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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PIMA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S VICTIM SERVICES
DIRECTOR HONORED BY UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WITH 2013 NATIONAL
CRIME VICTIMS' SERVICE AWARD**

TUCSON, ARIZONA - The Pima County Attorney's Victim Services Director, Kent Burbank, will be honored in Washington, D.C. this month for outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims.

Burbank will receive the prestigious 2013 National Crime Victims Service Award in recognition of his long-term commitment to improving the lives of crime victims.

"I am humbled and honored to be receiving this award," Burbank said. "But I must share it with my team in the Pima County Attorney's Victim Services Division. Their training and dedication has enabled us to be tireless advocates for crime victims in our community."

Burbank has worked in the field of human services and social change for more than 20 years. He came to the County Attorney's Office in 2007 after many years as the director of Wingspan the Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center.

During his tenure at the County Attorney's Office, Burbank has instituted a number of programs that enhance support services to victims, including a Lethality Assessment Program, a Kids in Court program, and Courthouse Dogs, a new program designed to assist children before, during, and after a forensic interview; at victim meetings, and in the courtroom.

On January 8, 2011, Burbank and the Victim Services Division were tested when a man opened fire at a local Safeway where Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was holding a Congress on Your Corner event, killing six people and

injuring many others including the congresswoman. Within minutes, Burbank, Victim Services advocates, and volunteers provided immediate support to victims and witnesses of the mass shooting. Since the mass shooting, the Victim Services Division continues to provide support to the victims.

“January 8th was a horrific day for our community and the country. My advocates and volunteers demonstrated the very best of our division,” said Burbank.

Established in 1975, the Victim Services Division was the first program in the country to provide comprehensive court advocacy and crisis intervention assistance to crime victims. Since then, it has grown from a staff of two to 28 and has established a robust program of more than 120 volunteers. Volunteers and staff are on-call twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, and provide over 14,000 hours of donated time annually.

The Office for Victims of Crime annually recognizes exceptional individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in supporting victims and victim services. Burbank will receive the award at a ceremony on April 24th in Washington D.C. at the Department of Justice.

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