



Carlsbad Rotary Club  
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**For Immediate Release**

**Carlsbad Rotary Club Hosts Signing Ceremony**

**CARLSBAD, N.M., April 6, 2011** – Today, the Carlsbad Rotary Club was host to a signing ceremony for an enhancement to Katie’s Law, which will transform law enforcement in the state of New Mexico. Rotary proudly welcomed New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez and members of Katie Sepich’s family to its weekly meeting, where the signing took place.

“This day belongs to the Sepich Family,” said Carlsbad Rotary Club President Veronica Hernandez. “Thanks to their efforts, criminals have fewer places to hide, innocent people are exonerated and most importantly, people’s lives are saved.”

The original Katie’s Law legislation was passed in 2006 in the wake of the tragic 2003 homicide of Katie Sepich. Her parents, Jayann and Dave Sepich of Carlsbad, have promoted the use of DNA collection in felony cases to match criminals to crimes in which they are charged and to some in which their involvement is yet unknown. The 2006 version required DNA samples for certain felonies, however, the enhanced version includes collection of DNA from suspects of all suspected felonies, greatly broadening the law enforcement net.

“The Carlsbad Rotary Club is honored that Governor Martinez chose to sign this legislation in Carlsbad,” said Hernandez, “and we’re so glad we could play a role in this historic day.”

This special meeting of the Carlsbad Rotary Club was moved to the Leo Sweet Community Center to accommodate a much larger than expected crowd. In addition to its more than 90 members, the event was expected to draw up to 200 additional guests. In 2006, the

original legislation creating Katie's Law was also signed at a meeting of the Carlsbad Rotary Club. DNA collection laws for some or all felony arrests are now in place in 24 states. More information can be found online at [www.katieslaw.org](http://www.katieslaw.org).

The Carlsbad Rotary Club is affiliated with District 5520 of Rotary International. The service organization raises funds and supports projects not only locally, but also internationally. The club was instrumental in the lighting of the Flume in Carlsbad and for the development of numerous playgrounds throughout the city. Last year, Carlsbad Rotary raised funds for a new playground soon to be built at the Carlsbad Battered Families Shelter. Internationally, the club has teamed with other Rotary clubs in support of humanitarian projects in remote areas of Guatemala.