victims' rights are a critical component of the promise of "justice for all", the foundation of our system of justice in America;

Whereas, although our nation has steadily expanded rights, protections and services for victims of crime, too many victims are still not able to realize the hope and promise of these gains;

Whereas, we must do better to ensure services are available for underserved segments of our population, including crime victims with disabilities, victims with mental illness, victims who are teenagers, victims who are elderly, victims in rural areas and victims in communities of color; and

Whereas, observing victims' rights and treating victims with dignity and respect serves the public interest by engaging victims in the justice system, inspiring respect for public authorities and promoting confidence in public safety; and

Whereas, America recognizes that we make our homes, neighborhoods and communities safer and stronger by serving victims of crime and ensuring justice for all; and

Whereas, Our nation must strive to protect, expand and observe crime victims' rights so that there truly is *justice for victims and justice for all*; and

Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 26-May 2, 2009 provides an opportunity for us to strive to reach the goal of justice for all by ensuring that all victims are afforded their legal rights and provided with assistance as they face the financial, physical and psychological impact of crime; and

Whereas, The Town of Malabar is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials and concerned citizens throughout Malabar, Florida and America to raise awareness about victims' rights and observe the 23rd National Crime Victims' Right Week;

Now, therefore, I Thomas Eschenberg, as Mayor of the Town of Malabar, do hereby proclaim the week of April 26-May 2, 2009 as

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

And reaffirm the Town of Malabar, Florida's 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.

Seal of the
Town of Malabar

6th day of April, 2009

Attest:

Town Clerk

Mayor

