Dear Survivors,

As we enter the holiday season, I have found myself reflecting on this past year. All the Hands-On Programs were back to being held in person. National Police Week saw record attendance. The National Conference on Law Enforcement Wellness & Trauma had the largest event to date with over 800 attendees. What a year it has been and what an honor it is to serve as your National President.

I recently returned from my own program at the C.O.P.S. Parents Retreat. I made sure to take time to focus on myself and not on the continuous tasks of being National President. While at this retreat, I was the surviving mother of Officer Jay Carruth. I was able to reflect on my officers, Alexandria (LA) Police Officer Jeremy “Jay” Carruth and Officer David Ezernack, EOW 2/20/2003. I was present with my husband, as we were surrounded by other surviving parents. Two of them are pictured on the cover of this magazine. Being surrounded by those who understand our grief is beyond healing and fills our cups back up when the hussle and bussle of daily activities can often drain us.

I hope you remember to be present during the holidays this year and to take the time to focus on yourself. Surround yourself with friends and family who understand the holidays may be difficult for you, but will help you find your joy in ways that work for you, and at a pace that only you can set.

In the upcoming year, Hands-On Programs will start back up in March with the first being the Spouses for Couples Retreat. All dates and locations for the 2023 programs are listed on page 16. Registration for those will open at the first of the year.

National Police Week is going to look a bit different since we have secured a new location for the Host Hotel. The Washington Hilton is excited to be welcoming our group and we believe you will be impressed with the hotel rooms, the amenities, the restaurant options, and the conference spaces. We also have three other hotels as we are anticipating another large year of attendance. Keep a look out on social media, your email, and in your mailbox for more information on how to register.

I want to wish you all the best throughout the holidays. May you find comfort, peace, joy, and love each day. Remember it is ok to have a rough day, but I encourage us all to get up the next day and do something different. If you are struggling, please know your C.O.P.S. family is just a phone call, an email, or a social media post/message away. We are all in this together.

Happy holidays, from my family to yours.

Patricia Carruth
C.O.P.S. National President
Mission Statement

Rebuilding shattered lives of survivors and co-workers affected by line-of-duty deaths.

Survivors can seek comfort from C.O.P.S. while awaiting a decision from the following determining agencies: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) Program, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), or Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

Submission Information

Concerns of Police Survivors welcomes the submission of articles, trial updates, survivor news, and memorials. Please know that all submissions will be considered, but may not be published. The inclusion of news articles or court documents makes the process much easier for C.O.P.S. When sending photos, please make sure they are high resolution (600KB or higher) or the original files. All submissions can be e-mailed to sara_slone@nationalcops.org with the subject line “Newsletter Submission.”

Information for Our Readers

Throughout C.O.P.S. publications, you will find codes that tell how a person is related to an officer who has died in the line of duty. Here is a key for you:

W=Spouse; AC=Adult Child; C=Child; S=Sibling; M=Mother; F=Father; CW=Co-Worker; SM=Step-Mother; SF=Step-Father; SC=Step-Child; GM=Grandmother; GF=Grandfather; GC=Grandchild; FS=Former Spouse; FN=Fiancé; SO=Significant Other; F-IL=Father In-Law; M-IL=Mother In-Law; D-IL=Daughter In-Law; SN-IL=Son In-Law; SS-IL=Sister In-Law; B-IL=Brother In-Law; U=Uncle; A=Aunt; NC=Niece; NP=Nephew; CS=Cousin; FR=Friend

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The upcoming National Board Meeting will be held at the Omni Riverfront Hotel in New Orleans (LA), on January 28-29, 2023, at 8:00 am. If you have a topic of discussion to submit for the meeting, please email Barbie Squires at barbie_squires@nationalcops.org.

**Interested in running for a position on the C.O.P.S. National Board?**

All persons seeking to serve on the C.O.P.S. National Board should submit a completed application for nomination to the Chair of the National Elections Committee (Emilio Miyares, emilio_miyares@nationalcops.org) no later than **February 20, 2023**. This includes both sitting board members and new applicants. Letters of reference and confidentiality statements shall be dated no earlier than 60 days prior to the application cutoff date. The application form can be found on the National C.O.P.S. website or requested from Emilio Miyares.

Survivors must meet the following eligibility requirements for nomination:

Applicants must:

- Be a member as defined in National Bylaws, Article III Membership.
- Have observed the first anniversary of their officer’s death and attended NPW.
- Have served on a chapter board within the last five (5) years, or have been a past National Board member. Requirement for applicants to have served on a chapter board within the last five (5) years shall be waived if that applicant has no chapter in their specific area.
- Applicants for Region Trustee must reside in their respective region for the entirety of their term.
- Must sign a C.O.P.S. Confidentiality & Nominee Pledge Information Policy form agreeing that they will be an advocate for and supporter of the Concerns of Police Survivors organization and dedicated to work in the best interest of the C.O.P.S. organization.
- All applicants for office must meet all eligibility requirements and must register and participate in the mandatory events specified in SOP 6.3.

Please refer to the SOP 6.0 for further details of the nomination and election process for the C.O.P.S. National Board.
To enable the C.O.P.S. organization to provide peer support close to home, below are 55 C.O.P.S. Chapters that are here to help you through the difficult times:

**Alabama C.O.P.S.**
Cindy Hatcher, Treasurer  
alabamacops.cindy@gmail.com  
(251) 604-0602  
www.alabamacops.org

**Alaska C.O.P.S.**
Troy Shuey, President  
(907) 354-1488  
www.alaskacops.org

**Arizona C.O.P.S.**
James Warriner, President  
(602) 448-7600  
www.copsarizona.org

**Arkansas C.O.P.S.**
Mary Carmikle, President  
(501) 425-0645  
www.arkansascops.org

**California**

**Central CAL C.O.P.S.**
Helen Garner, President  
(209) 534-3114  
www.cencalcops.org

**Northern CAL C.O.P.S.**
Susan Moody, President  
(707) 372-1604  
www.norcalcops.org

**Southern CAL C.O.P.S.**
Jennifer Lobo, President  
(909) 770-3549  
www.socalcops.org

**Colorado C.O.P.S.**
Robert Cook, President  
(970) 567-4885  
www.coloradocops.org

**Connecticut - See New England C.O.P.S.**

**DC C.O.P.S.**
Hector Dittamo, Treasurer  
(703) 491-5585  
www.dc-cops.org

**Delaware C.O.P.S.**
Eleanor Allione, President  
troopersmom4cops@yahoo.com  
(302) 388-2657  
www.decops.org

**Florida**

**Central FL C.O.P.S.**
Virginia Ricks, Chapter Director  
(850) 445-2589  
www.centralfloridaops.org

**Northeast FL C.O.P.S.**
Janis Lampe, President  
(904) 251-3219

**Northwest FL C.O.P.S.**
Harold Shover, President  
(850) 892-4705

**South FL C.O.P.S.**
Sean Strzalkowski, President  
(954) 790-9642  
www.soflocops.com

**West Central FL C.O.P.S.**
Autumn Stradley, President  
(727) 243-4644  
www.westcentralflcops.com

**Georgia C.O.P.S.**
Tammy Gilstrap, President  
(706) 540-2314  
www.gacops.org

**Idaho C.O.P.S.**
Debbie Jacobs, President  
(208) 596-5264  
www.idahocops.com

**Illinois C.O.P.S.**
Keith Dorwart, President  
(630) 757-7862  
www.ilcops.org

**Indiana C.O.P.S.**
Dan Calvin, President  
(765) 438-3760  
www.indianacops.org

**Iowa C.O.P.S.**
Yanira Scarlett, President  
yanira@iowacops.org  
(515) 360-4187  
www.iowacops.org

**Kansas C.O.P.S.**
Jamie Bradway, President  
(317) 402-7592  
www.kscops.org

**Kentucky C.O.P.S.**
Craig Sutter, President  
kentuckycops@gmail.com  
(270) 392-7768  
www.copskentucky.org

**Louisiana C.O.P.S.**
Jada Breax, President  
(337) 339-4553  
www.lacops.org

**Maine - See New England C.O.P.S.**

**Maryland C.O.P.S.**
Sue Nickerson, Director  
mikie@atlanticbb.net  
(410) 708-1334  
www.mdcops.org

**Massachusetts - See New England C.O.P.S.**

**Michigan C.O.P.S.**
Brian Rendon, President  
rendonbrian74@gmail.com  
(877) 464-2677  
www.micops.org

**Minnesota C.O.P.S.**
Jackie Bergeron, Treasurer  
minnesotacops@gmail.com  
(651) 295-2314  
www.mncops.org

**Mississippi C.O.P.S.**
Tressie Hall-Durr, President  
(601) 757-9876  
www.mncops.org

**Missouri C.O.P.S.**
Kim Roberts, President  
mocops.2014@gmail.com  
(417) 849-9438  
www.mo-cops.org
Montana C.O.P.S.
Nancy DeLaittre, President
ndelaittre@gmail.com
(406) 581-3209
www.montanacops.org

Nebraska C.O.P.S.
Stephanie Unger, President
sunger@ssgi.com
(402) 237-7376
www.nebraskacops.org

New England C.O.P.S.
Mario Oliveira, President
mooliveira@vipo911.org
(617) 799-9130
www.copsne.org

New Hampshire - See New England C.O.P.S.

New Jersey
Garden State C.O.P.S.
Lisa Preslar, President
lpreslar8@gmail.com
(732) 330-8111
www.gardenstatecops.com

NJSP Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S.
Michelle Carroll, President
njspottcops@aol.com
(732) 208-2611
www.survivorsofthetriangletcops.org

New Mexico C.O.P.S.
Kim Talbott, President
ktalbott@plateautel.net
(575) 637-1714
www.newmexicocops.org

New York
Genesee Valley C.O.P.S.
Ellen Guerdal, Chapter Director
eellensguerdal@rochester.rr.com
(585) 957-3878
www.copsgeneseevalley.org

Metro NY C.O.P.S.
Muriel Worst, President
muriel.worst@metronycops.org
(631) 256-8988
www.metronycops.org

Western NY C.O.P.S.
Kim Knox, President
wnycops@gmail.com
(716) 983-3739
www.westernnycops.org

North Carolina C.O.P.S.
Wanda Rhyne, President
rhyne212@windstream.net
(910) 315-8150
www.nccops.net

Ohio C.O.P.S.
Angela McDowell, President
president@ohiocops.org
(614) 989-0517
www.ohiocops.org

Oklahoma C.O.P.S.
John Blumenthal, President
john@warriorsrestfoundation.org
(405) 521-7903

Oregon C.O.P.S.
Judith Jeffries, Director
judithjeffries19@gmail.com
(503) 253-2468
www.oregoncops.org

Pennsylvania C.O.P.S.
Kim Weigand, Director
kweigand4@verizon.net
(717) 259-6622
www.pacops.org

Rhode Island - See New England C.O.P.S.

South Carolina
Carolina C.O.P.S.
Nicole Burdette, President
nicoleburdette@hotmail.com
(864) 844-4204
www.carolinacops.org

South Carolina
Carolina C.O.P.S.
Nicole Burdette, President
nicoleburdette@hotmail.com
(864) 844-4204
www.carolinacops.org

Tennessee
Middle and East TN C.O.P.S.
Jennifer Johnson, President
jenniferjohnson@cmcss.net
(931) 801-6025
www.middleandeasttncops.org

West TN C.O.P.S.
Lisa Woods, President
lisawoods381@aol.com
(901) 618-479

Texas

Greater Houston C.O.P.S.
Annette Bennett, President
abennett4271@yahoo.com
(832) 247-7522

Metroplex TX C.O.P.S.
Stacy Harvey, President
chapterpresident@metroplexcops.org
(806) 577-6789

South Texas C.O.P.S.
Patrick Murnin
southtxcops@yahoo.com
(210) 391-0466

West Texas C.O.P.S.
Adrian Gonzales, President
adgonzales@epcounty.com
(915) 342-2409

Utah C.O.P.S.
Pat Evans, President
pat.utahcops@gmail.com
(801) 577-4366

Virginia C.O.P.S.
Karla Turman, President
vacops_swva@yahoo.com
(540) 397-0401

Washington State C.O.P.S.
Leslie Merklin-Barber, President
leslie.barter@washingtonstatecops.org
(425) 622-2677

Wisconsin C.O.P.S.
Jo Ann Mignon, Secretary
joannmignon@wicops.org
(920) 851-3805

States without an active chapter:
Hawaii
West Virginia
North Dakota
Wyoming
South Dakota

NEWS OF NOTE

MARRIAGES

Sydney Lowell and her new husband Gage Perry were married in Las Vegas on March 28, 2022. Gage is a Hospitalman with the Navy, now assigned to Camp Pendleton, CA. Sydney is the surviving granddaughter of San Bernardino (CA) Police Sergeant Tim Littlefield, EOW 9/14/1986.

Marriages

Congratulations to new parents Holly and Joseph Gonzalez, who welcomed their first born, Noah Joseph Charles Gonzales, 6 ½ weeks early on July 26, 2022.

Holly is the surviving daughter of Tarpon Springs (FL) Police Officer Charles Kondek, Jr., EOW 12/21/2014.

Births

Chadd Owen and his son Zachary (3) proudly show off the newest member of their family, Ryan Joseph Owen. Ryan was born May 20, 2022. Zachary is sporting his “My Grandpa is my Hero” shirt, which he will now pass down to his baby brother.

Chadd is the surviving son of Los Angeles County (CA) Sheriff’s Sergeant Steven C. Owen, EOW 10/5/16.

Congratulations to Sean Strzalkowski and his bride Jessica Abrams who celebrated their wedding on October 15, 2022, in Miami Beach (FL).

Corey Barnes graduated from the Boarding Officer Practical Course training program on August 27, 2022. Corey finished fifth in his class in the 27-week academy. He served with the Champaign (IL) Police Department for five years, and now resides in Texas with his new fiancée, Kayla.

Corey is the son of Sergeant Mike Barnes of the Burr Ridge (IL) Police Department. Sergeant Barnes is the surviving co-worker of Joliet (IL) Police Officer Jonathan Walsh, EOW 8/20/2004.

Congratulations to Zachary Zolendziewski who graduated on June 3, 2022, from Socastee High School in Myrtle Beach (SC). Zachary is excited to continue his education at Horry Georgetown Technical College in South Carolina.

Zachary is the surviving son of Holyoke (MA) Police Officer David Zolendziewski, EOW 2/11/2010.

Congratulations to Michael Scofield on his graduation from Reno High School in Reno (NV). Michael is now studying Criminal Justice at Truckee Meadows Community College with plans to transfer to the University of Nevada - Reno in 2023.

Michael is proud to share his name with his grandfather whom he never had the chance to meet. He is the surviving grandson of Reno (NV) Police Officer Michael Scofield, EOW 9/26/2002.

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Clark graduated Webster Schroeder High School in Webster (NY) on June 21, 2022. She is now attending St John Fisher University where she studies Elementary Education with a focus in Math.

Lizzie is the surviving daughter of Rochester (NY) Police Officer Tom Clark, EOW 1/16/2006.
Madeleine Mary Beall graduated top of her class from the Dayton Police Academy on June 17, 2022. She joins her father, John J. Beall, a 33-year veteran of the Dayton Police Department.

Madeleine is the surviving daughter of Dayton (OH) Police Officer Mary L Beall, EOW 8/25/2002. John is the surviving husband of Mary.

Joey Lomas graduated with honors from Sterling High School in New Jersey on June 17, 2022. He is pursuing a career in Physical Education/Athletic Director while attending Rowan College of South Jersey. He will also continue playing soccer in college after an impressive high school career where he received 1st Team All Conference, 2nd Team All State Goalie, 2nd Team All South Jersey Goalie, and beat the high school record with 13 consecutive shut outs.

Joey is the surviving nephew of New Jersey State Trooper Bertram Zimmerman III, EOW 2/5/04.

Congratulations to Jordan Silvera who graduated from Seely Lake High School in Montana. He is continuing his education at the University of Montana Western in Dillon (MT) studying for his BA in Business.

Jordan is the surviving son of Lino Lakes (MN) Police Officer Shawn Silvera, EOW 9/6/2005.

The Grand Rapids (MI) Police Department showed up in droves for the high school graduation of the daughter of one of their fallen officers, Officer Robert Kozminski, EOW 7/8/2007. Congratulations to Officer Kozminski’s surviving daughter, Kailey Kozminski!

Officer Joe Trigg of the department said, "Even the smallest of gestures at the right moment can make an enormous impact that can last a lifetime and I believe that’s what we accomplished last night. It was a long day, it was hot, but I, along with her mother Heather and Kailey, are forever grateful."
C.O.P.S. Sends Condolences to the Families of:


**Christine (Wilhelm) Mazour, 71,** died at her home in Corpus Christi (TX) surrounded by family on July 31, 2022. Chris’ work included providing counseling through Victim Services for the Texas Department of Public Safety, later transferring to the FBI as a Victim Specialist in Houston (TX). She was also a beloved C.O.P.S. Counselor at Kids Camp and many of the adult retreats.

**Bunnie G. McDonald, 78,** died October 18, 2022. Bunnie is survived by his loving wife Patricia, his wife and friend of more than 61 years, as well as his two sons Darryl and Dennis, and many other family and friends.


The family of Special Agent DeGreaun Frazier of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, EOW 8/9/2016, is mourning the loss of their K-9 **Thing.** Thing was Agent Frazier’s police K-9 when they worked at the Millington (TN) Police Department. He primarily work in the detection of illicit drugs. When Agent Frazier transferred from the DEA to the TBI, Thing retired and became the Frazier family pet where he lived to be 15 years old. The family will miss their K-9 hero.

Please note the C.O.P.S. National Office will be closed from December 24 through January 1 in observance of the holidays. We will resume normal business hours on January 2, 2023.
C.O.P.S. is excited to announce a new partnership with the Washington Hilton in downtown D.C. as the host hotel for National Police Week (NPW) starting in 2023!

With over 1,000 sleeping rooms, the Washington Hilton will be able to accommodate the vast majority of surviving family members and co-workers attending to honor their fallen heroes. C.O.P.S. will be able to re-merge the National Police Survivors’ Conference to include both surviving family members and co-worker sessions in one hotel. With this hotel having more space and being located in downtown D.C., transportation will be quicker and more efficient.

The Washington Hilton has a wide variety of amenities on-site including 3 restaurants, a fitness center, and a pool. It is located in the heart of downtown D.C. and is within walking distance of over 20 restaurants and the Metrorail.

There will also be three other hotel options nearby, which will be announced in the registration information. Transportation will be provided from hotels to the scheduled events.

Registration for NPW 2023 will open in late Fall. More details will be provided at that time. If you should have questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to call the C.O.P.S. National Office at (573) 346-4911.

Schedule of Events:

- **May 11**
  - Early Arrival Day

- **May 12**
  - Official Arrival Day
  - LEU Arrival Ceremony
  - PUT Arrival Ceremony

- **May 13**
  - Candlelight Vigil

- **May 14**
  - Day 1 of Survivors’ Conference
  - Day 1 of Kids/Teens Program
  - Blue Honor Gala
    *(Tickets Required)*

- **May 15**
  - National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service

- **May 16**
  - Day 2 of Survivors’ Conference
  - Day 2 of Kids/Teens Program
  - Picnic on the Patio

- **May 17**
  - Official Departure Day
As I reflect back on the Adult Children's Retreat, it brings me great pride to be among all the amazing individuals in this organization giving their whole heart and souls to help us through our darkest times. They become our blue family for life.

I am so proud that we gather at these retreats and many other places throughout the year in order to remember what our fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, grandparents, friends, and in my case, what our mothers stood for.

I was raised in a law enforcement family as my father, stepdad, and my mother were all officers. My mom retired from the Indianapolis (IN) Police Department (IIPD) after 23 years of service. However, she was not done with her service yet as she took a job with the Marion County Sheriff's Department.

My stepdad followed suit after he retired from IPD and took a job with Marion County, too. I also worked in the same office as them, so it was a family affair.

My parents loved the water and had a houseboat and cruiser on Brookville Lake. They both loved their job and worked hard all week so they could go relax on the lake every weekend. When spring came around every year the whole family was excited because we knew that meant spending weekends the next few months with mom and dad at the lake.

The spring of 2002, Mom and dad decided that they needed a bigger houseboat for our family, as we were growing fast with grandkids and great grandkids. They found a newer, bigger houseboat that was just a couple boat slips down from theirs. They were so excited, as we all were.

On Thursday, May 9, 2002, they made the exciting trip to the bank to get the money to buy their new toy. They were both only working a half day on Friday and were going to head to the lake. However, God had other plans come Friday morning, May 10, 2002.

My mom was killed when a car ran a red light and broadsided her police vehicle. As I arrived at work, I was stopped in the parking lot by one of our fellow officers who informed me what had happened and proceeded to take me to Methodist Hospital where they took my mom.

My dad, my two brothers, my sister, and my life changed drastically that day. Mom was the heart and soul of our family. She was the peacekeeper at home just like she was at work. Family and friends were everything to her.

We soon found out just how important and special the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and C.O.P.S. were. They gave us love, understanding, and support during this difficult time as many of you well know.
Nothing was the same after that. My dad kept the old house boat, but couldn’t hardly stand to go back to the lake without her. The next spring, my dad decided that mom would want us to continue enjoying the lake and live life to the fullest. So he bought the new houseboat they were looking so forward to having.

We were all elated trying to fulfill mom’s dreams and go on with our lives the best we knew how when tragedy struck again. Dad was diagnosed with brain cancer and was taken from us a year and a half after mom’s death.

Even though I have an unwavering faith in God, I still wanted answers as to why my mother and father were taken from us the way they were. Maybe there was a reason mom was taken from us first. I find peace knowing that she didn’t have to watch my dad suffer from that horrible disease.

As with all of us and our not forgotten fallen officers, my mom had devoted her life to protecting us from evil. However, cancer was an evil she would not have been able to protect my dad from. Instead she was there to greet him at Heaven’s Gate, so they could walk God’s beat together.

Again, our new found family from the FOP and C.O.P.S. helped us through another tragic time in our lives. I truly believe that I wouldn’t be as strong as I am today if it weren’t for them.

All year long we honor the true heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice of their tomorrows so we might live in peace today. But let us not forget that they are not the only ones who made the sacrifice. Now they are in a better place than we, but our mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sons, daughters and friends are left behind to carry on and find meaning in their tragedies.

It was the families who gave a smile as we saw our loved one off to work and whispered a silent prayer for their safe return, even though that return never happened and we continue to struggle on.

Thanksgiving and Christmas come without them here to carve the turkey or sing Christmas carols. Valentine’s Day comes without a big chocolate Hershey’s kiss, and birthdays come without them blowing out their candles. Words are of cold comfort in times like these. No speech, no flag, no ceremony can bring back those who are dearest to us. Yet, just as you were always with them when they walked the beat or patrolled the streets, know that they are always with you wherever you may be.

When we gather at our retreats or different places in the nation throughout the year, it is not just in honor of remembering our beloved fallen officers, but it is also about honoring the officers that are still serving our communities.

I believe law enforcement is one of the most noble professions on Earth and that all officers are heroes. Everything that officers do allows us all to live in peace. For this, we are all thankful. It is up to all of us to maintain their fallen standard, honor their memory, and ensure they did not die in vain, as they were the true heroes we all dream to be.

Survivor stories are important to share to add a new perspective, hopeful tips, and encouraging words. If you would like to share your story, please email Blake Haynes at blake_haynes@nationalcops.org. Stories may be used in the HOPE magazine, social media sites, or the blog on the national website. All views/opinions stated in survivor stories are that of the survivor and do not reflect the views/opinions of the C.O.P.S. National Office.
The 2022 Hands-On Programs season has come to an end. Thank you to all survivors for trusting C.O.P.S. We hope each program brought you new friends, a sense of understanding, and tools to continue on your path to healing.

Please enjoy this photo recap of the retreats hosted from July to October.

**Kids Camp**

**Young Adults Camp**

**Fiancés & Significant Others Retreat**
Siblings Retreat

Spouses Retreat

Co-Workers Retreat

Parents Retreat
Save the Date! Hands-On Programs Dates and Locations for 2023

Spouses for Couples Retreat
March 24-27, 2023

Co-Workers for Couples Retreat
April 21-24, 2023

Adult Children’s Retreat
June 9-12, 2023

Kids Camp
July 8-14, 2023

Outward Bound - TBD

Young Adults Camp
July 24-28, 2023

Fiancés & Significant Others Retreat
August 11-14, 2023

Siblings Retreat
September 8-11, 2023

Spouses Retreat
September 22-25, 2023

Co-Workers Retreat
October 6-9, 2023

Extended Family Retreat
October 13-16, 2023

Parents Retreat
October 20-23, 2023

#COPSWHYINJULY OVER $24,000 RAISED!

The 2nd Annual C.O.P.S. Why In July event raised over $24,000 with 59 teams and 342 individual participants taking part this year. Thank you to all who completed 563 minutes of fitness in July to honor the 563 fallen heroes who were recognized during National Police Week 2022. The top individual fundraiser was Kim Roberts (Over $1,200 raised!) and the top team was The Mirandizers (Over $1,300 raised!)

A special shout out to Born Primitive for providing the prize t-shirts to everyone who raised over $50!
Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is approaching on January 9th, 2023!

Do you have your plans in place yet?

There are a number of ways to show your support:

• Wear blue clothing in support of law enforcement
• Send a card of support to your local police department or state agency
• Share a story about a positive law enforcement experience on social media
• Ask children to write letters in support of law enforcement
• Participate in Project Blue Light - Proudly display your blue light in support of law enforcement
• See an officer, THANK an officer!
• Give blood at a local Blue Blood Drive, or organize your own drive during the month of January! We can help you with that! (See below!)

Once again for 2023, C.O.P.S. will be partnering with the American Red Cross and other community blood collection agencies for “Blue Blood Drives” where people are encouraged to donate blood in honor of law enforcement. A location map will be available in December under the Special Events tab at concernsofpolicewomen.org.

If you are an agency and would like to host, please visit our website to connect with a C.O.P.S. chapter in your area.
*Forever 27* was written by Donald Grignon, surviving father of Louisville (KY) Metro Police Officer Peter Alan Grignon, EOW 3/23/2005.

About the book, Donald said, “Forever 27 relates to the story of a wonderful man who loved his wife, family, God, and community. He embodied the desire to serve and protect. All these years later, the void left by his murder remains. The love felt for him is as strong as ever.”

This book can be purchased on Amazon. All profits from the sales go to a scholarship fund in Peter’s name at Eastern Kentucky University School of Criminal Justice in Richmond (KY).
“The holidays are times spent with our loved ones.” This has been imprinted on our psyche from a young age. Holidays mark the passage of time in our lives. They are part of the milestones we share with each other and they generally represent time spent with family. But since holidays are for being with those we love the most, how on earth can anyone be expected to cope with them when a loved one has died? For many people, this is the hardest part of grieving, when we miss our loved ones even more than usual. How can we celebrate together when there is none?

When you lose someone special, your world lacks its celebratory qualities. Holidays magnify that loss. The sadness deepens and the loneliness can feel isolating. The need for support may be the greatest during the holidays. Pretending you don’t hurt and/or it isn’t a harder time of the year is just not the truth for you. But you can – and will – get through the holidays. Rather than avoiding the feelings of grief, lean into them. It is not the grief you want to avoid, it is the pain. No one can take that pain away, but grief is not just pain, grief is love.

There are a number of ways to incorporate your loved one and your loss into the holidays.

**Holiday Season**

These are the biggest and usually most challenging of all. You can and will get through the holidays. Rather than avoiding the feelings of grief, lean into them. It is not the grief you want to avoid, it is the pain. Grief is the way out of the pain. Grief is our internal feelings and mourning is our external expressions.

**Ways to Externalize the Loss**

- Give it a time and a place:
  - A prayer before the Holiday dinner, about your loved one.
  - Light a candle for your loved one.
  - Create an online tribute for them.
  - Share a favorite story about your loved one.
  - Have everyone tell a funny story about your loved one.
  - At your place of worship remember them in a prayer.
  - Chat online about them.

**Ways to Cope**

- Have a Plan A/Plan B – Plan A is you go to that holiday dinner with family and friends and if it doesn’t feel right, have your plan B ready. Plan B may be watching a movie you both liked, or looking through a photo album, or going to a special place you went to together. Many people find that when they have Plan B in place, just knowing it is there is enough.

- Cancel the holiday altogether. Yes, you can cancel the holiday. If you are going through the motions and feel nothing, cancel them. Take a year off. The holidays will come around again and will always be there. For other people, staying involved with the holidays is a symbol of life continuing. Let the holiday routine give you a framework during these tough times, and lean on a holiday support system.

- Try the holidays in a new way. Grief has a unique way of giving us permission to evaluate what parts of the holidays we enjoy and what parts we don’t. Remember, there is no right or wrong way to handle the holidays in grief. You have to decide what is right for you and do it. You have every right to change your mind, even a few times. Friends and family members may not have a clue how to help you through this time of year, and you may not either.
It is very natural to feel you may never enjoy this time of year again. They will certainly never be the same as before your loved one’s death. However, in time, most people are able to find meaning again in the traditions as a new form of the holiday spirit grows inside of them. Even without grief, our friends and relatives often think they know how our holidays should look, what “the family” should and shouldn’t do.

**Do’s and Don’ts**

- Do be gentle with yourself and protect yourself.
- Don’t do more than you want, and don’t do anything that does not serve your soul and your loss.
- Do allow time for the feelings.
- Don’t keep feelings bottled up. If you have 500 tears to cry don’t stop at 250.
- Do allow others to help. We all need help at certain times in our lives.
- Don’t ask if you can help or should help a friend in grief. Just help. Find ways; invite them to group events or just out for coffee.
- Do, in grief, pay extra attention to the children. Children are too often the forgotten grievers.

**Valentine’s Day**

Valentine’s Day is a day to honor our spouse, girlfriend / boyfriend or anyone we are romantically involved with in the present. The past can represent a hole in your heart where your loved one used to be.

**Tips**

- Write a love letter.
- Smile a smile for them.
- Light a red candle.
- Tell someone about them.

**Mother’s Day and Father’s Day**

Mother’s and Father’s Day are often thought of as an invisible sad day of mourning while many people are rushing around trying to get that perfect gift or make sure they remember to send mom / dad a card. There are over one hundred million Americans for whom this is a sad day, either because they have a mother or father who has died or a child has died.

**Tips**

- Find ways to honor and remember your parent. Think of ways to honor your child.
- Light a candle.
- Say a prayer.
- Donate time or money in their name.
- Do something you loved to do together on that day.

It isn’t as important how you remember, you honor them by the fact that you remember.

**JUST REMEMBER...**

Holidays are clearly some of the roughest terrains we navigate after a loss. Finding meaning in the loss is as individual as we are. We often say a part of us died with them, but finding meaning is also realizing a part of them still lives within us.

David Kessler is one of the world’s foremost experts on grief and loss. He is the founder of www.grief.com. David has taught physicians, nurses, counselors, police, and first responders about the end of life, trauma, and grief. He also volunteers with the Los Angeles Police Department as a Specialist Reserve for traumatic events.
C.O.P.S. has more than doubled in membership in the past 10 years. The average used to be between 140-160 officers die in the line of duty each year, however, COVID, deaths from 9/11 cancer, and increased violence has made that average inaccurate. Our membership has now reached over 65,000 survivors nationwide. With the recent passing of the Public Safety Officer Support Act of 2022, the number of survivors served grows even more rapidly.

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed Public Law 117-172, the Public Safety Officer Support Act of 2022. The nearly unanimous and bipartisan passing of this law recognizes that the traumas suffered by law enforcement officers affects them mentally and at times ends with suicide. This law now provides public safety officer death benefits for the families of law enforcement who die by suicide or are totally disabled, after taking an action to bring about their death while on duty, and if it meets the criteria established within the law and occurred on or after January 1, 2019.

There are two tracks for an officer’s suicide to be recognized as a line-of-duty death:

**Track One:**
1) They must be a public safety officer.
2) The death or attempted death was within 45 days of exposure to a traumatic event.
3) There was a death or permanent disability.
4) The actions were consistent with a psychological disorder.

**Track Two:**
*All of the above, except death occurred MORE than 45 days:*
5) Exposure to the traumatic event was a substantial factor in the officer’s action.

**Definition of Traumatic Event Exposure:**
- Homicide, suicide, or the violent or gruesome death of another individual (including mass casualty, fatality or shooting.)
- Circumstance posing an extraordinary and significant danger or threat to the life or serious bodily harm to any individual.
- An act of criminal sexual violence committed against any individual.

Mental health disorders caused by on-the-job stressors include: Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), acute stress disorder, or trauma and stress related disorder. For these disorders to be considered factors in an officer’s suicide, there are two requirements outlined by the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program (PSOB):

1) The officer must have been diagnosed by a licensed medical/mental health professional.

- or -

2) The officer had contacted or attempted to contact the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) of the agency to receive help, treatment, assistance or diagnosis for PTSD or acute stress disorder.

The determination of a suicide as a line-of-duty death is not at the discretion of C.O.P.S. Our by-laws state “C.O.P.S. ministers to the needs of families who have suffered the loss of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty (as reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program (PSOB), the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), or the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

The purpose of the C.O.P.S. organization has always been, and continues to be, to support surviving family members and co-workers. As we receive more information from the PSOB office on how this law is interpreted for federal benefits, C.O.P.S. will begin educating law enforcement agencies and our 55 chapters across the nation on how to respond and best serve surviving family members and co-workers affected by suicide.
Survivors of Blue Suicide (SBS), C.O.P.S.’ sister organization that was established in 2019 to support survivors of law enforcement suicide, will still be available to support survivors who do not meet the current line-of-duty requirements. SBS staff members, Shelley Jones and Laurie Putnam, have been welcomed back to C.O.P.S.

Shelley and Laurie, who both previously worked for C.O.P.S., will bring education and guidance on the struggles suicide survivors face both at the time of the death, and the years that follow.

Laurie said, “There is a lot of guilt and a lot of blame. It’s hard for people to understand when there aren’t any warning signs.”

Laurie will be working with the Services Department at C.O.P.S., where she will be planning programs and retreats. The initial plan is to host virtual connection calls between survivors and to have in-person retreats in 2023. The first year’s retreats will be hosted solely for suicide survivors, with the potential to be integrated in 2024.

At C.O.P.S. retreats, breakout sessions are separated by the manner of death, i.e., felonious, accidental, and natural/Covid. Suicide will be a fourth manner now considered. Each manner of death holds unique struggles for survivors in their healing process.

A common phrase we say is, “Grief is grief.” However, grief can be very different when the circumstances of the death are very different. Whether the death is felonious or accidental, natural (COVD/heart attack) or suicide; each officer leaves behind survivors who loved and cared for them and they need our support. It is better late than never to now be able to serve all survivors through the amazing programs and services that C.O.P.S. has provided for almost 40 years.

C.O.P.S. Executive Director Dianne Bernhard said, “C.O.P.S. and Survivors of Blue Suicide (SBS) are working together to ensure all survivors who have lost an officer receive support for their grief. There is no deadline for grief to pass and we appreciate our partners helping us provide support for as long as survivors need us.”

Shelley will be focusing her efforts on outreach to both the families and agencies. Education and outreach will be key, as the first interactions after the death can impact survivors for the rest of their lives. She is available to C.O.P.S. Chapters for any questions that may arise, as well as to assist with outreach efforts.

If you should have questions regarding line-of-duty death response and how this law impacts the operation of C.O.P.S. moving forward, please visit www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org. Dates and locations for programs for all survivors in 2023 will be announced soon.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as the details and adjustments of the organization progress.
C.O.P.S. hosted the 16th Annual National Golf Tournament on July 31st at Osage National Golf and Country Club in Lake Ozark (MO). Teams made up of law enforcement personnel and their supporters had a fabulous day where they raised money for survivors, increased awareness of the organization, and enjoyed friendly competition.

This tournament raised over $41,000 worth of monetary and in-kind donations! We look forward to another sold-out tournament in 2023!

Suzie Sawyer’s Twisted Golf Classic had to be rescheduled due to weather conditions. Originally scheduled for June, players were able to enjoy the perfect weather on August 22nd at Lake Valley Golf and Country Club in Camdenton (MO), which is Suzie’s home course!

This tournament is FUN! Tricks, twists, and games at every hole gave bad golfers an even playing field, and good golfers some challenges. No matter which one you were, your support for survivors was appreciated!

This tournament raised over $13,000 worth of monetary and in-kind donations! The dates for both national golf tournaments will be announced at the first of the year.
Greater Houston C.O.P.S. had two fun filled fall gatherings for their survivors. Fifty survivors met at Main Event in Humble for an afternoon of fun. Four hours were spent bowling, shooting pool, playing lazer tag, doing the ropes course, playing arcade games and enjoying pizza while visiting among the attendees. It was a fun time and they hope to do it again in the spring.

One hundred survivors received tickets to attend the Houston Astros First Responders game on September 11th. The Astros played the Los Angeles Angels, winning 12-4. Rishi Singh, Chapter Secretary, worked to get tickets donated by the Houston Astros Foundation. A great time was had by all who attended.

On Aug 10, 2022, Harris County Sheriff’s Office CPAAA had a bench dedication ceremony at the Vehicular Crimes Division in honor of Deputy Darren Almendarez, EOW 3/31/2022. His spouse, Flor Almendarez, attended the presentation.

Kaila Sullivan, EOW 12-10-2019, is the first officer killed in the Nassau Bay Police Department. A memorial was placed in her honor outside the Police Station on July 9, 2022. Tracey Sullivan, Kaila’s spouse, son Kaden, mother, Sheri Sullivan and Nassau Bay officers were present for the ceremony.

Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Pct. 7 Constable May Walker, Sherif Ed Gonzalez, HCTRA Executive Director Roberto Trevino and the family of Deputy Chavis dedicated a Memorial Tollway Building in honor of Harris County Deputy Constable Jennifer Chavis, EOW 4/2/2022.

Harris County Deputy Shaun Waters, EOW 8/1/2021, will be remembered by many each day as they go to the park that was named in his honor. His wife, Ar’Solanda and children, Shaun Jr and Mer’Velina were there for the name reveal.

Houston Police Department had a boat christening in honor of Officer Henry Canales, EOW 6/23/2009. Lucia Canales, Henry’s sister, granddaughter Lilliana and other family members were in attendance.

The Pennsylvania C.O.P.S. Chapter hosted their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament in Erie (PA).

Through this tournament, the chapter has had requests from departments to hold a second tournament in a second location. Date and location is TBD, but follow the chapter’s facebook page for updated information.
Members of the Michigan C.O.P.S. Chapter took to the streets on their bicycles to honor their fallen heroes.

On August 14-18, 2022, members of the Michigan Police Unity Team rode over 360 miles from Stevensville to Petoskey (MI) to honor the officers in Michigan who have died in the line of duty. This ride could not happen without the amazing group made up of law enforcement officers and survivors. MI-C.O.P.S. Board Members riding were: Brian Rendon, Katie MacDonald, Sean Mills, former MI-C.O.P.S. President, Andrea Arrington and support person, Karen Black. The team is already well into the planning stages for the 5th Annual Thin Blue Shore Line Memorial Ride.

Thank you again for remembering our fallen officers and your support of our Michigan survivors!

Ohio holds three major events a year. One of those events was a Murder/Mystery Bash held on August 6th in Cincinnati. This event required audience participation. Not one person in our group was able to identify the culprit. So the moral of this tale… Don’t expect Ohio survivors to handle unsolved mysteries. (Just kidding!)

The chapter also traveled to Cleveland for a Haunted Ghost Tour. Survivors enjoyed a meal prior to touring haunted locations throughout the Cleveland area. Unfortunately no ghosts were spotted, but everyone had their ghost buster equipment just in case. However, at the end of the night, most attendees were plum tuckered out.
Arizona C.O.P.S. hosted their second Blue Blood Drive for 2022. The chapter wishes to thank Vitalant Blood Bank for the collection and the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office Training Academy for providing the room and 11 members of one of the academy classes.

Beth Coleman, Arizona C.O.P.S. Secretary, was proud the drive was hosted at her husband’s agency and said, “We appreciate the help getting the word out, having staff donate and especially getting the recruits from Class #157 to donate. Watching them was priceless and I know our organization appreciates that they are able to step in with community help when needed. This is the second time this year an MCSO class has been able to assist us. Just wanted to express my appreciation as working together makes the things we do as an organization easier and we love to make the connections. I’m proud to call MCSO ‘my’ agency!”

West Central Florida C.O.P.S. presents its first annual Hope Gala event. This event will feature Dave Bray USA performing and Dr. Tina Jaeckle speaking. We hope to increase awareness and build support for survivors in our area. If you have any questions or you would like to attend you can reach out on our Facebook page.

Good luck to Andrew Kondek, son of fallen Tarpon Springs Police Officer Charles Kondek, Jr. He was officially sworn in as a member of the Tampa International Airport Police Department on June 30th, 2022, and it was his 31st birthday!
A surviving sibling received a little help from the Gennessee Valley C.O.P.S. Chapter. Heather Beck, surviving sister of New York State Police (NYSP) Trooper Ross Riley, EOW 11/20/2013, reached out to Ellen Guerdat asking for help in having the NYSP K9, which is named after her brother, meet her 91-year old mother.

After a few calls, K9 Ross and his handler, NYSP Trooper Shawn Pierce, traveled to meet Shirley Riley, Trooper Riley’s surviving mother, on October 3rd.

Missouri C.O.P.S. hosted our Annual Fall Party in Rocheport (MO) on October 1st. What a fun time! We played on blowups, made crafts, did archery and fishing, ate some great food and ended the night with fireworks. Fun was had by everyone! Missouri C.O.P.S., as usual, went above and beyond to make this a memorable day for all who attended.

January 14th we will be hosting our Annual Winter Party at Old Kinderhook in Camdenton. For more information, be sure to be watching for your postcard in the mail.

Did you know? When survivors fly into St. Louis for Hands-On Programs held at the YMCA Trout Lodge, they are met with friendly faces to support them until the bus arrives to take them to retreats. Those are survivors and members of the Missouri C.O.P.S. Chapter!

Thank you to Missouri C.O.P.S. for dedicating your time and efforts for these retreats every year!

(Pictured) Surviving Co-workers were greeted by Harley and Graham!

The Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc., announce Major Heidi S. Scripture, #3579 (Ret.) as the recipient of the Association’s 2022 Former Trooper of the Year!

Heidi has earned this award through her selfless service to the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers Association, Inc., the New Jersey State Police, the Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S. Chapter, and the many other organizations and programs to which she volunteers her time and expertise. She is truly a compassionate and professional woman, and a true friend to all! Congratulations Heidi!

Heidi is the surviving co-worker of New Jersey State Trooper Christopher Scales, EOW 12/3/2002.

The chapter hosted the first “Paint Party”, with a winter holiday theme, at the general meeting in September. This meeting was hosted and planned by the family and friends of Birmingham (AL) Police Officer Robert Bennett, EOW 7/17/04. Officer Bennett had a special tribute at the event though a memory table. Pictured bottom right at the table is his daughter, Caroline.

Special pride in remembering our officers is demonstrated by Juana Vice, surviving spouse of Alabama State Senior Trooper Jason Vice, EOW 9/9/21, as she opens her memorial coin from the C.O.P.S. National Office. Juana attended National Police Week, Kids Camp with their two daughters, Spouses Retreat, and the chapter’s annual picnic all in one year.

The annual Alabama C.O.P.S. Christmas party, with Blue Santa, is being hosted by Wanda Williams, surviving mother of Calhoun County (AL) Sheriff’s Deputy Jailer Timothy Williams, EOW 10/17/01. This party will be December 3rd in Anniston (AL).

There is a lot happening in Alabama. Join us for all our fun and activities in 2023 as we rebuild the shattered lives of our families.

Northern Nevada C.O.P.S. enjoyed getting together and sharing the mission of C.O.P.S. during the Faith & Blue Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, October 8th, in Reno (NV). Fun was had by all attendees and 50 percent of the proceeds went to the chapter!

The chapter is thrilled to announce the annual “An Evening In Blue” has moved to a new venue in 2023. Save the date for this awesome night on April 22, 2023, to be hosted at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno! Contact the chapter for tickets.
Kansas C.O.P.S. held their annual Golf Tournament on September 11th in Topeka (KS). Thirty-four teams enjoyed a fabulous weather day, a BBQ lunch, and great raffle opportunities! Our sincere appreciation goes out to all these individuals who make it so much fun to be at this tournament, and who helped us raise over $9000 for our Kansas C.O.P.S. survivors! A huge “THANK YOU” to Teresa Gallegos for her tireless work on this tournament, and to her team of volunteers for another wonderful event.

Also in attendance was Harry Herington, longtime supporter of C.O.P.S. and Kansas resident. He not only played in the tournament, he brought out his custom C.O.P.S. Polaris for rides and pictures!

The Wisconsin C.O.P.S. Chapter was contacted by Sarah Deutsch whose husband is a police officer in Wisconsin. She wanted to share with us a paper her freshman 15-year old daughter, Kaelyn, had written regarding C.O.P.S. Her daughter’s ELA class had to pick a non-profit that has influence in their life, or that has made an impression. They had to research and do a 5-minute speech presenting their organization of choice. Kaelyn chose C.O.P.S.

Sarah said, “I’m not going to lie, when she was practicing the speech, she got choked up, and of course, my eyes filled with tears. Her dad is proud. What your organization is doing is commendable. I’m hoping and praying that my husband is safe and out of harm’s way throughout his career. People notice you. My kids notice you. And they know that they have your support. Thanks for all you do!”

After reading the email, Jo Ann Mignon, Chapter President, knew she had to meet with this young lady and her family. During that meeting it was discovered that her father is an Ashwaubenon Police Officer who had volunteered a few weeks earlier with the chapter at the airport in Milwaukee to meet and escort survivors arriving for Kids camp!

We have included Kaelyn’s beautifully written speech she presented on the following page.
Who do you call when someone is banging on your door, frantically screaming at 2 am? Who do you call when you’re in a car accident? Who do you call when you’re getting chased by someone in a dark alley? Who do you call when you walk into a house, and someone is lying on the ground?

What’s the answer to all of those questions? Police officers. In the time of fear, and panic, we all RUN away, yet, police officers run TO the problem.

According to the charity I chose, Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S), the website states they are a non-profit that provides resources to families of fallen police officers. This non-profit provides resources for police officers, counseling (even for kids), mental health evaluations, and offers local chapters to families of police officers. They hold special events for police families and celebrate national police week. This non-profit helps kids of fallen police officers by offering them financial support for college, scholarships, and additional materials to get them through college.

As little kids grow up, you can ask them, “What do you want to be when you grow up… A common answer is “A police officer.” Being a police officer is a noble job. It has high stakes, with little reward. They see the worst. They stop crime. They are the first on the scene when someone dials 911.

In the last two years, crime against police officers has been higher than normal. They have gotten a bad name. Statistics have shown there are crimes against them, just because of their profession. Do they make mistakes? Yes. Are they human, Yes. Are all of them bad, No. There are good and bad in each profession. Doctors make mistakes. Lawyers make mistakes. Nurses make mistakes. No one is perfect. No job is perfect. But, in the end, they are human. Police officers have families. They are a son or daughter. They are an aunt or uncle. They are someone’s mom or dad. To me, it’s my dad. My dad is the one I call. It’s who you would call in your time of panic. He comes to help you. The blue community, like this non-profit C.O.P.S, stands with families. My greatest fear is something happening to my dad.

According to statistics reported to the FBI (fbi.gov), “59 police officers were killed in the line of duty from January 1, 2021, to September 30, 2021. This marks a 51 percent increase in the number of police officers killed when compared to the same period last year. Nationally, 60,105 law enforcement officers were assaulted while performing their duties in 2020. These assaults were reported to the FBI by 9,895 law enforcement agencies. Based on these reports, there were 4,071 more officers assaulted in 2020 than reported in 2019.”

I’d like to give you an idea of what dangers my dad faces on a daily basis. For example, just in the last year my dad’s coworkers were involved in two shooting incidents. You may have heard about the shooting incident at the Oneida Casino. In which, several people lost their lives. Three died, including the shooter, and one severely injured. My dad was on scene at a traffic stop when one of the police squads was rear ended by a drunk driver, almost hitting the other officer and my dad. Just even this past week my dad was also the first on scene with a girl swinging a knife straight at somebody. My dad’s job varies everyday involving drug overdose, death scenes, and assisting child protection services in removing children from unsafe homes. These are just a small sample size of what my dad encounters on a day to day basis. What would you do in these situations? Would you have enough courage to do this profession? Also, how do you think you would emotionally and mentally react to these horrifying events?

And think to yourself, Would you run to protect? Would you run to save? Would you stop crime if you saw it? It takes a lot of strength to do all of those things. The Providence Journal stated that law enforcement agencies are reporting an 86 percent staffing shortage. Who will we call if there are no cops? I don’t know about you, I’m only going to call my dad or Jesus.

This non-profit is for me. They are my source when I’m afraid of something happening. They will be there for my mom if something happens to my dad. They will be there for me and my siblings. They will honor him for his service to the community. They will honor him for sacrificing his life to protect yours. I hope I never have to experience this, and that I never have to use C.O.P.S. But I will be there for my blue family and extend a hand to other families in their time of need.

Whatcha gonna do when they come for you? Remember it’s someone’s family member protecting you. It’s someone’s dad. It’s my dad.

~ Kaelyn Deutsch, 9th grade
C.O.P.S. Scholarships

C.O.P.S. Granted $78,000 in Scholarships for the 2022 Fall Semester. Several benefactors help C.O.P.S. provide these scholarships. This year’s funding came from McDavid Group Charities and Motorola Solutions Foundation. The scholarship fund has provided over $2.2 million in scholarships to survivors since 1993.

Recipients of the 2022 C.O.P.S. Fall scholarship are:

Amara Baez is a student at Cairn University, completing her degree in Elementary Education. Amara is the daughter of Alex Baez, EOW 11/22/2008.

Colter Baron is a student at Grand Canyon University, completing his degree in Justice Studies. Colter is the son of Robert Baron, EOW 12/6/2013.

Caroline Bennett is a student at Samford University, completing her degree in Social Work. Caroline is the daughter of Charles Bennett, EOW 6/17/2004.

River Bickham is a student at Texas A&M-Corpus Cristi, completing her degree in Environmental Science. River is the daughter of Jeffery Bickham, EOW 9/20/2005.

Katianna Blackwell-Scott is a student at Kenyon College, completing her degree in Biology. Katianna is the daughter of Beryl Scott, EOW 9/10/2002.

Kristin Burt is a student at American Career College, completing her degree in Radiology. Kristin is the spouse of Don Burt, EOW 7/13/1996.

Noelle Carruth is a student at University of Monroe Louisiana, completing her degree in Psychology. Noelle is the daughter of Jeremy Carruth, EOW 2/20/2003.

Orlando Cordero is a student at National University College, completing his degree in Clinical Sonography. Orlando is the son of Noel Cordero-Guzman, EOW 1/15/2010.

Mariah Darden is a student at Virginia State University, completing her degree in Hospitality/Human Ecology. Mariah is the daughter of Seneca Darden, EOW 5/21/2006.

Kadin Denner is a student at CSU Bakersfield, completing his degree in Electrical Engineering. Kadin is the son of Kevin Denner, EOW 5/6/2013.

Madison Draper is a student at Joyce University of Nursing & Health Science, completing her degree in Nursing. Madison is the daughter of Jon Draper, EOW 1/24/2004.

Kiana Favela is a student at Chapman University, completing her degree in Broadcast Journalism. Kiana is the daughter of Steve Favela, EOW 11/26/2006.

Matthew Favela is a student at Chapman University, completing his degree in Data/Computer Science. Matthew is the son of Steve Favela, EOW 11/26/2006.

Krystin Ferrara is a student at Hofstra University, completing her degree in Natural Sciences. Krystin is the daughter of Keith Ferrara, EOW 5/29/2019.

Emilee Fleshner is a student at University of Central Florida, completing her degree in Psychology. Emilee is the daughter of Deputy Adam Fleshner, EOW 1/13/2003.

Jocelyn Fontanez-Rivera is a student at UPR Recito Universitario Cayey, completing her Bachelor degree in Psychology. Jocelyn is the daughter of Jose Fontanez-Correa, EOW 5/23/2007.

Cassie Forgione is a student at University of Missouri, completing her degree in Equine Studies. Cassie is the daughter of Anthony Forgione, EOW 7/22/2008.

Dara Gannon is a student at Suffolk University, completing her degree in Public Administration. Dara is the spouse of Sean Gannon, EOW 4/12/2018.

Kaila Holloway is a student at LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans Student Fin, completing her degree in Medicine MD/MPH Program. Kaila is the daughter of Daryle Holloway, EOW 6/20/2015.

Aidan Huczko is a student at Pennsylvania State University, competing his degree in Geographic Information Systems. Aidan is the son of Stephen Huczko, EOW 9/11/2001.

Brandi Koprowski is a student at Campbell Law School, completing her law degree. Brandi is the spouse of Keith Bellar, EOW 6/7/2011.

Ethan Lee is a student at University of Alabama, completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering. Ethan is the step-son of Scott Lunger, EOW 7/22/2015.
Deadline Dates for Scholarship Applications are as follows:

**Summer Semester - April 1 // Fall Semester - June 1 // Winter/Spring Semesters - October 1**

**APPLY ONLINE at concernsofpoliciesurvivors.org**

C.O.P.S. scholarships are awarded to surviving children and spouses of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, who wish to pursue a course of study beyond high school. An independent scholarship committee determines recipients. Scholarships are not awarded to survivors who are entitled to a tuition-free education as a state death benefit.
Traumas of Law Enforcement Training

Presented by C.O.P.S.

Who Should Attend?
Law Enforcement Administrators, Officers and Deputies, Peer Support and Employee Assistance Personnel, Planning and Research, Chaplains, Survivors, and Law Enforcement Spouses

Curriculum
LODD Preparation, PSOB Benefits, Injured Officer & Disability Issues, Law Enforcement Research Findings, General Orders, Implementing agency liaisons, Peer Support, Surviving the Law Enforcement Career, Stress & Trauma issues, Survivor Support, Police Suicide, Funeral Planning & Protocol, C.O.P.S. Programs & Resources, and personal triumphs

Presenters
Presenters for this training include Survivors, Law Enforcement Officers, Counselors, and experts in the field of Law Enforcement Trauma and Police Suicide.

Peer Support
Peer Support will be on site and will be available for anyone that may be impacted by the discussion topics.

These trainings are FREE!

2023 Locations Announced!
(Dates Are Subject To Change)

Nassau County, NY
December 5th - 7th, 2022

Atlanta, GA
February 20th - 22nd, 2023

Lubbock, TX
March 20th - 22nd, 2023

New Orleans, LA
April 3rd - 5th, 2023

Salt Lake City, UT
April 17th - 19th, 2023

Wichita, KS
June 12th - 14th, 2023

Vancouver, WA
July 10th - 12th, 2023

Kannapolis, NC
August 28th - 30th, 2023

Naperville, IL
September 18th - 20th, 2023

CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 2020-PS-DX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
Thank you to all of our 2022 Annual Sponsors!

We would like to recognize our 2022 Guardian, Peacekeeper and Defender sponsors that helped make all aspects of National Police Week, National Conference on Law Enforcement Wellness and Trauma and all nine of our Traumas of Law Enforcement training possible throughout the year.

On behalf of our National Board, National Staff and all 55 chapters throughout the country, we thank you!

You are such an important part of our C.O.P.S. Family and your impact ripples through our 65,000 survivors on a daily basis.

You make **HOPE** possible.
You **IMPACT** those we serve.
You **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**.
You are **APPRECIATED**.

2022 Guardian Sponsor
*Streamlight*

2022 Peacekeeper Sponsors
*GLOCK*
*Off-Road United*
*Verizon*

2022 Defender Sponsors
*Justice Federal Credit Union*
*Thin Blue Line USA*

We would like to recognize our 2022 Courage and Fortitude sponsors that helped make all aspects of our Hands-On Programs possible throughout the year. These retreats are at the heart of our mission and impact so many lives and help survivors be part of a family that will walk by their sides forever.

2022 Courage Sponsor
*Off-Road United*

2022 Fortitude Sponsor
*Ride4COPS*

A special thanks to **Law Enforcement United** for your continuous support of survivors over the years. LEU has provided over $4,087,000 to C.O.P.S. since 2009!

LEU is actively recruiting for the 2023 rides from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Visit leunited.org for details!

“Thank you so much for supporting C.O.P.S. As a surviving sibling, C.O.P.S. has been so helpful in helping me process my brother’s death. I have healing in community, in this great organization. So from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!”

—Zach Leonard
Surviving Brother of Concho County (TX) Sheriff’s Deputy Samuel Leonard, EOW 5/10/2021
C.O.P.S. has been fortunate to have many companies give monetary donations over the years. But few have been as hands on as Streamlight, Inc. Founded by Harry French in 1973, Streamlight is the leading provider of lights used by first responders. They have donated over $2,073,000 to date!

In 2023, Streamlight will be celebrating its 50th year. In anticipation of the anniversary, Clayton French, Director of Special Projects and Harry’s son, has been reflecting on the journey from 1973 and the important values that have sustained the company. He said, “Streamlight’s recipe for success has been made up of the values including, providing professional grade lighting solutions for our customers, respecting our employees, and maintaining a commitment to being a good corporate citizen. Streamlight has been fortunate and honored to give back, especially to those that have supported us through the years. These values have proved to be a successful civic and corporate recipe for Streamlight. I hope to continue to instill these values both corporately and with my family.”

Clayton is a familiar face at COPS Walk events where he can be seen walking side-by-side with survivors. In October 2022 at COPS Walk Harpers Ferry, he received an award for completing his 500th mile!

“Having participated in many C.O.P.S. events, I have benefitted from the relationship between Streamlight and C.O.P.S. I am amazed that I have been able to complete 20 COPS Walks. It’s been quite a journey, 25 miles at a time,” said Clayton. “But for me, it’s about connecting with the survivors, hearing their stories, and gaining a better understanding of their journeys and how C.O.P.S. plays such a critical role in their lives and their healing. I have also witnessed the passion and commitment of the staff of C.O.P.S. toward their mission. It is easy, therefore, to support such an impactful organization, that provides so much to the survivors. Streamlight, and I, proudly support C.O.P.S.”

On behalf of the entire C.O.P.S. membership, thank you to Clayton and the Streamlight team for the continued support year after year.
COPS Walk Harpers Ferry raised over $60,000 at the 2022 walk. Top individual fundraiser was Andrea Lomas, who also celebrated hitting the 300 mile mark this year. Top Team fundraiser was “Team Choose Happiness”, which was comprised of 21 people!

Walkers enjoyed the beautiful scenery along the C&O Canal in Harpers Ferry (WV). Many participants have said they enjoy this event because it gives them a chance to not only complete the physical challenge of walking 25 miles over two days, but it allows them to connect with other law enforcement survivors from all across the nation and from different survivorships.

If you were unable to attend this walk and would like to participate, COPS Walk Southwest is coming up in February. Details are on the next page!

Congrats to Clayton French for completing 500 miles and to Andrea Lomas for completing 300 miles!

Andrea is the surviving sister of New Jersey State Police Trooper Bertram Zimmerman, III, EOW 2/5/2004.
COPS Walk Southwest brings together survivors, friends, and members of the law enforcement community to walk 25 miles in 2 days in honor of fallen officers. Proceeds from this event help fund C.O.P.S. services.

What & Why
COPS Walk Southwest brings together survivors, friends, and members of the law enforcement community to walk 25 miles in 2 days in honor of fallen officers. Proceeds from this event help fund C.O.P.S. services.

Additional Information
- Raise a minimum of $1,000 for C.O.P.S. to be a participant.
- Funds raised will be processed by the National C.O.P.S. Office.
- All donations must be received by January 24th for Awards.
- Please take your training seriously, but don’t be intimidated.
- If you are flying, please fly into Phoenix Sky Harbor Int. Airport.
- Please arrive by 5:00 P.M. on Friday evening.

Registration Deadline
January 24, 2023

Stay Tuned
Hotel Information Coming Soon

Register Today
Don’t forget to place your order for the 2022 C.O.P.S. holiday ornament. This year’s design was created by Emma Moody, 15, surviving daughter of Richmond (CA) Police Officer Bradley Moody, EOW 10/7/2008.

Emma said, “My mom, sister, and I have a tree only for my dad with all his ornaments he had growing up, and memorial ornaments we got to honor him. All the lights on the tree are blue. It’s the first thing to go up during the holidays and the last thing to come down.”

If we receive your order by December 2, 2022, the ornament can be mailed to you before Christmas. Or you can choose to have your ornament displayed on the Christmas tree at the National Office and mailed to you after the holidays.

To order, visit concernsofpolicesurvivors.org or scan the QR code. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the C.O.P.S. Development team at 573.346.4911.

When Warren Ropp, from “Racing for a Cause”, saw these pieces, he knew he wanted to give back to the C.O.P.S. National Office by ordering this amazing custom metal version of the logo. Warren is pictured at right delivering the piece to Dianne Bernhard, C.O.P.S. Executive Director. The Saint Michael art was donated to the Iowa C.O.P.S. Chapter.

If you are looking for a memorial piece or any kind of design turned to metal art, you can reach Premier Metal Art by visiting qcpremier.com or following @premieremetalart on social media.
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Total: $9,773,958.61
Concerns of Police Survivors
P.O. Box 3199 846 Old South Highway 5
Camdenton, MO 65020

Change Service Requested

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