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**NEWS RELEASE**



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## **DA Dogs & Victim Advocates Head to Las Vegas for 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shooting**

VENTURA, Calif. - Saturday, October 1, marks the fifth anniversary of the Las Vegas Route 91 Harvest Festival Shooting. Approximately 65 percent of the more than 24,000 attendees of the 2017 festival were from California, with the majority residing in Southern California.

Victim Advocates along with Courthouse Facility Dogs, Star and Comet, from the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Crime Victim Assistance Unit will be present in Las Vegas to support families and survivors at the many observances taking place to honor and remember the 58 lives taken. On Saturday, October 1, 2022, survivors, and community members will gather from 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. at the Clark County Government Center in Las Vegas for the 1 October Sunrise Remembrance and will end the day at 9:30 p.m. at the Las Vegas Healing Garden for the Reading of the Names Ceremony. Additional remembrance events will include the Rise Lantern Festival, Remember 58 Music Festival, Vegas Strong 5k honoring first responders and more. For details on all memorial events and exhibits visit the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center at [www.vegasstrongrc.org](http://www.vegasstrongrc.org).

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office, and the Ventura County Family Justice Center are partnering with the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) and Give an Hour. Give an Hour is a national nonprofit that specializes in mental health and emotional wellness to provide long-term NO COST support services to victims and families of Route 91 residing in Southern California through *Route 91 Heals*.

Funding for *Route 91 Heals* is provided by a federal grant from the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP) in the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) awarded to the

California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB). The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is a subrecipient of the grant.

More information on *Route 91 Heals* and its services is available at [www.giveanhour.org/route91](http://www.giveanhour.org/route91).



#### More about Star and Comet:

These service dogs are working as a special type of victim advocate for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. They provide comfort to crime victims of any age and help those testifying who may need the support of an animal. Since becoming members of the DA's Office they have provided support to victims and survivors of the Borderline shooting and have been a part of previous observances of the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting. Las Vegas is their first out-of-state trip in support of local victims who were impacted by the Route 91 shooting in 2017. They received new shoes earlier this week to deal with the Vegas heat, pictured above.

WeTransfer Link with photos, B-roll & soundbite with Kelly Muklevicz/Supervising Victim Advocate:

<https://we.tl/t-qI2PaDge8V>

No on-screen credit is needed. If required please credit: Ventura County DA.

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 300 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.