



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 4, 2002

Re: Homicide Victims' Memorial Tree Lighting
And Candlelight Vigil

For more information contact:

Margaret Speed,
Victim Services Coordinator
(209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – On Tuesday, December 10, 2002, the Victim Services Unit of the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office will be sponsoring the fifth annual Memorial Christmas Ceremony in remembrance of crime victims. The ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the front lawn of the County Courthouse located at 1100 "I" Street, Modesto. District Attorney Jim Brazelton will host the ceremony which will begin with the lighting of the Homicide Victims' Memorial Tree. The program includes speakers Matt Schrader, Chaplain for the Modesto Police Department; Linda McFadden, President of the Stanislaus County Peace Officers' Association; and several friends and family of homicide victims.

A candlelight vigil will follow. Friends and family of victims will be invited to hang a non-breakable ornament on the tree in remembrance of their loved ones who are not here to celebrate the holiday season due to the criminal acts of others. Caroling and refreshments will be provided by the Salvation Army and the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office. Friends and family of crime victims are invited to attend and bring a non-breakable ornament to hang on the tree in memory of their loved one. For more information, please contact the Victim Services Unit at 525-5541.

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Note: Please publish this information sometime prior to the event.

We are unable to contact all family members of homicide victims via mail and would appreciate your assistance in getting the information out to the public.