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The University of Dayton

News Release

Contact: Pam Huber
April 16, 1991

JAMES, SARAH BRADY TO SPEAK AT UD LAW SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

DAYTON, Ohio -- James and Sarah Brady, national proponents for gun control, will be guest speakers at the University of Dayton's School of Law graduation ceremony at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at UD Arena. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

Mr. and Mrs. Brady's address will center on the Brady Bill, proposed legislation that would require a national seven-day waiting period to allow local law enforcement officers to conduct background checks on handgun purchasers who buy handguns through licensed dealers. Although it failed to make it to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote last year, the bill was reintroduced to Congress in January by Rep. Edward Feighan (D-Ohio) and was endorsed March 28 by former President Ronald Reagan.

Juris doctor degrees will be granted to 158 graduates of the law school, and U.S District Judge Walter H. Rice will receive an honorary degree. A reception for graduates, their families and friends will be held in the Kennedy Union Torch Lounge following the ceremony.

The graduating class includes 105 men and 53 women.

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James Brady, vice chair of the National Organization on Disability, was wounded March 30, 1981, during John Hinckley's attempted assassination of President Reagan. Brady, who served as the president's press secretary at the time, now uses a wheelchair and has permanent disabilities as a result of the shooting.

Sarah Brady, active in gun-control issues since 1985, serves as chair of Handgun Control Inc., a non-profit organization with more than 1 million members. She was named "Person of the Week" by ABC News for her efforts in passing historic handgun control legislation in Maryland; one of 1989's "100 Most Powerful Women in Washington" by Washingtonian magazine; and one of Glamour magazine's "Women of the Year" in 1990.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Requests for telephone interviews with James and Sarah Brady may be directed to Susan Whitmore of Handgun Control at (202) 289-5766.