



## MEDIA RELEASE

May 17, 2010

### **Southern Maryland Law Enforcement and Public Safety Officers Honored**

The St. Mary's Chapter of Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center in cooperation with Advocates Working for Victims in Crisis and Encounter Christian Center held the Second Annual Southern Maryland Law Enforcement Blessing Thursday, May 6, 2010 at the Encounter Christian Center in Charlotte Hall, Maryland.

"We wanted to give thanks to the officers who work daily to serve and protect those who are harmed as a result of selfless criminal acts on vulnerable members of our community. We felt the officers needed extra shield of protection, a blessing, so we organized this event during a time where law enforcement officers across the Nation are honored." (Ms. Gwen Bankins, St. Mary's County Chair, Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center)

Special Guests included Roberta and Vince Roper of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. (MCVRC) who read "Standing in the Line of Duty" by Mike Birkes which was written in the memory of Officer Collin Waibel from Portland Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on January 27, 1988.

All three counties Sheriff's Offices, Maryland State Police Barracks, Detention Centers, as well as, the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Natural Resources Police, Maryland State Police Aviation Division and Trooper 7 were honored during the ceremony.

"We are honored each time our citizens remember those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect others and truly grateful for the support the community continues to provide to the men and women in law enforcement who serve our county." (Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron)

