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NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 27, 2003

**Attorney General Gregg Renkes Celebrates Red Ribbon Week
at Campbell Elementary School**

(Anchorage, AK) – Attorney General Gregg Renkes joined U.S. Attorney Timothy Burgess at Campbell Elementary School to help students kick off National Red Ribbon Week in Anchorage. Renkes and Burgess, along with Anchorage School District Superintendent Carole Comeau and Julia Grimes, Director of the Alaska State Troopers, helped the children wrap a red ribbon around their school grounds in honor of the week.

“There is nothing more important than our young people,” Attorney General Gregg Renkes pointed out. “It is our duty to give them the tools they need to make the decision to stay off drugs. Drugs and alcohol are a problem in Alaska and we need to do all we can to help the next generation make better choices.”

Red Ribbon activities incorporate numerous community and national leaders to speak to children of all ages about the dangers of drugs. A video on the subject prepared by United States Senator Lisa Murkowski, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Burgess and Comeau will air during the week on Channel 14 and be available for teachers to use in their classrooms. According to DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge Zoran Yankovich, DEA agents will also be speaking in Anchorage schools this week.

The murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique (Kiki) Camarena by drug traffickers in 1985 inspired the anti-drug campaign people know today as Red Ribbon Week. Camarena’s congressman and one of his high school friends formed Camarena Clubs in his hometown of Imperial Valley, California. Club members pledged to live drug-free lives to honor the sacrifices made by Camarena and others on behalf of all Americans. The Red Ribbon Week campaign emerged from those clubs. The event is designed to teach children and the public about the high cost of illegal drug use.

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