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Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



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**ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE MARSHALL HONORS COURT DOG
AS 'HERO OF CRIME VICTIMS'**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall capped National Crime Victims’ Rights Week by honoring a five-year-old black lab named Willow for her special ability to ease the stress of children and adult victims of crime.

During a ceremony in the Attorney General’s Office Friday afternoon, Marshall read from a certificate praising Willow as a hero who, like her human counterparts, shares a calling to serve those victimized by crime no matter their age.

“As we shine the spotlight on those heroes and recognize that you don’t have to be a human to show empathy and love to those in need, I am proud to honor a four-legged hero who has made a tremendous difference in the lives of hundreds of crime victims – young and old – in the four short years that she has been called to service here in Alabama,” said Attorney General Marshall.

“Willow is a very special dog. She is a well-trained ‘facility dog’ with a mission. Willow works with her handler and partner, Tamara Martin, a forensic interviewer at Child Protect Children’s Advocacy Center, to assist crime victims and witnesses in all phases of the court system from preliminary hearings to sentencing. Her duty is to put crime victims at ease during forensic interviews, counseling sessions and while testifying in court. She is very busy, usually serving 35 to 40 crime victims and family members a month.

“Willow has been used extensively here in Alabama to assist crime victims and the prosecutors who seek justice on their behalf. Since I have become attorney general, Willow has helped us work three cases involving children – one a murder case and the other two involving sexual abuse.

“Willow was chosen to serve in this special role due to her calm demeanor and ability to work in a high stress environment. Willow is one of many such canine heroes serving throughout the country in prosecutors’ offices, child advocacy centers and in family courts.

“On behalf of the Alabama Attorney General’s Office, I am proud to present Willow with this special recognition for her unique dedication to serving the most vulnerable of Alabama as they seek justice.”

Photo of Attorney General Marshall presenting certificate to Willow’s trainer, Tamara Martin, is linked [here](#).

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