



1855 E. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Phone: 614-781-9651

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Shelly Bell, shellyb@odvn.org or 614-781-9651 x232 or 502-592-7856

Three-fourths of Ohio's DV homicide victims were killed by non-law enforcement guns, according to ODVN's fourth annual fatality review

Rep. Laura Lanese was recognized for her leadership on the state line Item for DV programs

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Oct. 1, 2019) – Ohio suffered 81 domestic violence fatalities in the year ending June 30, 2019, according to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network's (ODVN's) fourth annual list of DV fatalities. Three fourths of the victims were killed by non-law enforcement guns, and children were at the scene in a quarter of the cases.

ODVN released the list of Ohio's domestic violence fatalities at its annual National Domestic Violence Awareness Month event at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium at 10 a.m. today.

The list of fatalities that occurred between July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 was compiled from media reports by Shelly Bell, Linking Systems Project Coordinator. In one in three cases, the perpetrator had previous domestic violence charges or convictions. In 83% of cases where women killed men, there was a history of the woman having been abused by the man.

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) also presented Rep. Laura Lanese with the Croucher Family Award for Outstanding Leadership. The award recognized Rep. Lanese's successful effort to include \$1 million in the state budget for domestic violence services.

"Because of Rep. Lanese's leadership, for the first time ever, Ohio's domestic violence programs have a stable source of funding from the state's general fund," said Mary O'Doherty, executive director of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. Lanese, (R-Grove City), is the House Assistant Majority Whip.

ODVN also spotlighted its clemency work with domestic violence survivors in prison. The last presenter was Thomia Hunter, a domestic violence survivor who served 15 years in prison for killing her abuser and whose sentence was commuted by then-Gov. John Kasich. Hunter was assisted in her request for clemency by a project founded by ODVN, with its partners the Ohio Public Defender and the Ohio Justice and Policy Center.

About the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN): ODVN provides a strong statewide voice for Ohio's more than 70 domestic violence programs that serve all 88 counties. ODVN advocates on domestic violence-related issues at the state and federal level and runs a training institute for advocates and allies, a legal assistance and relocation program for survivors and a statewide prevention program.

###