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**WAYNE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
PRESENTS THE ALEXIS GOGGINS
EVERYDAY HERO & WITNESS APPRECIATION AWARDS**

We encourage the media to cover the Alexis Goggins Everyday Hero and Witness Appreciation Awards presentation. On Tuesday, May 19, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy along with staff members of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office will present awards to members of the community at a session of the Citizens Academy. The award ceremony will be held at Lincoln Park High School, 1701 Champaign Road, Lincoln Park, MI 48146.

The Citizens Academy is a six-week course that is free to the public offering an inside look at the criminal justice system. The Academy is full for this term, but will be offered again in the fall at a location to be announced.

Many will recall the story of Alexis Goggins – the seven year old who bravely stepped in front of her mother to protect her and was shot herself. In honor of her courageous spirit, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office created the "Alexis Goggins Everyday Hero Award." Alexis was well deserving of the first Everyday Hero Award.

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Norris Elkins

This year's recipient exemplifies the essence of the award. Mr. Elkins went to a Coney Island with some friends. As he pulled up at the restaurant he witnessed the defendant shoot two men in the back. The defendant exited the restaurant and got in his car. Realizing he was attempting to flee, Mr. Elkins rammed the car so that the defendant could not drive away. The defendant ran from the car and was apprehended by the police. He was convicted of first-degree felony murder and assault with intent to commit murder and is currently serving a sentence of life behind bars.

"A case can be won or lost with the testimony of an eye witness. Many cases are struck down at the exam or at trial because witnesses are afraid or disinterested in testifying. The willingness to testify is crucial to the criminal justice system and we are thankful to these individuals and applaud all of our witnesses," said Prosecutor Worthy.

In addition, five community members will be presented with a "Witness Appreciation Award" to honor and acknowledge the commitment and sacrifice it takes to be a witness in a criminal case. Receiving the awards are: Keith Kingery, Billy Baker, Shirley Snyder, Rochell Copeland and Det/Sgt. Shelley Holloway. The recipients all participated in criminal trials. **[See attached list.]**

WITNESS APPRECIATION/EVERYDAY HERO AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARD	APA	CASE NUMBER	RESULT	BRIEF SUMMARY
Norris Elkins	Second Annual Alexis Goggins Everyday Hero Award	Carole Murray	08-004816 – Defendant Dewayne Marquis Binyard	Currently serving life in prison.	Defendant shoots two men at a Coney Island, killing one. Mr. Elkins had just pulled up and saw the def shoot the victims. The def gets in his car to leave and Mr. Elkins rams the car to stop him –even though the def still has his weapon. He testifies at trial. 4 or 5 other witnesses claimed they didn't see a thing.I.
Keith Kingery	2009 Witness Appreciation Award	Lora Weingarden	08-11116 – Defendant Carlos Bartell	Currently serving 25 –60 years	Good Samaritan who found a woman who had been raped and beaten and left for dead on a street in Detroit. He stopped to help, called police and testified at the trial over six years later.
Det./Sgt. Shelley Holloway	2009 Witness Appreciation Award	Lori Dawson	Multiple cases – Defendant Dr. Joseph Paupore	Currently serving 3 – 15 years	Veteran police officer who was instrumental in the conviction of this doctor who was convicted of being sexually inappropriate with his patients.
Billy Baker	2009 Witness Appreciation Award	Abed Hammoud	Multiple cases – Defendants Nelson and Omar Sumpter	Nelson Sumpter is currently serving 9 ½ - 24 years and Omar is serving 1 – 10 years.	Victims Copeland, Baker and Snyder came forward and brought the case to light. Their testimony was very credible and it was a key piece of evidence leading to the convictions of both brothers and the stopping of a major criminal enterprise.
Shirley Snyder	2009 Witness Appreciation Award	Abed Hammoud			
Rochell Copeland	2009 Witness Appreciation Aard	Abed Hammoud			

