



Randolph domestic violence vigil remembers lives lost

By **Teresa A. Franco**

Wicked Local Randolph

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Randolph — Three Norfolk County women have lost their lives as a result of domestic violence since August 2009. 1 Randolph's own Karneetha Sanders, who was murdered by an ex-boyfriend in 2010.

Her name was among those that solemnly echoed in Stetson Hall as they were read from a list of Massachusetts fata domestic violence over the past couple of years at a vigil by Domestic Violence Ended (DOVE) Thursday, Oct. 20.

DOVE, an organization devoted to assisting victims of domestic violence and raising awareness on the topic, holds t in October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is the organization's first year to hold it in Randolph

"We all know people who have been touched by domestic violence and we want the town to know we're here," DOVE Director Sue Chandler said.

Although the topic does not always make headlines, domestic violence is prominent in the area. DOVE's six room, 14 Quincy is packed 24/7, 365 days a week, Chandler said. Events like the vigil not only honor those who have died, she serves as a vehicle for the community to be engaged and aware.

The crowd at the vigil was sparse. But DOVE Director of Programs Donna Morelli said it was a good start.

"I hope you carry this information and send it out to the community," she said to the attendees.

And it appeared the event did leave an impression on the few who did attend.

It was Randolph High School senior Faica Paul's first time attending a DOVE vigil. She is part of DOVE's high schoo Speaks, and read an anonymous poem about domestic violence called "I got flowers today."

"It's amazing that people come together to prevent this disease," she said.

Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey and Randolph Police Chief William Pace both read the names of the liv event. The two said they have witnessed an increase in domestic disturbances over the years, which could be related economy.

However, Morrissey said the rise in numbers also could be because people are getting better at reporting them.

"They are not afraid to come forward," he said.

Morrissey said he is pleased to see that the DOVE is getting the important message out – there is help out there.

Pace said domestic violence victims should not hesitate to seek help at the police station. He said restraining orders hours a day and he has detectives in his department who specialize in domestic cases.

Assistant Town Manager and Town Clerk Brian Howard also read the names of lives lost. He said he has noticed DC the years.

"We're fortunate to have them in Randolph," he said.

The candles were not lit during the event because of high winds. But Randolph Police Chaplin Leland Clarke summed symbolism behind the flames while holding electronically lit candles.

"It brings light to the darkness and domestic violence is darkness," he said. "It should stir us to action, so today we're a victim."

To contact DOVE for assistance, call the crisis hotline at 617-471-1234 or toll free at 888-314-3683, or visit www.dove.org

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