

Virginia Elks Association News

October 24, 2014

Pete Decatur--"Remember Red Ribbon Week and Kiki Camarena"



Drug Awareness Program



I would like to remind everyone that the dead line for the Camarena Award is the first week in December to be sent to me.....Thanks, Pete

I hope all Lodges are working on a program for Red Ribbon Week. We can show our Communities that a Drug Free Life Style can cause our Communities to grow and prosper but the most important thing; it will help protect our "YOUTH" Showing that "ELKS CARE & ELKS SHARE". Our Youth being the future of our Great Nation!

The Red Ribbon History



DEA Agent
Enrique
"Kiki"
Camarena
1947-1985



Enrique (Kiki) Camarena was born on July 26, 1947 in Mexicali, Mexico. He graduated from Calexico High School in Calexico, Calif., in 1966. After graduation he joined the U.S. Marines where he served for two years. After

his military service, Kiki joined the Calexico Police Department and later moved to the El Centro Police Department. In 1974, he became part of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Seven years later he was assigned to the resident office in Guadalajara. He worked out of this office for four and a half years and was close to exposing a major drug trafficking operation. On February 7, 1985 Kiki was kidnapped. That was the last time he was seen alive. He was 37 years of age.

Shortly after Kiki's death, U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter; his wife Lynne Hunter; Calexico High School classmate, Henry Lozano; and Calexico City Councilman and educator, David Dillon launched the Calexico High School Kiki

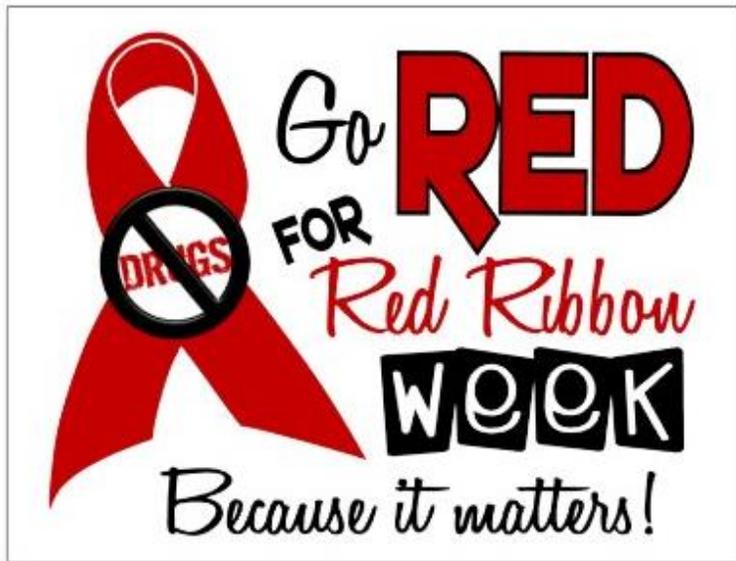
Camarena Club in Kiki's hometown of Calexico, Calif. On April 20, 1985 over one hundred Kiki Camarena Club members pledged to lead drug free lives.

Interest from school districts in other cities in California's Imperial Valley afforded Henry Lozano, then-Executive Director of Imperial Valley Teen Challenge, to create Kiki Camarena Clubs in Holtville, Brawley, and El Centro, California with the support of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

In 1986, Henry Lozano, as a member of the Board of Directors of Californians for Drug-Free Youth, Inc., created a statewide coalition comprised of the Elks, Lions, Rotary, California Narcotics Officers Association, California Drug Enforcement Administration and drug prevention parent groups who worked together to establish the first statewide Red Ribbon Week celebration in October.

In 1988, the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth championed the first national Red Ribbon Week campaign with Honorary Chairman President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan. That same year, congress officially established Red Ribbon Week.

Now, at the end of every October, millions of Americans don red ribbons in memory of Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena.



Today, Red Ribbon Week is nationally recognized and celebrated, helping to preserve Special Agent Camarena's memory and further the cause for which he gave his life. The Red Ribbon Campaign also became a symbol of support for the DEA's efforts to reduce demand for drugs through prevention and education programs. By wearing a red ribbon during the last week in October, Americans

demonstrate their ardent opposition to drugs. They pay homage not only to Special Agent Camarena, but to all men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of our nation's struggle against drug trafficking and abuse.

The Elks are proud to be a part of such an important tradition.