



PHOTOS: MIGUEL VASCONCELLOS, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**SHOCKING:** Students at Creekside High School listen as Geneva Camarena recounts the story of how her husband, Enrique Camarena, was killed by drug dealers in 1985.

# Harrowing preview to Red Ribbon Week

Widow conveys story of DEA agent 'Kiki' Camarena's murder in 1985.

By CAMERON BIRD  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**IRVINE** • In anticipation of Red Ribbon Week in October, students at Creekside High School on Thursday learned about the brutal back story of the nation's anti-drug campaign.

Classes of students met with Geneva "Mika" Camarena, whose husband's murder as a Drug Enforcement Administration agent in Mexico led the U.S. Congress to set aside a week every year to bring awareness to alcohol, tobacco, narcotics and violence.

Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, an undercover DEA agent, was identified, kidnapped, tortured and killed in 1985. Mika Camarena and one of the couple's



**IN REMEMBRANCE:** Geneva Camarena, whose husband's death spawned Red Ribbon Week, speaks to Creekside High students.

three sons now sit on the volunteer board of the Enrique S. Camarena Educational Foundation.

Mika Camarena reached out to the Irvine Unified School District this summer, said Debra Bianchi, executive director of Irvine Community Drug Prevention. Camarena asked Bianchi if the group could link to the foundation on its Web site.

"I was, like, 'You can have

**MORE ONLINE**  
For information on Red Ribbon Week, visit [www.redribboncoalition.com](http://www.redribboncoalition.com).

anything you want,'" Bianchi said. "They're a very thoughtful group of people that makes sure (Enrique's) story is a part of Red Ribbon Week."

After leaving the school, Mika Camarena headed to an Irvine Community Drug Prevention meeting at the Irvine Civic Center, where a new documentary about her late husband's life was screened.

Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated at schools across the country Oct. 18 to 26. This year's theme is "Step Up! A Call to Action."

A motto on an Irvine Community Drug Prevention training manual reads: "No use of illegal drugs, no illegal use of legal drugs!"

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
949-553-2915 or  
[cbird@ocregister.com](mailto:cbird@ocregister.com)



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**CARRYING ON:** Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique Camarena was killed in 1985 and now his wife, Geneva Camarena, sits on the volunteer board of the educational foundation set up in his name. She recently spoke to students at Creekside High School.



**SPREADING A MESSAGE:** After her appearance at Creekside High, Geneva Camarena also went to an Irvine Community Drug Prevention meeting at Irvine Civic Center for a screening of a documentary about the life of her late husband.