



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN**

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH M. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
Daniela Gonzaga
661-868-2381

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Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer Announces 2026 Victims' Rights Event

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer is honored to announce the 2026 Victims' Rights Event, taking place on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The event will begin at the Victims' Plaza, located outside the District Attorney's main office at 1215 Truxtun Avenue in Bakersfield.

This event is held in observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 19–25, 2026). Established in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan, this national observance is dedicated to honoring victims and survivors of crime, as well as the organizations and public servants who support their pursuit of justice. This year, we join the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime in highlighting the theme: *"Listen. Act. Advocate. Protect victims, serve communities."* Together, communities across the nation will raise awareness about victims' rights and available services.

At this year's event, we will honor victims commemorated through the Victims of Violent Crime Memorial, a tribute unveiled during its dedication ceremony in November 2025. The memorial holds thousands of names representing lives lost to violent crime in Kern County. During the ceremony, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer will add the names of victims from the end of 2025 and 2026, as well as names submitted or amended by families following the prior ceremony.

The program will include guest speakers, a remembrance ceremony, and a traditional march in downtown Bakersfield. Attendees are encouraged to bring personal memorabilia to honor their loved ones, including photographs, posters, and custom t-shirts.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "With the addition of the Victims of Violent Crime Memorial, our community can continue to gather in a place we've shared for years, now carrying an even deeper meaning. This event holds profound significance for the families who endure the pain of loss, as

well as for our office, whose mission is to pursue justice for victims and their loved ones. It will be a gathering filled with reflection, remembrance, and shared emotion.”

The event is free and open to the public. The community is encouraged to follow the District Attorney’s Office [social media channels](#) or visit www.kerncounty.com/DA/ for more information.

Additional information:

- Attendees are welcome and encouraged to bring memorabilia (e.g., photos, posters, custom t-shirts) to honor their loved ones.
- In previous years, the Kern County District Attorney’s Office created and displayed posters for homicide victims from the prior year. For the November 2025 event, posters were created for victims from 2024 through a portion of October 2025. This year, posters will be created for remaining victims of October 2025 through March 2026.
- The commemorative march will follow a short, family-friendly route along Truxtun Avenue.
- Victims’ names are placed within a capsule inside the memorial and resealed immediately following the ceremony. Last year, more than 4,400 names were placed in the ossuary (capsule). This year, additional names from October 2025 through March 2026, along with names from prior years that were later submitted, will be added. A complete list of names will be available on the District Attorney’s Office website.

