



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS FEDERAL TEAM FOR EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSE TO BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS VICTIMS

BOSTON, Mass.—The Department of Justice will recognize the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Victim Assistance Program and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts for their extraordinary efforts to help victims of the April 15, 2013 Boston Marathon bombings.

"Through their courage and critical contributions to assist and empower victims, these individuals and organizations have given hope to countless Americans victimized by crime--even under the most difficult circumstances," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "I am proud to recognize these extraordinary advocates by celebrating their achievements and assure them that the Department of Justice is more determined than ever to help ensure their continued success."

The team will receive the Federal Service Award for rapidly deploying to identify victim needs, securing ongoing care for victims and working closely with victims and their families to ensure they can attend hearings and receive needed services. Department officials will present agency representatives with the prestigious award during the National Crime Victims' Rights Service Awards ceremony Wed., April 9, in Washington, D.C.

"We are humbled and proud to recognize these extraordinary individuals, teams, and organizations for their outstanding service" said Deputy Attorney General James Cole. "These compassionate honorees have become beacons of hope for so many others who have endured shock and deep sadness in the face of too many incidents involving violence and loss."

The bombings near the finish line of the Boston Marathon resulted in the violent deaths of three individuals, including a child, and injuries to hundreds more. Following the bombings, two FBI victim specialists immediately assessed the victim impact, coordinating and integrating services closely with local and state victim service agencies. Within hours, the FBI's Office of Victim Assistance deployed a Victim Assistance Rapid Deployment Team to work with the Boston Division's Command Post, local counterparts and hospitals to assist the victims and their loved ones and identify their ongoing needs, care and services.

The FBI Victim Assistance Program provided more than \$450,000 for emergency services including the provision of flights, hotels and other travel support for family members during the victims' hospitalizations and for victims returning to their home cities. The funding came from the Emergency Reserve of the Crime Victims Fund, administered by the Office for

Victims of Crime. Victim assistance staff at the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office worked together with state and local officials to ensure the continuity of care and the transition of assistance to victims once charges were filed.

Once the defendant was charged, the U.S. Attorney's Office victim assistance staff met with victims and the prosecution team to answer questions and concerns before the arraignment. They coordinated meetings between victims, their families and the prosecution team and worked with the U.S. District Court to address logistical issues so that victims could attend hearings. Victim assistance staff at both the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office continue to provide information about victims' rights, the status of the court case and referrals to community-based services.

In addition to this award, the Department will recognize nine other individuals and programs for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. Descriptions and videos of the honorees are available at the Office for Victims of Crime's Gallery:

<https://ovcnvrv.ncjrs.gov/Awards/AwardGallery/gallerysearch.html>.

President Reagan proclaimed the first Victims' Rights Week in 1981, calling for renewed emphasis on, and sensitivity to, the rights of victims. National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed this year from April 6-12, and the theme is "30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice."

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six components: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP can be found at www.ojp.gov.