

## **Barbara Grissom Honored for Her Service to Victims in South Carolina**

The longtime director of SCDC's Victims Services Division, Barbara Grissom, was recently honored by her peers as she received the Humanitarian Award on April 19, 2016 at the Victims' Rights Week Conference held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Columbia. The three day conference was sponsored by SCVAN(South Carolina Victim Assistance Network) and SOVA (State Office of Victim Assistance). Ms. Grissom was nominated for her untiring efforts for victims by 13 individuals, including several current and former colleagues, Victims Service providers and victim survivors she has worked with through the years.

Grissom was also surprised with a presentation of the state's highest honor, the Order of the Palmetto, by SCDC Director Bryan Stirling on behalf of Governor Nikki Haley. Governor Haley cited her many years of outstanding service to and advocacy for the crime victims in South Carolina.

Over 400 people attended the Victims' Rights Week conference to receive cutting edge training and to network with experts in the field. Professionals working in criminal justice and victims services, counselors and social workers, healthcare providers and educators gathered together with survivors of crime for the event.

Grissom, who had 27 years of distinguished service at the Department of Corrections, announced her retirement from the agency at the end of March. She says that even in retirement she plans to continue to advocate on behalf of South Carolina's crime victims.

