



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

Mary Ann Saar
Secretary

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY WOMAN RECEIVES VICTIMS' RIGHTS AWARD ***Secretary Mary Ann Saar Honors Mrs. Patricia Lupson For Her Work***

TOWSON, MD (April 18, 2003) -- Maryland Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services Mary Ann Saar has presented Patricia Lupson an award in honor of her tireless victims' rights work. Mrs. Lupson received the honor during Maryland's kickoff of National Victims' Rights Week – April 6-13, 2003.

Secretary Saar spoke of Mrs. Lupson's efforts before a large audience in the Mondawmin Mall Community Room in Baltimore, where the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation hosted the special victims' rights event. "On behalf of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, I am happy to honor you for your commitment and compassion as a victims' rights advocate," said Secretary Saar. "Patricia Lupson lost three loved ones to murder. Now, her life is dedicated to helping other victims learn their rights and cope with grief."

Mrs. Lupson's courageous fight for victims began when she herself became a victim in the most terrible way: in June of 1993, her daughter and two grandchildren died in an arson-homicide in Pennsylvania. Since then, Mrs. Lupson has devoted countless hours to helping other victims, and speaking to offenders in prisons in Maryland and in other states.

Maryland's Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services strives to help victims understand their rights at every stage of the judicial process after the crime has been committed.

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NOTE: Mrs. Lupson also has a Web site, www.g-s-j.org, which details her work in the cause of victims' rights. For more information on DPSCS' efforts on behalf of victims of crime, please visit our web site, www.dpscs.state.md.us.