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## Feazell gives victims a boost

To the Editor:

A violent crime occurs every 24 seconds somewhere in the United States. Every 23 minutes, a murder is committed. A woman is raped every six minutes. There is a robbery every 58 seconds and an aggravated assault every 48 seconds. Every day there are 1,400 children abused.

Victims of crime often suffer twice — once at the hands of criminals and again at the hands of a judicial system insensitive to victims' needs. All victims of crime suffer one, two or all three primary injuries: financial injury, physical injury and emotional injury. How can we ask victims and witnesses to pore over mug shots, sit through lineups, offer testimony and relive the experience when their trauma is entirely overlooked by our system of justice and society?

Without the cooperation of victims and witnesses, the criminal justice system would cease to function. Meeting the needs of crime victims requires the best efforts of many agencies and programs, allied in a broad social movement — the victims' movement.

Texans for Victims' Rights wants to commend Vic Feazell, our district attorney, for his foresight in seeking funds for the establishment of a victim/witness program in McLennan County. Through the establishment of a victim/witness unit in the district attorney's office, McLennan County will make a quantum leap in fully recognizing that victims are people, too.

Shirley Barrett, Secretary  
Texans for Victims' Rights Inc.  
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