

JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

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The Justice Coalition began in 1995 because one man's priorities were changed. Ted Hires was the average businessman working 60 to 80 hours a week and looking out for himself until that day when he and his staff were held at gunpoint and robbed. Being a victim of crime, Ted found the criminal justice system worked harder for the criminal than the victim. As a result of Ted's experience, he formed a (501C3) non-profit organization, the Justice Coalition, and is making an effort to change the Fourth Judicial court system for the better.

Since 1995, the Justice Coalition has been fighting crime every step of the way. Fugitives captured are through a partnership with local media and law enforcement agencies.

The Justice Coalition's

Victims' Advocate

A free newspaper supporting victims' rights published monthly by The Justice Coalition. The opinions of contributing writers are not necessarily those of the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate or the Justice Coalition. The Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate welcomes both editorial and photographic submission, but they cannot be returned. Please allow six weeks for a response to submitted works. Calendar information is welcome but must be submitted one month in advance of the event.

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All correspondence to the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate should be sent to:
Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate
1935 Lane Ave., South, Suite 1 • Jacksonville, Florida 32210
Phone: (904) 783-6312 • Fax: (904) 783-4172

THE JUSTICE COALITION'S OBJECTIVES

- To be available for innocent victims of violent crime
- To educate the general public on criminal justice issues
- To be pro-active in the fight against crime

Advertising Deadline

The deadline for advertising copy for the
April 2009 Edition of the
JUSTICE COALITION'S
VICTIMS' ADVOCATE
is **March 10, 2009.**

THE SECRET WORD GAME

CONGRATULATIONS TO JANUARY'S WINNER, MIKE GUNN. THANKS FOR PLAYING.

Hidden in the text of the Victims' Advocate is the **SECRET WORD** for the month of **February**. The rules are simple:

1. Find the word.
2. Telephone the Justice Coalition office 783-6312.
3. The first person who telephones the correct Secret Word wins a Gift Certificate to Sonny's Real Pit Barbeque Restaurant.
4. You can only win once in a twelve month period.

SO START SEARCHING!

Exclusions: no persons employed by the Justice Coalition, Sonny's, nor their families are eligible.



Know Your Rights

by Atty.
Jay C.
Howell

When President Harry Truman was headed home to Missouri after finishing his term in the White House, a reporter asked him what it was like to be leaving the highest office in the land. Without missing a beat, Truman replied, "I am not leaving the highest office. I am assuming the highest office, that of citizen." Ted Hires was our own community's example of an American tradition – the citizen advocate.

It began here in this country with Thomas Paine, the firebrand who has a legitimate claim to the title of "Father of the American Revolution." His pamphlet, *Common Sense*, was a pro-independence monograph which Paine anonymously published in January of 1776. It quickly spread among the colonists, and in three months one hundred thousand copies had been sold throughout the American British colonies. They called him Citizen Tom Paine.

Like Paine, Ted Hires was neither appointed, delegated, elected, nor employed by the government. Instead, he occupied the highest office in this republic – citizen. Ted was justifiably proud of his roots in the private sector. It gave him the independence to unleash his own brand of "no holds barred" advocacy for crime victims.

Citizen Ted Hires

One of Ted's heroes was my old friend from the missing children days, John Walsh, now the host of "America's Most Wanted." John too was a public citizen and, like Ted, an advocate. These two citizen advocates were very similar in style – intense, focused, impassioned, zealous, some might say over zealous. The passion came with the territory. It was in the nature of the work. Ted's voice became amplified as he spoke out for individuals and families whose lives had been upended by crime and violence. His voice was heard. Things changed.

He founded a grass roots organization that is unique in this country. Other communities do not have citizen initiated newspapers covering everything from crime and violence to missing persons and wanted fugitives. The Justice Coalition itself has become a powerful voice for victims that resonates here in Northeast Florida and beyond.

Ted was a man who opened his wallet – regularly – and pulled out large sums of his own cash, and then gave it to someone in need. And he used it to fund his new victims' assistance agency, the Justice Coalition. I knew that Ted had spent a substantial amount of his own money in launching the Justice Coalition. I asked him about it one day and he simply said, "That was the best money I ever spent."

As individuals we may be

overwhelmed and bewildered by the circumstances of Ted's death. It is a challenge for any of us to absorb and understand the harsh reality and heartbreaking consequences of this important life that ended too soon. This loss of life, however tragic, does not diminish the significant and lasting contributions of a unique and special individual.

Some of Ted's most important contributions were person to person. He reached out directly to citizens who were hurting and in need. Ted would drive across town bringing groceries, enough money for a hotel room, a ticket for a loved one to come to Jacksonville to aid a stricken family. He was a successful businessman who used his success to help others.

Ted Hires was tough, he was fiery, he was opinionated, and he became a great catalyst for change - a man whose presence will certainly be missed in our community. He was an original and in the best tradition of American advocates.

He was Citizen Ted Hires.

Jay Howell, a Jacksonville attorney, has been a State Prosecutor, a US Senate Investigator, and the founder of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He represents crime victims in civil claims for damages and advocates for the legal rights of all victims. This is the 150th article Mr. Howell has written for the Justice Coalition and its newspaper.

JOHN ROWAN 3rd ANNUAL INVITATIONAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Contest With Prizes:
New Cars for Hole in One on Par 3s
Prizes for Closest to the Pin on Par 3s.
Drive on Par 5s.
Putting Contest and Longest Putt.



Register Online at
www.justicecoalition.org

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To benefit:

