

*Twenty years of working to end violence
in the lives of women and children*



MEDIA ADVISORY

October 2, 2002

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Virginians Against Domestic Violence (VADV)
Through October 10, call 757-221-0990
On October 11 or the previous evening, call 804-869-5879

Every 4 days in Virginia, domestic violence kills.*

Silent Witness Virginia: A Visual Memorial

On **October 11, 2002** Virginians Against Domestic Violence (VADV) will launch a powerful new statewide public awareness campaign called **Silent Witness Virginia**. The Silent Witnesses are life-sized plywood silhouettes painted red. Each one bears a shield telling the story of a Virginia woman, child, or man who was killed in a domestic violence homicide. Displayed together or individually, they send a powerful message to all who behold them.

This highly visual event will be the centerpiece of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Schedule of Public Events

The public events of the day will be preceded by a private workshop and luncheon for family members whose loved ones are memorialized by Silent Witness figures.

- 1:00pm Gather at the YWCA of Richmond (6 North 5th Street)
- 1:20pm Welcome given from the steps of the YWCA
- 1:30pm March to the Capitol with the Silent Witnesses
Assemble at the Bell Tower on the Capitol Grounds
Set up Silent Witness display
Media are encouraged to use this interval to interview march leaders, including Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, Del. Viola Baskerville, and Del. Terry Suit
- 2:30pm Media conference, featuring family members and survivors of domestic violence

Following the media conference, the Silent Witnesses will remain on display at the Bell Tower until 4:00pm. For the remainder of October, the figures will be available for public viewing at the Oliver Hills Courts Building (1600 North 17th Street) and the John Marshall Courts Building (400 North Ninth Street).

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After October, Silent Witness Virginia will begin to travel the state, beginning with a display sponsored by the New Directions Center of **Staunton** during the first two weeks of November. After that they will be displayed at the **Portsmouth** Juvenile & Domestic Violence Relations Courthouse for the remainder of November. VADV expects the project to continue to grow and travel indefinitely. An itinerary will be maintained at www.vadv.org/silentwitness.html.

Organizing partners for Silent Witness Virginia include community volunteers as well as representatives from the YWCA of Richmond, Hanover Safe Place, Chesterfield Domestic Violence Resource Center, Safe Harbor, Project Hope, The Haven, Powhatan Goochland Domestic Violence Program, VCU, the Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's office, the Henrico Police Department, the Virginia Network for Victims and Witnesses of Crime, and the Victim/Witness Programs of Henrico, King William, and King & Queen counties.

For information about awareness events planned during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Virginia, please visit VADV's continuously updated statewide calendar of events at www.vadv.org/october.html.

In all your domestic-violence related reporting, we encourage you to publicize the **Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline** at **1-800-838-8238 (v/tty)**. This hotline is a free, confidential, 24-hour resource offering support, information, and local referrals to individuals who are experiencing domestic violence and those who would like to help end this violence in Virginia.



In 2000, 85 Virginians (60 women and 25 men) were killed by an intimate partner. (OCME, April 2002)

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