

March 2009 • Volume 14, Issue 11

**Executive Director**

Ann Dugger

**Assistant Director**

Judith Chapple

**Editor**

Shirley Shaw

**Victim Services Practitioner**

Lorraine Sinclair

**Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper**

Terri Johnson

**Public Relations**

McCormick Agency, Inc.

**Website Management**

websiteshosting.com

Larry Cohen

**Founder**

Ted M. Hires, Sr.

**Executive Board**

Scott Adams  
Treasurer

Ken Jefferson

Stephen Joost

Nancy McGowan

Sheriff John Rutherford

Michael A. Rutledge

John Turknott

Lou Webber

Rev. Garry Wiggins

V. Wayne Williford  
Board Chairman

Charlie Wilson

*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.

©Copyright 2009, The Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate. All rights reserved.

The Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate makes every effort to verify the information contained within; however, it assumes no responsibility for claims of advertisers. Should the publication be responsible for a reporting error, it will use twice the amount of space to print a correction. Advertising rates and information are available upon request. The Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate retains the right to refuse questionable or offensive advertising as deemed by the publication and will not be held liable for false claims by an advertiser(s). Advertiser purchases right of publication only.

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 **May 2009 Edition** of the JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE is **April 10, 2009.**

**THE SECRET WORD GAME**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO FEBRUARY'S WINNER, CHERYL O'BRIEN. THANKS FOR PLAYING.**

Hidden in the text of the Victims' Advocate is the **SECRET WORD** for the month of **March**. 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.

**Together We Can...**

Continued from page 3

now spends her time speaking to young people, urging them to carefully evaluate decisions that could jeopardize their futures and even put their lives at risk.

May Martinez described her 14-year struggle to get all the body parts of her daughter, Colleen Slemmer, who was murdered in Knoxville by Satanists. The State of Tennessee had been holding Colleen's skull and other body parts for possible future evidence if the murderer's appeals were granted. She noted that Ann and the Justice Coalition have been with her from day one, including the final trip to Knoxville to get the last remains.

Judge Lance Day spoke briefly about Ted's legacy to the city of Jacksonville, and the program concluded with a moving video that captured brief moments in Ted's life as he spoke to the media about his robbery experience, his determination to fight for victims' rights and his decision to begin the Justice Coalition



Mike McCormick, News Director for CBS-47/Fox-30, Emcee Kyle Meenan and TWC Committee Chair Geoff Youngblood.

**TWC Committee:**  
Chair Geoff Youngblood  
Co-Chair Ronnie Edwards  
Co-Chair Joey Vaughn  
William "Bill" Davis  
Ann Dugger  
Katy A. Harris  
Paul Daragjati  
Laura Hinson  
Carol Register  
Dr. Gene A. Youngblood



JFRD Group with Chief Randy White

for that reason. As Mayor Peyton stated, "I think Ted would be very proud of us this morning as we carry [his] legacy and look after victims or families of victims."

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to all those who made this event possible: sponsors, committee members,

volunteers, donors of flowers, food and equipment, the great FOP cooks, photographers, entertainers, and so many more. It took the combined efforts of every single one of you to make the 7th annual TWC fundraiser - that brought in \$80,000 - the success it truly was. God bless you all.

**85-Year-Old Victim...**

Continued from page 1

so Ms. Mabel slowly, painfully dragged herself to the Florida room where she had left her purse. She remembered her daughter had bought her a cell phone, and thankfully her attacker did not take the phone from the purse when she removed the wallet and money it contained, so now the injured woman could call for help.

Police and rescue arrived and took Ms. Mabel to Shands Trauma Unit where she was treated for severe head lacerations and several cuts to her throat, and given transfusions to replace the volume of blood she had lost. Her ex-son-in-law Larry Ward rushed to the hospital, and when he was finally allowed to see her, he thought they had brought him to the wrong bed. Although he has known her since he was a teen, her face was so battered he could not recognize her.

Despite her serious injuries, Ms. Mabel had identified her attacker and provided details of the assault to police officers. The woman was arrested the next day and has been arraigned on charges of aggravated battery on a person over 65 years old, first degree attempted murder, armed robbery and burglary. (In addition to several hundred dollars in cash, the woman took a valuable ring worth several thousand dollars that Ms. Mabel planned to give her granddaughter.)

As for Ms. Mabel, now 86, she went from Shands to rehab and now resides in an assisted living facility near her daughter across the state. Although she is grateful to be alive, she says her whole life has changed.

"In December I was evaluated and determined to be at low risk for falling; I was doing really well. I planned to begin tai chi exercises, had signed up for computer classes and assumed my life would continue on like that for a long time." Now, Ms. Mabel says she'll have to sell her nice home in Jacksonville and live in a facility where she can receive the help she needs. With a hint of exasperation in her voice she says, "I have to use a walker to get around now, and I'm no longer independent."

Ward was especially grieved because of what happened to Ms. Mabel. "It was not necessary for that woman to beat her up. Our older loved ones are

fragile, their bones easily broken if they are thrown to the floor in a violent confrontation. Crimes of opportunity committed against the elderly are so uncalled for; they have to be very careful who they let into their lives and allow access to their homes."

**Crimes against the elderly escalate**

Too frequently these days we hear news stories about attacks on older citizens. At an age when they should be enjoying retirement, having the respect of younger folks and the loving care of families, they find themselves vulnerable to any number of schemes to defraud or harm them.

There's the elderly man using a walker as he fills his car with gas being robbed at gunpoint. And the woman leaving a grocery store who is assaulted and robbed, and a grandmother who is carjacked and fights off the criminal as he drives recklessly down the street.

Recently, in a home-invasion robbery, an 80-year-old woman was gagged when she screamed after awakening to find a man with a large knife standing over her. When he demanded money, she gave him her purse and he fled. A K-9 team tracked the robber to Old Beach Road and across A1A south before losing the scent.

There are many more such crimes - and sometimes the results are fatal. Alyce Bowles, 92, was found dead of blunt force trauma in her Ponte Vedra home in February. There were no signs of forced entry, all doors and windows were secure from inside, and there was no indication of robbery. St. Johns County detectives are seeking help to solve this murder.

JSO provides a brochure entitled "Safer Seniors" to help the elderly (see sidebar on page 8), and we encourage everyone with elderly relatives, friends or neighbors to be increasingly concerned about their well-being. Take a little extra time each day to make sure they are safe and well. Let's try to ensure those so-called "golden years" don't become bleak times of fear and despair.