

For Immediate Release

LOCAL RESIDENT FIGHTS RAPE IN MILITARY

Military rape victim speaks out on sexual assault, military cover ups

ROCKLEDGE— June 30, 2010 — Rockledge resident Olga Ferrer has recently taken up the cause of raising awareness for an issue very close to her heart: rape in the United States military. Her campaign is called A Black Rose Campaign for Awareness and it invites victims of sexual assault in the military to request a rose in their honor be delivered to Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day, 2011. Ferrer, who is a disabled veteran of the United States Air Force, was the victim of sexual assault and rape during her service in the Gulf War. After her rape was reported, she alleges, the records of the incident disappeared from the Air Force records.

“I’m tired of seeing the people who fight to keep our freedom safe feel fear for what their fellow soldiers will do to them when no one is there to help. I’m tired of the military covering up these rapes and letting criminals get away with their crimes all so the military can ‘save face’,” said Ferrer.

Her case is not the only incident of military sexual abuse. The Department of Defense reported this year that in fiscal year 2009, there were a total of 3,230 reported cases of sexual assault filed, which is an 11 percent increase since 2008. Ferrer had this message to pass on to the soldiers in the armed forces: “I am here to be your voice if you cannot speak out.”

Ferrer's organization website, ablackrose.org, offers victims a place to request a rose with the option of remaining anonymous and offers possible places for those who suffered sexual assault to find help.

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For more information or to schedule an interview contact:

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For more information about A Black Rose Campaign:

<http://www.ablackrose.org>