
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NORFOLK SPECIAL CRIMES DETECTIVE TO PRESENT KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT DAY OF
UNITY – NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE CANDLELIGHT MEMORIALIZING VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The annual vigil was rescheduled from October 3 due to inclement weather

NORFOLK, VA - On Tuesday, October 25, 2022, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., the Slover Library in downtown Norfolk will host the *Day of Unity – Night of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil* to memorialize victims of domestic violence in Coastal Virginia. The event is free, and the public is encouraged to attend.

The annual vigil, which normally occurs on the first Monday in October to announce Domestic Violence Awareness Month, was rescheduled from October 3 to the 25th due to inclement weather. Shelter and advocacy programs are coordinating with city leaders across Coastal Virginia to memorialize those lost to domestic violence; to support families, friends, and survivors; to raise awareness of shelters and other resources; and to actively work toward safer relationships and communities.

Norfolk Special Crimes Detective Ryan Davis will present the keynote address. Davis is co-located within the Norfolk Family Justice Center, where he provides support to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence as they move through the criminal justice system. Davis has been with Norfolk Police Department since 2013 and has spent the last four years working with the Special Crimes Unit. Davis is also a defensive tactics instructor, a police training officer, and a hostage negotiator.

A survivor testimony will be presented by Shaneya Jackson who will share the story of her daughter, Raegan Sharnae Chisley, and provide information on the education foundation established in her memory. A powerful display of Silent Witnesses representing fatal victims will also be present.

“People who are experiencing abuse often feel alone and underestimate the support that’s available if they reach out for help. Each year, we come together as a community to provide comfort to families and friends who have lost someone and to pledge our commitment to helping others who are in danger. We want the community to show up for victims and survivors and send a strong message that domestic violence is everyone’s problem, and we can only solve it together,” said Larissa Sutherland, Victim Advocate.

This event is organized by Samaritan House, YWCA of South Hampton Roads, Help and Emergency Response, Inc., The Genieve Shelter, Transitions Family Violence Services, the Norfolk Family Justice Center along with support from Military Family Advocacy Programs and multi-city Victim-Witness programs.

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ABOUT SAMARITAN HOUSE: Since 1984, Samaritan House has sought to foster personal safety, growth and self-sufficiency in adults and their children through freedom from sexual and domestic violence, human trafficking and homelessness in Hampton Roads by providing emergency and permanent housing, support services and community outreach to victims. For additional information, visit: www.samaritanhouseva.org

ABOUT YWCA SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS: YWCA is the oldest and largest multicultural women's organization in the world. Since 1908, YWCA South Hampton Roads has strengthened social movements that eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, and dignity for all. For nearly forty years, YWCA South Hampton Roads has run its emergency shelter, providing the only place of refuge for families escaping domestic and sexual violence in the City of Norfolk. For more information, visit: <https://www.ywca-shr.org>

ABOUT H.E.R. SHELTER: Help and Emergency Response, Inc. provides leadership, advocacy, and resources to survivors and communities affected by Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Human Trafficking. The work of Help and Emergency Response, Inc. will create a safe and prosperous future for all through awareness, services, and training for lasting change in the communities we serve. For more information, visit: <http://hershelter.com/>

ABOUT TRANSITIONS FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES: Transitions Family Violence Services is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating domestic violence in Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson and York County. We are the sole provider of comprehensive services to adult and child victims of domestic violence. Since 1977, we have been a pathway to safety and a source of hope for thousands of individuals and families. For more information, visit: <https://www.transitionsfvs.org/>

ABOUT THE FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM: The Family Advocacy Program, or FAP, is the Department of Defense program designated to address domestic abuse, child abuse and neglect, and problematic sexual behavior in children and youth. FAP is delivered through the military services who work in coordination with key military components and civilian agencies to prevent abuse, encourage early identification and prompt reporting, promote victim safety and empowerment and provide appropriate treatment for affected service members and their families.

ABOUT THE GENIEVE SHELTER: The Genieve Shelter strives to provide a safe refuge and supportive environment for the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking; provide information, education, and training services that focus on ending the cycle of violence. For more information, visit: <http://www.thegenieveshelter.org>.