



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Awards for Service to Crime Victims**

Thirteen people were honored for their service to crime victims at the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Victim Rights Week Reception Thursday evening at the Riverdale Golf Club in Brighton. The awards recognize those who have significantly contributed to the field of victim services in Adams and Broomfield counties. The event is sponsored by the VALE (Victims Assistance in Law Enforcement) Board for the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Prince received the Edward Towey Award for her devotion and outstanding service to victims of crime in a law enforcement department. Prince was recognized for her dedication to giving a voice to victims in the courtroom while prosecuting homicide, child sexual assault and incest cases. She also was recognized for her work with the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Sexual Assault Response Team and providing specialized training for law enforcement dealing with sexual assault cases.

Rachel Liberatore, a victim advocate for the District Attorney's Office, received the Gale Voyles Award for outstanding direct victim services for her compassion and dedication to serving the family and close friends of a 16-year-old Haley Vargas, who was shot to death at a high school homecoming party in Thornton.

Northglenn's Police Chief James May, City Manager James Hayes and Director of Public Works David Willett received the Sean May Leadership Award for outstanding leadership and tireless efforts over several years to obtain support and funding for the expansion of the Ralston House Child Advocacy Center. The city organized the project, donated land and agreed to maintain the building for the next 30 years so that Ralston House funds can go to serving victims. Sean May was a chief deputy district attorney in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District when he was killed in August of 2008. His murder remains unsolved.

Brighton Detective Rudy Underwood received the Dale R. McLaughlin Award for outstanding service to victims in a law enforcement setting for his dedication and compassion toward the victim of a brutal attempted murder case and her son.

Angela Huss, a victim services specialist with Intervention, Inc., received the Thomas E. Green Award for providing outstanding service to victims of crime in a non-profit setting. She was honored for her compassion and empathy for victims who have been traumatized by violence, and was part of an effort to provide large cash donation to the family of Adams County Deputy Health Gumm, who was killed January 24.

Six peer coordinators with CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties received the Ray MacKinnon Award for outstanding volunteer service to crime victims. Barbara Bostwick, Faye Gillis, Zoe Reese, Kathy Snyder, Suzanne Swanson, Candie Toller and Rachel Williams were honored for service to youth victims of abuse and neglect for their work in supervising and supporting CASA volunteers.

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