

COVER STORY

UNITED FRONT

Trauma recovery team, Cleveland police partner to provide **'immediate safety net of support'**

In 2018, Cmdr. Brandon Kutz of the Cleveland Division of Police moved some new workers into the headquarters of his Fourth District.

They weren't on the payroll, had no investigative experience and didn't intend to patrol the streets of Cleveland's most populous and violent district.

But the team of trauma specialists from the May Dugan Center had a purpose that Cmdr. Kutz and his officers could get behind: helping victims of violent crime heal.

"Police officers are quick to utilize a tool or process that makes sense and helps fulfill the mission of law enforcement," Kutz said. "Sue was offering an opportunity to help victims be healthy and safe and more accessible to our detectives. This seemed a much-needed piece of the puzzle in providing meaningful service to the community."

Sue is Sue Marasco, Ph.D., director of trauma recovery at the May Dugan Center. The center, founded in 1969, provides city residents a wealth of services, including help with emergency housing and food, employment training, counseling, training for parents, and community outreach.

The year before they joined detectives in the Fourth District, Marasco and the May Dugan team took

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Dr. Sue Marasco, director of trauma recovery at the May Dugan Center in Cleveland

While many in our state work from home and practice social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic, our safety forces don't have those luxuries.

Criminals are still out there, stealing, selling drugs and hurting innocents. People still need to be rescued from house fires, car crashes and flooding. And jails and prisons still need to be patrolled.

These are jobs that thousands of Ohioans have signed up for, and they report for duty day after day, in spite of the risk of potentially deadly illness. That requires strength of will, as well as personal sacrifices and risk-taking above and beyond what is already dangerous work.

These officers have my unending gratitude.

Of course, gratitude doesn't go far when officers fall sick. My team and I have fielded calls from sheriffs, police chiefs and police academies worried about reinforcements should illness deplete their ranks.

I share their concerns and, with the help of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and Academy, I have eased the return to work for retired officers in good standing. To sign up, officers who've been retired for less than four years merely need to approach the department they want to work for, and if their help is needed, that department will notify OPOTA.

On the other end of the spectrum, OPOTA has resumed State Certification Exams for cadets who have completed basic training. Extra care is being taken to maintain social distancing during



Attorney General Dave Yost listens as Ontario Police Lt. Tony Grimwood describes how a training scenario will play out at a high school in the city west of Mansfield. The exercise last summer also included the Richland County Sheriff's Office and local fire departments.

the exam sessions, so that cadets and staff members aren't put at risk.

Unfortunately, basic training is not a process that adapts easily when a pandemic strikes. Cadets are required to attend 100% of their training, and that's for good reason — to ensure they learn the techniques and tools that their lives, and others' lives, will depend on.

Cadets can't simply watch a video and call it a day, as many other types of students are doing, because academy lessons are often hands-on, not conventional lectures. Still, staff members at OPOTC and OPOTA — which does not run its own basic academies — have provided the schools with topics that could be taught remotely. The goal is to prevent training from completely

stalling where possible.

My team and I are not finished. We will continue to find ways to support law enforcement in this chaotic time.

In the meantime, please remember to take protective measures to reduce your chances of illness. Ohio residents need you more than ever.

Yours,

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General

School threat assessment training now available

The Ohio Attorney General's Office has produced video training to help law enforcement officers work with schools to create threat assessment teams, a proven method of preventing school violence.

The teams work to identify problems for students and move to solve them.

In the 11-part video training, school officials and law enforcement officers from throughout Ohio

share how their teams have helped students in their districts.

School resource officers, or other officers whose primary responsibilities involve school safety, may receive a \$500 grant when they complete the training and agree to help form or participate in a school-based threat assessment team. The training videos and grant request can be found on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG).

Ten of the 11 videos — one is available to law enforcement only — are also available publicly at www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/threatassessment. Teachers, parents, counselors and all others who interact with students and schools are encouraged to learn the techniques, which are based on methods developed by the U.S. Secret Service and other experts.

EVIDENCE TRACKING

New site will keep survivors informed

By this time next year, victims of sexual assault across Ohio should be able to anonymously check whether their examination kit evidence has been sent to a law enforcement agency or to a crime lab for testing.

To make that work, agencies that have chain-of-custody responsibilities for sexual assault evidence kits will be using a new online log, called the Ohio Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System.

"Nurses, police, lab workers and my office — we all have a duty to make sure we're not compounding victims' pain by leaving them in the dark," Attorney General Dave Yost said.

An Ohio law passed in 2014 requires that all sexual assault evidence kits be tested for DNA within 30 days of law enforcement determining that a crime occurred, and a state law passed last year established the authority for the Attorney General's Office to run online tracking of that process.

"We chose this system because it works well in other states, particularly Idaho, which developed it," Yost said. "The online portal is easy for officers, nurses and lab workers to add kit details to, and the ease with which survivors can access those details means less phone tag for everyone involved."

For more information, contact Eric Johnson at 614-995-4231 or Eric.Johnson@ohioattorneygeneral.gov.

Basically, each time a hospital, laboratory, or police department or sheriff's office sends a sexual assault evidence kit to another agency or receives one, a worker enters or scans the kit barcode into the website. Victims can use that code, given to them at the completion of their post-assault exam, to check the location of their evidence kit.

Victims will never need to enter personal information into the website, only the kit code, and the website log will not include victims' names or other identifying details.

Law enforcement agencies can use the system to track how long kits have been in their custody and whether any are overdue for action.

"With a little extra work on our end, we can offer victims peace of mind that action is being taken in their cases," Yost said. "And, for law enforcement, we can make sure that no DNA profile mistakenly goes uncollected, which is crucial — as we've seen DNA evidence solve many investigations and cold cases."

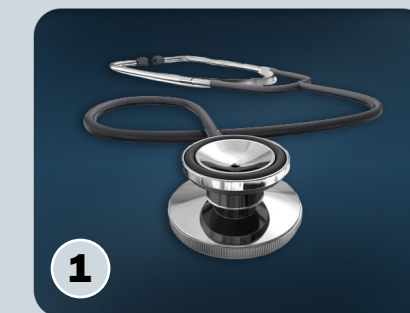
As part of a pilot program, trainers from the Attorney General's Office in February showed agencies and victim advocates in Akron, Delaware and Clark County how to use the system, which is scheduled to come online next month for the initial rollout group.

Further training, set to take place in stages across the state, has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the hope is to complete statewide accessibility by March 31, 2021.



Ohio Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System

The system at <http://sakt.ohioattorneygeneral.gov> consists of various interfaces depending on the site user: a medical provider, law enforcement agency, lab or survivor. (The tracking system does not extend into the prosecution phase of cases.) Here is how a sexual assault evidence kit typically moves through the SAK Tracking System:



Medical provider

At a hospital or other medical center

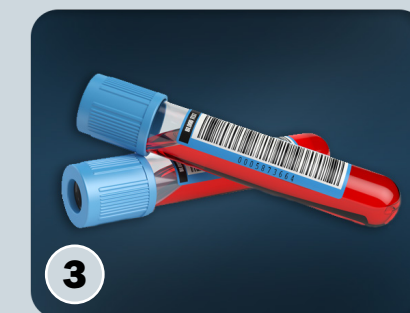
- Creates the kit
- Inputs the details, including tracking number, to the site
- Sends the kit to law enforcement



Law enforcement

At a police department or sheriff's office

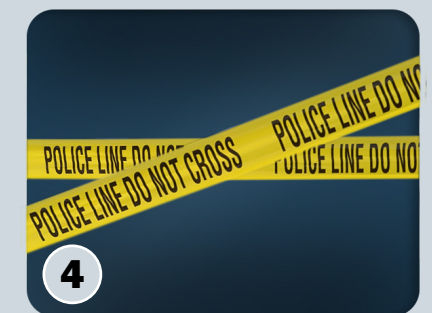
- Receives the kit and an email from the website
- Inputs kit details
- Sends the kit for DNA testing



Laboratory

Can be private or public, such as the Bureau of Criminal Investigation

- Receives the kit and an email from the website
- Inputs kit details
- Sends the kit back to law enforcement



Law enforcement

Usually at the previous police department or sheriff's office

- Receives the kit and an email from the website
- Inputs kit details



ON THE JOB
CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

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To offer story ideas, contact Editor Jenny Applegate at 614-995-0328 or Jennifer.Applegate@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov. Sign up for the electronic edition at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EmailUpdates.

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Gone but never forgotten

Because of coronavirus concerns, the Attorney General's Office followed the lead of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in canceling the Ohio Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony. But that doesn't mean we should postpone honoring the officers who gave their lives in 2019 to protect the people of Ohio. Here, we pay tribute to the three we lost last year in the line of duty.

DALE J. WOODS

Colerain Township Police Department
End of Watch: Jan. 7, 2019

"I had the privilege of knowing Dale for 32 years," Colerain Township Police Chief Mark Denney said. "In the first two or three years, we ran in different circles and weren't what I would consider friends. He said maybe 10 or 15 words to me.

"Then I look back, and the remaining 29 years, I'm not sure he said much more," Chief Denney continued. "But you never doubted his friendship. He had a remarkable ability for gaining friendships and earning respect without saying very much."

Officer Woods, a father of three, joined the Colerain Township force in 2003, becoming part of the honor guard, bike patrol, quick response team, missing persons team and SWAT team. He previously served as a firefighter, fire investigator and police officer in North College Hill and Lincoln Heights.

"He only got jobs in which he was serving other people," Colerain Township Police Chaplain James Love said.

In his spare time, Officer Woods ran an auto-detailing business and played the drums. He also enjoyed bodybuilding, golf and his children: Trinity, now 22; Hallie, 19; and Collin, 15.



Officer Woods, 46, was fatally struck by a pickup truck as he was setting out cones at the scene of a car crash.



Detective Brewer, 42, was killed when a man faked shooting himself to lure deputies inside his home, then fired at them through a wall.

WILLIAM L. BREWER JR.

Clermont County Sheriff's Office
End of Watch: Feb. 2, 2019

"This would be the guy I would want to show up if my family members were in need," Clermont County Sheriff Steve Leahy said of Detective Brewer.

The married father of an 8-year-old son joined the sheriff's office as a corrections officer in 1998 and became a deputy in 2006. In joining the SWAT team in 2015, he said he wanted to help people, both his fellow deputies and members of the public on the worst days of their lives.

"He was a huge team player, and he thought that everybody else should be a team player, too," said Detective Adam Bailey, whose friendship with Detective Brewer began when the two were seventh-graders.

Outside of work, Detective Brewer focused on family time. He and his wife, Jamie, a stay-at-home mom, made it a priority to create fun experiences for their son, Braxton, and frequently visited water parks, museums, Gatlinburg, Disney World and other such places.

"Jamie took thousands of pictures and covered the walls of their house," Detective Bailey said. "It was like God told her, 'Hey, Bill might not be around forever, so take as many pictures as you can.' And she did.

"It is so nice going over there."

JORGE R. DEL RIO

Dayton Police Department
End of Watch: Nov. 7, 2019

"He left a legacy of service and sacrifice to this noble profession that is rare even among the best of us," Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl said of Detective Del Rio.

The married father of five daughters and three granddaughters had been with Dayton police for almost 30 years, including 19 years assigned to a Drug Enforcement Administration task force. In that role, the detective had the same powers as a DEA agent, working undercover in his home city and elsewhere throughout the United States. Colleagues called him a true shadow warrior, a professional and a gentleman. He created strong partnerships across jurisdictional boundaries and was known as funny and warm-hearted but a straight shooter.

"When he was not at work, he was with his family," Chief Biehl said. "When he was at work, he spoke fondly about his family."

He met his wife, Kathy, in 1986, when both worked at an Elder-Beerman's department store. They went on to have five daughters: Ariel, Ericka, Veronica, Naya and Dana. People referred to the detective and his girls as Del Rio and the Del Rio-ettes.



Detective Del Rio, 55, was fatally shot while leading a task force team in executing a search warrant at the residence of suspected drug dealers.

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up trauma recovery services, a model of care recognizing that, for victims of violence, medical care alone can't fix all of their problems. People recover best when provided with a personalized range of services, which might begin with finding a safe place to live and include various other services that the center was already adept at providing.

Marasco sees big benefits to her team's relationship with Cleveland police.

"It was a revolution in so many ways for us," she said recently from her office on Cleveland's west side. "They allowed us to get to these victims very quickly, and my belief in trauma recovery really is getting to that person, wherever they are, as soon as possible to help wrap them in an immediate safety net of support."

The May Dugan team members make clear to victims that they work with police but are there for victims. That might include sitting with a victim and taking notes during a detective's interview, and commiserating afterward about how challenging the process can be.

"We get a lot of referrals who don't want to work with the police, and that's fine," Marasco said. "We follow up with them. We take care of them. But it also really creates an opportunity for a relationship to develop, and I think we're seeing over time that people are more willing to follow through with the police because they feel like they're being supported and taken care of."

Kutz couldn't agree more.

"Our victims are having their needs met, which means that they are more available and willing to follow through on the process of seeking justice," the commander said.

Humble beginnings

Marasco is the first to acknowledge that she hasn't always had such a close relationship with law enforcement. She likes to say that she comes from the middle of nowhere, which was actually near the town of Hooper, Colorado — population 103, as of the most recent census.

A defining moment during Marasco's young life occurred while she was watching the TV series "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood."

"He was saying, 'When there's a crisis, when there's stuff going on, look for the helpers.' And I, literally, I watched that — as a child in my polyester and Garanimals, on my shag carpet of the '70s — thinking: 'I don't know any of those people. I don't know helpers.' It was such a small town, we really didn't have law enforcement. I had never seen a real firetruck."



Dr. Sue Marasco, center, shown with colleagues at the May Dugan Center in Cleveland, will be a featured speaker at the One Day in May Conference on Victim Assistance-Virtual Edition on May 21. To find out more details, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

She grew up taking multiday trips through the mountains, venturing even deeper into "nowhere," and repeatedly circling back to the sentiment that there were no helpers around.

"Later, after moving to Colorado Springs and then to Nashville, to New Orleans and then Chicago, I came to love the sound of emergency vehicles because I know that means there are helpers on their way."

Of her work with May Dugan, Marasco said: "When you come to a house that's been riddled with bullets, and you sit with somebody on the curb of the street ... they might be having the worst day of their life. But I know that things are going to get better for them because they have people present who are listening."

The concept of a whole-person approach to trauma recovery originated in the early 2000s in San Francisco. Dr. Alicia Boccellari, who developed the first such program, was inspired after she heard a trauma surgeon at San Francisco General Hospital say, "We can sew them up, but we can't make them well."

After about 15 years of program refinements, the UC San Francisco Trauma Recovery Center in 2017 published a how-to manual, which the May Dugan team got its hands on.

"The soul of it is to be just focused on that person and keeping the trauma from snowballing," Marasco said. "When starting our program, we read it like you read a piece of Scripture, like this is what we're going to do."

It quickly became clear, though, that San Francisco and Cleveland had notable differences. Cleveland, a more spread-out city, has five hospital networks through which victims can be filtered; San Francisco has one main hospital network. Also, Cleveland already had the largest rape-crisis-support system in the country and a robust county-wide domestic violence network.

May Dugan did not want or need to repeat those services.

"We're not using resources well if everybody is reinventing the same wheel," Marasco said. "We

work best when we say, 'This is what we're good at, this is what we're using our resources for, and this is why our little niche helps the social fabric take care of everybody.'"

A shared mission

Recognizing the importance of the work, the Ohio Attorney General's Office provided early funding for the May Dugan Center's program — part of a plan to create the nation's second statewide trauma recovery network.

The Ohio network now consists of eight trauma recovery centers throughout the state, said Aaron T. Bryant, victim services development director in the Attorney General's Office.

"But the involvement with the Cleveland police is unique to May Dugan Center," Bryant said. "There may be other programs that offer or are able to provide this service, but it's not a coordinated effort like it is with this program."

Marasco said she realized early that May Dugan workers, after meeting their initial clients in hospitals, spent too much valuable time figuring out how to obtain police reports, connect with investigators and deal with law enforcement-related issues.

"I said: 'We've got to get closer to law enforcement. This is where the support begins,'" Marasco recalled. "So we asked to meet with the commanders of all five police districts, and we laid out our needs."

That's how Cmdr. Kutz and the Fourth District's relationship with the center began.

"They get the victims the help that we typically would not be able to deliver," Kutz said. "That reflects well on May Dugan, but it is nice as police officers to be part of that solution."

Marasco said that if she could share one message with her fellow social-services workers, it would be this: Although everyone has complaints about how "the system" works, people should recognize that everyone working in the system took their jobs to make a difference.

"As the commander that I work with says often, 'Underneath even the crueziest, most battle-hardened police officer, you have somebody who wants to see people get better.' ...

"I truly believe — whether it's the medical system or the judicial system, law enforcement, social services — each one of us comes into this with a real desire to support people. The more we work together and are willing to sit down at the table — even with the programs and the agencies that are tricky to work with — the better off we all are, including our most vulnerable."

Death penalty report shows downward trend

In 2019, trials in Ohio resulted in death sentences for six people, the most since 2010 and a rare total for the decade, according to the 2019 Capital Crimes Annual Report.

The report, recently released by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, details the cases of every person in Ohio sentenced to death in a state court or federal court since 1981.

Among them was George Brinkman, who last year was sentenced to die in both Cuyahoga and

Stark counties, after he killed an elderly Lake Township couple and a North Royalton woman and her daughters, ages 18 and 21, in 2017.

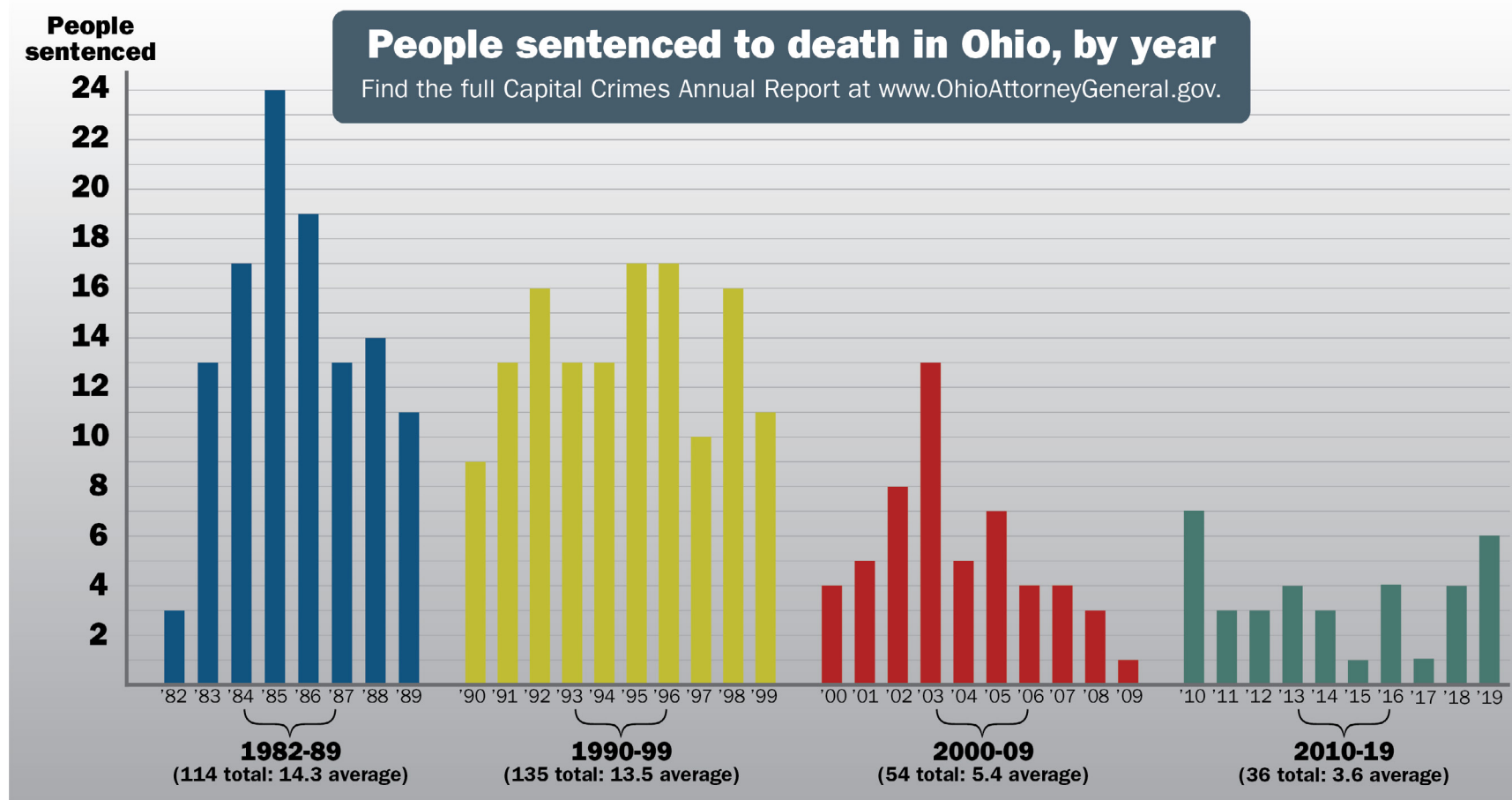
Since 1981, Ohio has issued 340 death sentences to 335 people. Fifty-six have been executed, 102 have had their sentences commuted or overturned, and 30 died before they could be executed. Still on Death Row awaiting execution are 143 people.

The Capital Crimes Annual Report shows

how the death penalty has been imposed less frequently as the years have passed.

In the most recent decade, an average of 3.6 people a year were sentenced to death. That compares with 14.3 people on average in the 1980s.

1985 brought the most death sentences: 24. By comparison, a total of 36 people received death sentences from 2010 to 2019, including just one each in 2017 and 2015.



Violent Offender Registry reaches one-year mark

Ohio's Violent Offender Registry has been "live" for a year and contains 804 records.

The total includes 374 people still incarcerated and 309 who have actively registered their home address and vehicle information after being released from prison.

The database identifies people convicted of aggravated murder, murder, voluntary manslaughter, kidnapping and/or abduction in the hope of preventing them from committing another violent crime. Anyone convicted of such offenses after March 20, 2019, is required by law to report to his or her local sheriff's office once a year for a decade and within three days of moving to a new address.

Maintained by the Ohio Attorney General's

Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the database is available to law enforcement officers.

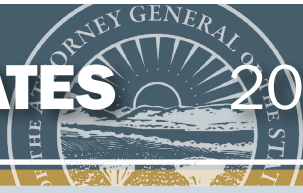
The registry was created as part of Sierah's Law, named in memory of Toledo resident Sierah Joughin, a 20-year-old college student abducted and killed in 2016 by a man who had been convicted of abducting another woman under very similar circumstances 25 years earlier.

Justice for Sierah, a nonprofit group founded by Joughin's family, championed the law.

"It is my purpose to make sure that Sierah is remembered for the positive changes we've made and not for the tragic way she was taken from us," said Tara Ice, Sierah's aunt and president of Justice for Sierah.

"In those first crucial hours that Sierah went missing, law enforcement was able to access the sex offender registry, but we were shocked to find out that they did not have access to specific information on the people who have committed the most serious and violent crimes," Ice said. "We knew at that moment that we had to make a change."

Among other efforts, the group is advocating for registry laws in all other states and working with education leaders to incorporate its Sierah Strong program, which teaches children self-awareness and self-defense, into curriculums for grades K-8. "Self-defense, empowerment and knowledge," Ice said, "are the first steps towards protecting our youth."



Mark Your Calendar

Law Enforcement Conference

The 2020 Law Enforcement Conference is set for Sept. 14-15 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Workshops are being developed, and nominations for awards were due early this month.

Visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov for the latest news and to register.

Help fight robocallers: Report junk calls

Illegal robocalls are autodialed calls aimed at getting you to pay for something or give away personal information. The Ohio Attorney General's Office is building cases against the bad actors who use them.

To help, answer questions about your call by texting ROBO to 888111 or visiting OhioProtects.org/robo.



ON THE JOB

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DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

