

Award goes to Adams

Dale and Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams was awarded the prestigious Miriam Shehane Award by V.O.C.A.L. (Victims of Crime and Leniency) at its annual candlelight and awards ceremony held in Dothan on Sunday.

Each year, through the Miriam Shehane Award, V.O.C.A.L. honors extraordinary individuals who exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes individuals who work with victims with the same caliber of dogmatic passion and concern as the one for whom

See ADAMS, Page 2A



VOCAL's Miriam Shehane presents the prestigious Miriam Shehane Award to Dale and Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams.

ADAMS

the award is named.

"It's an honor for me," said District Attorney Kirke Adams. "Mrs. Shehane has been a fighter for victim's rights for over 25 years and it's an honor to have anything with her name on it."

Miriam Shehane founded V.O.C.A.L. in 1982 after her daughter was brutally murdered in Birmingham while a student at Birmingham Southern in 1976. Three men were arrested and tried for the crime. All were convicted but guilty convictions were overturned on appeal. The family had to suffer through several trials and years of fighting to keep one of the defendants in jail. One defendant was executed in

1990 and one is serving a life without parole sentence.

After experiencing the difficulties of the criminal justice system, Shehane dedicated her life to helping other victims understand the system. V.O.C.A.L. is a statewide organization that provides many services to victims and victims families including crime scene clean-up, counseling, compensation assistance, funeral arrangements and court attendance.

Each year during National Crime Victims Rights Week, V.O.C.A.L. awards worthy candidates for their accomplishments. V.O.C.A.L. recognized Adams for the care and compassion he showed to victims families during

Continued from page 1A

the Samson massacre. He was also recognized for his success in the courtroom as the voice for those victims to young to speak and those whose voices have been silenced forever by violent crime.

"It's sad that it takes a tragic event for people to be aware of an organization like vocal," said Adams. "But the things that they do for victim's families is amazing and they do it with no compensation in return."

Adams says that he has seen the group work and they are amazing because they have been through the difficult situations and understand the emotional range that the victims go through.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009

GENEVA COUNTY REAPER