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**QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CELEBRATES**  
**NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that his office celebrated the 29<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week by hosting a community awareness program at the Queens Criminal Courthouse. National Crime Victims Rights' Week, which honors the victims of crime and pays tribute to those who provide services and support to such victims, runs from April 26 - May 2, 2009. The theme of this year's Crime Victims' Rights Week is "Hope & Harmony, Working Together To Heal" and "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives, Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act."

District Attorney Brown said, "Today gives us the opportunity – especially this year as we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of our country's Victims of Crime Act – to honor the memory of those who have lost their lives to violence and to recognize the courage and resilience of those who have survived. It also provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the progress that we have made over the years in securing the rights of our county's crime victims and to renew our commitment to aid and protect crime victims in every way that we can. "

Speakers at this year's event included District Attorney Brown and Queens Supreme Court Justice Kenneth C. Holder. The invocation was given by Dr. Uma Mysorekar, president of the Hindu Temple Society of North America. The Francis Lewis High School Choir, directed by Richard Hyman, performed "Serenity" and the Flushing High School Choir, directed by Kevin Mullany, performed "At The River." Amy Koo, an 18-year-old who was left paralyzed after being struck by a drunk driver in 2007 spoke about being a survivor and was followed by Carolee Brooks, whose son David Pottinger, 28, was murdered in 1991. Iona Siegel, executive director of Mount Sinai's Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention program (SAVI), also delivered remarks.

Students from Public School 106 performed "Lean On Me," directed by Jennifer Baylis, and Reverend Chloe Breyer, executive director of the Interfaith Center of New York, delivered the closing Benediction.

District Attorney Brown presented a \$50 savings bond to Kiara Williams, a fifth-grader at Public School 106 and the winner of a poster contest whose theme was how to help crime victims heal.

Resource and information tables containing literature on various service providers were available to the public, as well as gift bags for guests.

The event was coordinated by Natasha Morales, Director of the District Attorney's Crime Victims Advocate Program, with the assistance of Crime Victim Advocates Jennifer L. Esposito, Maria C. Masaya and Sylvia Reid.

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**Note to Editors: E-version of press release posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**