

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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******* PRESS RELEASE *******

**Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office Holds Media Event
April 12th at 12:00 p.m. commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

Santa Barbara, California National Crime Victims' Rights Week

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office will commemorate our nation's progress in advancing victims' rights by honoring outstanding citizens of courage: Sara San Juan and Serenity Lopez who represent survival and resilience in the wake of crime. Additionally, former Lompoc Police Chief Pat Walsh will be recognized for his commitment to the community of Lompoc and outstanding service to victims of crime. A Media Award will be presented to Joe Payne, formerly of the Santa Maria Sun newspaper for his outstanding reporting on domestic violence.

The Press Conference will be held on April 12th, 2019 at noon at the Santa Barbara Superior Court Jury Services Building, 1108 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara.

The Citizen of Courage Award will be presented to Homicide Survivor Sara San Juan who lost her husband Tony to a horrific homicide in March of 2017. Despite the tragedy, she showed courage through the lengthy court process and remained a source of strength for her family and two children. Also acknowledged is Serenity Lopez who was devastated after discovering that her husband had sexually abused her daughter. In the aftermath of the crime, she was forced into a shelter with her three children feeling both broke and broken. She has since heroically reclaim her life.

District Attorney Joyce Dudley states, "We stand together with the individuals being honored on Friday April 12th, committed to protecting and upholding Victims' Rights as well as the public's safety. Our office is dedicated to the pursuit of truth and justice by employing the highest ethical standards in vigorously prosecuting the guilty as well as protecting the innocent; this we do by seeking to insure that all crime victims are treated with fairness, dignity and respect."

Award recipients will be present at the press conference and available for questions.
