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# DISABLED CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE, INC.



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## All In the Line of Duty

By Dub Gillum

October 1, 1998 was a beautiful fall day; I was scheduled to go on duty at 3pm I am a Texas State Trooper in the Highway Patrol. I had lunch with my wife Karen and a friend of mine who builds homes. My family and I had been in Granbury for eight years and we wanted to build a home. At 3pm I went to the office to finish up some paperwork and about 6:30pm, headed home for dinner. My daughters, Erica, age ten, was working on home work and Lauren, age five, was learning to tie her shoes. At 7:30pm I headed out to work a little routine patrol.



As I continued to slowly move forward, the loud ringing of gunshots were heard and I felt my face stinging. The feeling seemed familiar to me because I grew up fighting in Karate Tournaments and I have had my nose broken many times. Time seemed to slow, my first thought was the driver was shooting at me, the second was to move, get out of the way, and the third was to return fire.

In three seconds, the driver had fired ten shots. The first striking my hat right above my forehead, the second piercing my left temple with the bullet damaging both eyes; three, four and five struck my left forearm,

flashlight and clipboard; six and seven hit my left hip; and eight, nine and ten struck me in the back, in my vest.

As I tried to move out of the way, I stumbled against the back fender over the dually wheels of the truck and while taking the last three rounds in my back. I fell into the roadway. I had no vision due to the eye damage from the second round, and returning fire was not a clear option. As I fell into the roadway, the truck drove off, and two other vehicles swerved to miss me as I lay in the roadway.

The next two weeks were in Harris Methodist Hospital in Ft. Worth and the next fourteen months were spent at home, and in and out of the hospital undergoing six eye surgeries to save and repair my eyesight. I am legally blind in the right eye and my best vision is 20/50 in the left.

As I walked towards the driver's side door of the pickup, I was trying to locate the driver with my flashlight, while also checking the approaching traffic from the rear. As I came within eight feet of the driver's side door, the window of the truck rolled down and the driver partially stuck his head out and said, "What's the problem officer?"

continued page 2

### MISSION STATEMENT

Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc. is committed to assisting the disabled crime victim and their families and promoting awareness of their specialized needs to those who serve victims and the community.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wanda Page	Terry Vernon
Elizabeth Page	John Page
Dub Gillum	Becky Gibbs
Bob Edwards	Dianne Hengst
Debra Simons	Teresa Wright

### THANK YOU

This summer we had the privilege of having Lauren Zamorano as a volunteer. She is a student at Texas Christian University studying political science and criminal justice. She plans to go into the Peace Corps after graduation. Lauren was a great help and asset this summer, and we hope her schedule allows her to continue to work with us. THANK YOU LAUREN!!!

Kelli Stevens, a Criminal Justice Professor at TCU, is also volunteering at our organization. She has a broad knowledge base and many contacts in the community. Many thanks Kelli!

Our thanks also goes to NIXIN Printing for donating their time & the cost of producing this newsletter.

*Thank you for your support and your time.*

We have a request for everyone who receives this newsletter... Will you please respond to this mailing in one (or More) of four ways? (Each of the four responses involves the use of the enclosed reply envelope.)



*Thank You!*

- Return the envelope to Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc. with a donation to help continue our goals and mission of assisting Disabled Crime Victims.
- Send us the name, address and ZIP code of one or more individuals, business, leaders, church or community groups who would likely be interested in helping us support our efforts to assist disabled crime victims.
- Write out your prayer for Disabled Crime Victims or a note of encouragement and return it to us in the enclosed envelope.
- Invite us to come speak at your civic, community, neighbor, or church function to inform others of the needs, problems and services for the disabled crime victims and all crime victims.



Wanda and Elizabeth Page spoke at the North Fort Worth Woman's Club, November Luncheon. Thank you Virginia Hayes for inviting us.



Lap Top Computer

Color Printer

Adobe Indesign Software

## History of DCVA:

DCVA was founded by the Page family in 1999. Elizabeth Page was a victim of a crime (see her story in upcoming issue) in 1988 and became paralyzed as a result. The Pages began the long journey and realized they were not the only family that had faced a tragedy of this nature so they began the Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc. DCVA assists crime victims that become disabled as a result of the crime, as well as those that are already disabled and are victimized.

**We wish to thank each of you that have provided support to DCVA. It is because of you that we are able to serve disabled crime victims.**

continued from page 1

The shooting was a hazard of the job all police officers are aware of, but the part of the ordeal no one told us about is the hassles of the insurance, workers' compensation and how to survive the economic strain on your family's budget. People, especially victims of crimes, need the peace of mind to heal without the worries of becoming re-victimized by the labyrinth of economic worries of how your bills will be paid and the process of what happens to the criminal.

It's frustrating enough to try and deal with the physical and emotional trauma, but victims need someone to help show them a way to survive their ordeal without being re-victimized by the "system", which greatly hinders their healing process. When you have the assistance of someone who knows what you are going through and what you need to get you through your ordeal, this can do nothing but greatly enhance your recovery. Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc. goes a long way in filling the victim's needs to assist them in their recovery. And, just as important, to help answer some of the many questions the victims' family has.

Unfortunately, D.C.V.A. Inc. was not around at the time of my shooting, so my family and I had to go along in the dark,

stumbling our way through the maze of questions about what do we do next, what can we do now? How do we keep this from happening again? Who can assist us, physically, emotionally and economically? All too often, it's the criminals who have all the rights and the assistance. Now, the victims have a place to turn for answers.

The Good Lord has blessed my family. Many wonderful things have come about due to my shooting, and I give thanks daily. My beautiful wife Karen is now a nurse. She went back to school, confident that if she could take care of me for fourteen months, she could take care of anyone. And many wonderful friendships have been formed, like the ones with Wanda, Elizabeth and John Page, who asked me several years ago to become a Board Member for D.C.V.A. Inc. And, I continue to be a State Trooper teaching safety education in our schools.

Charlie Cook, age 24, the wanted felon who I stopped that night, was shot and killed 25 hours later by the Ft. Worth Police K-9 tactical team in a gun battle where Argo, a beautiful German Shepherd and my hero, was shot as he performed his job heroically and saved the lives of several tactical team members. Argo died the next day. All in the line of duty.



**Supporters like you make Assistance possible  
We want to Thank You for helping us fulfill Our Mission**

Education is a major component in DCVA's Mission. The goal is to educate those that work directly with crime victims and the disabled to enhance the understanding and the needs of this population. DCVA is also involved in educating the community about the services provided by DCVA. So far this year DCVA has made 23 presentations. Here is a list of some of the organizations DCVA presented to:

TCU Victimology Class  
Healthsouth  
University Kiwanis  
Lake Worth Kiwanis  
White Settlement Kiwanis  
Mansfield Kiwanis  
Six Flags Kiwanis  
AARP Polytech  
Southwest Kiwanis  
Arlington North Kiwanis  
Southwest Fort Worth Kiwanis

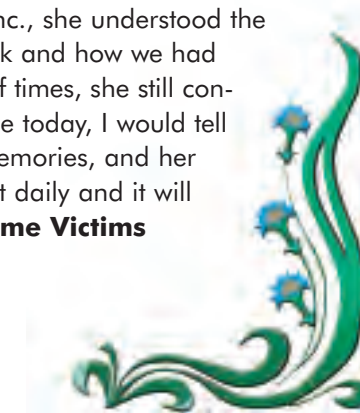
Zale Lipsky Hospital  
UTA Criminal Justice Class  
UTA Victimology Class  
UTA Nursing Class  
Texas Crime Victims Clearinghouse Conference  
Mansfield Police Dept. Victims Services  
North Fort Worth Woman's Club  
Beaumont Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Tarrant Co. Coalition of Crime Victims Services  
Texas Victims Services Association Conferences  
Texas Governors' Committee on People with Disabilities  
Attorney General Crime Victim Conference

Thank each of you for inviting us and for your interest in Disabled crime victims.

## In Loving Memory

I am dedicating this issue of the DCVA newsletter to my mother. She passed away in August 2003. Elizabeth, John, Kathy, Michael, Sarah, and I miss her deeply. She has always been the inspiration in my life. When Elizabeth became a crime victim and was shot and paralyzed, Mother was devastated. She was devoted, supportive and helpful to Elizabeth and all of us. She would go to physical therapy with Elizabeth, even when she was in her 80s, to show her support and to stay informed of her progress. When I decided to form Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc., she understood the mission of what we were doing and why it was needed. She would ask everyday about the work and how we had helped. Even in this past year when her health declined and she was in the hospital a number of times, she still continued to show interest. As soon as I walked in the room she would ask if I had helped someone today, I would tell her I had and she would say "I am glad." We will always miss her. We will always have great memories, and her strength, courage and strong faith will always be a part of us. I think about her encouragement daily and it will continue to encourage me in the future. **Thank you all for the donations to Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc. in her memory. She would be so pleased and honored.**

Wanda Page  
President



### DID YOU KNOW?

**CRIME VICTIMS HAVE 13 CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS. (CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, CHAPTER 56) THE SECOND ONE OF THE THIRTEEN IS: RIGHT #2 HAVE THE VICTIMS' SAFETY CONSIDERED IN THE SETTING OF THE BAIL.**

### DID YOU KNOW?

**VIOLENCE IS THE SECOND CAUSE OF SPINAL CORD INJURIES; MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT IS THE FIRST. THIS RESULTS IN 25,000 INDIVIDUALS A YEAR WITH SPINAL CORD INJURIES DUE TO VIOLENCE.**



Elizabeth & Wanda with the Kilbourn family and Chrissy Hamm at the Beaumont Seventh Day Adventist Church.



Warm greetings after speaking in Beaumont.

Elizabeth was the main speaker that day and the church gave a Love Offering for DCVA. **Thank you for inviting us!**