



## SUMMER 2025 VOL. 39, NO. 2

The Official Publication of Concerns of Police Survivors for Survivors, Agencies, and Supporters. P.O. Box 3199 - 846 Old South 5 - Camdenton, MO 65020 - Phone: 573-346-4911 - concernsofpolicesurvivors.org

## In This Issue

3	President's Message	32-33	Now That My Survivor Weekend is Over
4	Board Member Contacts / Applicants	34	Traumas of Law Enforcement / COPS Shop
5	Surviving to Thriving Conference	35	COPS Walk to the Wall
6-7	Chapter Contacts	36	C.O.P.S. National Conference on Law
8-12	News of Note		Enforcement Wellness & Trauma
13-17	Chapter Chatter	37	C.O.P.S. Scholarships
18-21	Survivor Spotlight	38-39	General Donations
22-29	National Police Week 2025 Recap		
30-31	Photo Recap - Survivor Weekends		

## **Mission Statement**

## Rebuilding the shattered lives of surviving family members and co-workers affected by a line-of-duty death.

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. <u>Please know that all submissions will be considered, but may not be published</u>. 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 blake\_haynes@nationalcops.org with the subject line "Newsletter Submission."

## Information for Our Readers

Throughout C.O.P.S. publications, you will find codes that indicate 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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## FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Friends:

At the Candlelight Vigil, those attending received a gift of flower seeds. This gift was given to remind us that growth often begins in darkness – beneath the soil, in silence, unseen. But with time, care, and love, something beautiful emerges. It is my sincere desire that you each plant them as a reminder that seasons change.

As my term serving as YOUR National President comes to a close, our responsibility to keep this organization moving forward only grows. Change is never easy, but often something beautiful emerges from it. Watching that beauty unfold within our chapters throughout these transitions has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time in this role.

Someone recently shared that my service has been marked by love, kindness, and compassion for everyone. In truth, it is not my service that reflects these qualities - it is OUR organization, through each and every one of you. It is YOUR passion that brings light to those who are grieving. It is YOUR love that offers comfort to their souls. It is YOUR smile that brightens their day.

As I've often said, it takes a village. And yes, it certainly does! Members of C.O.P.S., chapter leaders, our support team, national staff, and the national board have all walked hand in hand, providing the guidance and dedication needed to ensure the work is done - and done well.

Passing the torch to the next President is both exciting and inspiring. This individual will lead in their way - and that's what keeps life rich and full of new possibilities. After all, wouldn't it be boring if everything always stayed the same? I encourage you to embrace this new chapter with open hearts and eager anticipation.

Thank you to everyone who has walked beside me over these past two years. I hope you found moments to laugh at some of my silly, childlike ways - because when we allow ourselves to tap into that childlike innocence, we often rediscover pure joy.

And remember, when life gets difficult, just keep swimming! That is how we honor our loved ones.

With much love & hugs,

Coxxie S. Mayor

Connie S. Moyer

C.O.P.S. National President

## ON THE COVER



A rider of Law Enforcement United (LEU) celebrates after riding 250 miles into the Washington Hilton during National Police Week this year.

## C.O.P.S. NATIONAL OFFICE

### Executive

Dianne Bernhard, Executive Director Barbie Squires, Deputy Director

## **Administrative**

Amy Hadfield, Administrative Director Robby Robinson, IT Specialist Dave Heimerl, Custodian

## **Chapter & Survivor Support**

Laurie Putnam, Chapter & Survivor Support Director Alyssa Starnes, Survivor Support Specialist Felicia Rosa, Chapter Specialist Pari Moody, Survivor Support Coordinator Erin Gisselbeck, Survivor Support Assistant Amy Morgan, Chapter Success Coach\* Shelley Jones, Survivor Outreach Specialist\*

## **Outreach**

Sara Slone, Outreach Director Blake Haynes, Communications Manager Nicole Dupree, Merchandise Specialist Clint Schaffnit, Multimedia Specialist Nicholas Geiger, Development Specialist Angel Welch, Development Assistant Tieha Roberts, Merchandise Assistant

### Services

Erin Barnett, Services Director Blair Sien, Programs Manager Madi Custer, Programs Assistant Bri Lizotte, Programs Assistant

## **Trainings**

Bob Currier, Training Director Haley Owens, Training Specialist Emily Debert, Training Coordinator

\*Consultant

## CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

National President Connie Moyer W/17 connie\_moyer@nationalcops.org

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Southwest Region Trustee
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Western Region Trustee
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Executive Director

Non-Voting Board Member

Dianne Bernhard CW/05

dianne bernhard@nationalcops.org

Executive Director Emeritus Non-Voting Board Member Suzie Sawyer

National Board Members as of July 1, 2025

The upcoming National Board Meeting will be held in January 2026 in a location TBD.

If you have a topic of discussion to submit for the meeting, please email Barbie Squires at barbie squires@nationalcops.org.



Photo taken at the Motor Escort Officer Meeting during National Police Week 2025.

The National Board election results for 2025-2026 were held in July 2025 and will be annouced soon.

For additional information about those results, please reference the "National Board" page on the

National C.O.P.S. website www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org.

# C.O.P.S. Surviving to Thriving Conference

November 13 - 16, 2025

NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT **NEW ORLEANS, LA** 



\$250/Person



This conference welcomes surviving family members, co-workers, and guests of the C.O.P.S. National Board who are age 18 and over. Please note there is no Day Care or Kids Program for children under the age of 18.

C.O.P.S. is offering you another fun and uplifting conference event for ALL SURVIVORS! "Surviving to Thriving" Conference invites survivors to come together, regardless of survivorship, to participate in informational life sessions, interactive experiences, and activities that bring challenge and laughter! Most importantly, the bonds of peer support will be evident!

This conference does not replace the FREE Survivor Weekends available to survivors. This is an additional opportunity for survivors to connect with their family, blood AND blue!



"I wanted an opportunity to be with fellow survivors that wasn't as heavy and busy as NPW, but also not as exclusive as the retreat. I enjoyed the sessions being good for all survivors, regardless of how far out from their officer's EOW. I hope to see more of my friends from years past come to this in the future and meet some survivors who have not felt compelled to go to their retreat at this conference next year." - 2024 Attendee



REGISTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER

## CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS CHAPTERS AND CONTACTS

To enable the C.O.P.S. organization to provide peer support close to home, below are 53 C.O.P.S. Chapters that are here to help you through the difficult times. These are the Chapter Representatives as of June 27, 2025:

## Alabama C.O.P.S.

Lee Ann Thompson, President alabamacops.leeann@gmail.com (251) 423-7503 www.alabamacops.org

### Alaska C.O.P.S.

Angie Rich, President (907) 978-1017 atrichak@hotmail.com www.alaskacops.org

## Arizona C.O.P.S.

Marie Dryer-Kircher, President marie.dryer@copsarizona.org (602) 228-0643 www.copsarizona.org

## Arkansas C.O.P.S.

Mary Carmikle, President mcarmikle@gmail.com (501) 206-8689 www.arkansascops.org

California

## Central CAL C.O.P.S.

Renee Watson, President board.cencalcops@gmail.com (209) 505-4219 www.cencalcops.org

## Northern CAL C.O.P.S.

Susan Moody, President k27forever@norcalcops.org (707) 372-1604 www.norcalcops.org

### Southern CAL C.O.P.S.

Kathleen Poole, President kpoole.socalcops@gmail.com (909) 952-3687 www.socalcops.org

## Colorado C.O.P.S.

Jennifer Williams, President jennifer.williams@coloradocops.org (303) 423-5102 www.coloradocops.org

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

## DC C.O.P.S.

Denise LeValley, President president@dc-cops.org (202) 332-2677 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.

Bria Barry, President bbritten829@ymail.com (352) 406-0184 www.centralfloridacops.org

## Northeast FL C.O.P.S.

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### Northwest FL C.O.P.S.

Harold Shover, President nwfloridacops@gmail.com (850) 635-5484

## South FL C.O.P.S.

Tanya Barrett, President sofloridacops@gmail.com (954) 415-3209 www.soflocops.com

### West Central FL C.O.P.S.

Donna Wudyka, President mighty3497@aol.com (313) 622-6048 www.westcentralflcops.org

## Georgia C.O.P.S.

Pat Newlin-Porter, President pnewlinporter@gmail.com www.gacops.org

### Idaho C.O.P.S.

Jerry Miller, President jerry\_miller@idahocops.com (208) 761-4052 www.idahocops.com

### Illinois C.O.P.S.

Kim Cessna, President president@ilcops.org (844) 245-1915 www.ilcops.org

## Indiana C.O.P.S.

Susie Thomas, President hockeymomsuz@msn.com (260) 615-8888 www.copsindiana.org

## Iowa C.O.P.S.

Devon Barrett, President devon@iowacops.org (319) 640-0259 www.iowacops.org

## Kansas C.O.P.S.

Connie Weber, President Allconn801@gmail.com (785) 754-8807 www.kscops.org

## Kentucky C.O.P.S.

Craig Sutter, President kentuckycops@gmail.com www.copskentucky.net

## Louisiana C.O.P.S.

Holly Gildig, President president@la-cops.org (985) 320-6344 www.la-cops.org

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

## Maryland C.O.P.S.

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

## Michigan C.O.P.S.

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## Minnesota C.O.P.S.

Jim Giese, President minnesotacops@gmail.com (651) 955-1361 www.mncops.org

## Mississippi C.O.P.S.

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## CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS CHAPTERS AND CONTACTS

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Nevada

## Northern Nevada C.O.P.S.

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

New Jersey

## Garden State C.O.P.S.

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## NJSP Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S.

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## New Mexico C.O.P.S.

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New York

## Genesee Valley C.O.P.S.

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### Metro NY C.O.P.S.

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## North Carolina C.O.P.S.

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## Oregon C.O.P.S.

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## Pennsylvania C.O.P.S.

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

South Carolina

## Carolina C.O.P.S.

Mike Whitfield, President mike.whitfield84@bellsouth.net (864) 430-7761 www.carolinacops.org Tennessee

## Middle and East TN C.O.P.S.

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## West TN C.O.P.S.

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Texas

## **Greater Houston C.O.P.S.**

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## Metroplex TX C.O.P.S.

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## South Texas C.O.P.S.

Joey Stinson, President Jstinson185@gmail.com (214) 284-9045 www.southtexascops.com

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

## Utah C.O.P.S.

Shante Johnson, President shante.utahcops@gmail.com (801) 450-1857 www.utahcops.org

## Virginia C.O.P.S.

Betty Walker, President president@virginiacops.com (804) 221-3041 www.virginiacops.com

## Washington State C.O.P.S.

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## Wisconsin C.O.P.S.

Jo Ann Mignon, President joannmignon@wicops.org (920) 851-3805 www.wicops.org

Hawaii // North Dakota // South Dakota // West Virginia // Wyoming

# EWS OF NOTE

## Marriages/Engagements



Congratulations to **Colton McKnight** who was united in marriage to Halie Jones on May 3, 2025.

Colton is the surviving nephew of Chambers County (TX) Sheriff Deputy Shane Detwiler, EOW 7/13/2009.

## Graduations



**Robin Lee** graduated from North Central College on May 4, 2025, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Graphic Design.

Robin is the surviving daughter of Maricopa County (AZ) Detention Officer Gene W. Lee, EOW 10/30/2019.



Congratulations to **Austin Haworth** who was united in marriage to Savannah Wallace in a beautiful Miami garden ceremony on February 8, 2025.

Austin is the surviving son of Miami-Dade (FL) Police Detective Amanda Haworth, EOW 1/20/2011.



**Dixie Stauffer** graduated from Dutchtown High School in May 2025. She will attend Paul Mitchell Schools for Cosmetology in the fall.

Dixie is the surviving daughter of Tupelo (MS) Police Corporal Kevin Gale Stauffer, Jr., EOW 12/23/2013.

## **GRADUATIONS CONTINUED...**



Erin McCrystal graduated from Greenhill High School on May 24, 2025. She will be attending East Tennessee State University in the fall.

Erin is the surviving daughter of Georgia Department of Corrections Sergeant James McCrystal, Sr., EOW 7/14/2015.



Lilianna Grace Seals Gregory received her high school diploma on May 2, 2025. She will attend Southeast Louisiana University in the fall and has already made the dance team.

Lilianna is the surviving daughter of Slidell (LA) Police Officer Jason Seals, EOW 11/17/2018.

**Gracie Preslar** graduated from Monmouth University on May 15, 2025 with a degree in Criminal Justice, minoring in Homeland Security. She plans to pursue a career in law enforcement following a busy summer.

Gracie is the surviving daughter of Lakewood (NJ) Police Officer William "Nichie" Preslar, EOW 5/14/2007.



Alex Poplawski recently graduated from the police academy, and is currently working for Sumner County (TN) as a Deputy Sheriff.

Alex is the surviving nephew of Sumner County (TN) Sheriff Deputy Brian Denning, EOW 12/8/2008.



**Bailey Caitlin Dunn** graduated from Amarillo High School on May 19, 2025. She plans to go into Museum Education working with school-age kids.

Bailey is the surviving daughter of Amarillo (TX) Police Sergeant Michael D. Dunn, EOW 10/22/2021.



## **GRADUATIONS CONTINUED...**



**Ceylan Santos** graduated with honors, Summa Cum Laude, from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in May of 2025 recieving her Bachelor's Degree in nursing.

Ceylan is the surviving daughter of Pasadena (TX) Police Detective Pedro "Pete" Mejia, EOW 2/6/2021.



Joshua Meyst graduated from the Sequoias (CA) Police Academy on January 24, 2025, where he was awarded the Top Arrest and Control Award. He is currently working for Exeter (CA) Police Department.

Joshua is the surviving son of Tulare County (CA) Correctional Deputy Jeremy Meyst, EOW 12/24/2013.

Eric Meyst graduated from Golden West High School (CA) on June 4, 2025 and is ready to make his decision on the next chapter of his life.

Eric is the surviving son of Tulare County (CA) Correctional Deputy Jeremy Meyst, EOW 12/24/2013.



Arlene Garza graduated high school, also receiving her associates degree in general studies, in May of 2025. She plans to attend Houston Christian University, on scholarship, in the fall for nursing.

Arlene is the surviving niece of Houston (TX) Police Officer Henry Canales, EOW 6/23/2009.



Kaven Rojas graduated from Grandview (WA) High School this year. He plans to study pre-med in college.

Kaven is the surviving son of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Deportation Officer Juan Rojas, EOW 8/7/2020.





Millie Taylor graduated with high honors from Anne Arundel County Public Schools Virtual Academy on May 27, 2025. She will be attending Salisbury University and will be a part of the university's dance team and marching band this fall.

Millie is the surviving daughter of Baltimore City (MD) Police Officer Forrest 'Dino' Taylor, EOW 8/29/2012.

## BIRTHS

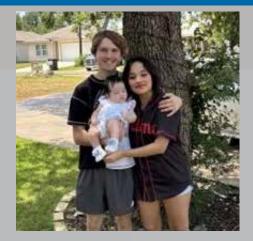


Congratulations to Aubrey, Frank and Legend Mann for the arrival of Camden! Camden was welcomed to the family on March 27, 2025.

Aubrey is the survivng sister-in-law of Rochester City (NY) Police Officer Daryl Pierson, EOW 9/3/2014.



Congratulations to **Sean and Dallas Donnell** on the birth of **Alexander Jacob Donnell**! Alexander was welcomed to the family on October 9, 2024.



Congratulations to **Audie and Celeste Detwiler** on the birth of **Sage Lucille Detwiler**. Sage was born on February 14, 2025.

Audie is the surviving son of Chambers County (TX) Sheriff Deputy Shane Detwiler, EOW 7/13/2009.



**Brayden and Carly Floyd Nicholson** welcomed their daughter, **Wrenli Kate Nicholson**, on May 26, 2025.

Carly is the surviving daughter of Summit (MS) Police Patrolman Troy Floyd, EOW 8/8/2024.

Dallas is the surviving daughter of Bellaire (TX) Police Sergeant Jimmie Norman, EOW 12/24/2012.

## BIRTHS CONTINUED...



Aiden Detwiler and Margo Murdock are proud to annouce the birth of Wes Allen Detwiler. Wes was born on October 2, 2024.

Aiden is the survivng son of Chambers County (TX) Sheriff Deputy Shane Detwiler, EOW 7/13/2009.



Kayleigh Brenton, and her family, welcomed her son, Miller Timothy Troup, into the world on June 6, 2025. Miller's middle name, Timothy, honors Kaleigh's late father.

Kayleigh is the surviving daughter of Seattle (WA) Police Officer Timothy Brenton, EOW 10/31/2009.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to **Patience Tinsley** on receiving her Emergency Medical Technicians oath of office recognition in Charles County, (MD).

Patience is the surviving sister of Charles County (MD) Patrolman First Class Jamel Clagett, EOW 12/21/2014.





C.O.P.S. and the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program

Monthly Meetings Update:

C.O.P.S. has partnered with the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program to provide joint meetings with surviving family members and the agency representatives of the fallen officer. Each meeting lasts approximately 45 minutes and is held at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

The upcoming schedule will be:

August 14th - 2025 fallen officers prior to June October 9th - 2025 fallen officers prior to July December 11th - 2025 fallen officers prior to September If you are a survivor or agency who lost their officer prior to these dates and need help with applying for benefits, C.O.P.S. Survivor Specialist, Alyssa Starnes, can be reached by calling 573.346.4911.

If you have lost an officer in a month not listed, please know you are still welcome to attend. As we learn of line-of-duty deaths in the following months, we will reach out to those families and agencies.

If you would like to attend a scheduled meeting and are not yet signed up, please call 573-346-4911 or email alyssa starnes@nationalcops.org.

## CHAPTER CHATTER:



**North Carolina C.O.P.S.** held their state ceremony, "Celebrations of Our Law Enforcement Heroes," on April 8, 2025.

During the event, attendees honored eight law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The surviving families wrote personalized biographies for each officer and provided photographs for everyone to view as the biographies were

for everyone to view as the biographies were

read aloud.









Virginia C.O.P.S. held their chapter dinner during National Police Week (NPW), with 45 attendees. The planner had to search for new venues as the number of RSVPs kept increasing! It was wonderful to see so

many people coming together to bond and connect. All first-time attendees at National Police Week expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome and support they received from everyone. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to sit down, share stories, and



enjoy each other's company. The food was fantastic, and the company was even better. Thank you to everyone who helped plan this wonderful event.



**Northern Nevada C.O.P.S.** hosted their 8th Annual Evening in Blue on Saturday, April 12, 2025.

C.O.P.S. National President Connie Moyer and surviving co-worker Sgt. Max Morgan attended the event as keynote speakers, and both delivered outstanding messages.

It was a wonderful event! The date is set for April 25, 2026, at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada!





Alabama C.O.P.S. began the process of rebuilding the shattered lives of four new families at their annual Candlelight Vigil before they made the trip to Washington, D.C. for National Police Week.

The chapter would like to extend their gratitude to the Anniston Fire Department for

allowing them to move indoors due to the inclement weather. Additionally, they would like to thank the Oxford Police Department and the City of Anniston for providing chairs, sound equipment, and the strong hands necessary to set everything up.

The Chapter also welcomed their new Police Liaison, Dennis Healy, a

surviving co-worker of Officer Andrew Stromfeld, EOW 3/29/2021.

Dennis has hit the ground running and is quickly becoming an invaluable asset to the chapter.





**Minnesota C.O.P.S.** held their 2nd Annual C.O.P.S. & Joggers 5K/10K at Lake Phalen Regional Park in St. Paul this past May. The sun shone brightly as over 120 runners, walkers, and supporters gathered to honor fallen officers and support their families.

This event's success was thanks to the dedication of Minnesota C.O.P.S. Board members, who worked tirelessly from planning to race day. A special thank you to all the volunteers, especially the St. Paul Police Explorers, for their outstanding management of the water station. We're also grateful to Toby Leonard for capturing memorable moments with his photography.



Ultimately, this run is about remembrance and community support, helping survivor families feel less alone. The chapter is already planning for next year, and this event reminded us that together, we can honor those we've lost and build lasting connections—one step at a time.

The chapter wants to recognize the incredible sponsors who made the day possible:
Chick-fil-A of Maplewood - Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling of Eagan - Anderson Race Management Jeff Belzer's Chevrolet - Wild Prairie Harley-Davidson - Maplewood Moose Lodge #963 MEUSER, YACKLEY & ROWLAND - Backing the Blue Line - Cities COP Church - VFW Post 1350 Minnesota Law Enforcement Labor Services









Michigan C.O.P.S. hosted their Annual Christmas Luncheon in Lansing, MI, on Sunday, December 8, 2024. The event took place at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West Hotel. The event had a fantastic turnout, with many surviving families in attendance.

The luncheon began with a Color Guard presentation, followed by a solo guitarist. Survivors lit candles while their loved ones' names were read. Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet, and the atmosphere was filled with cheers and smiles, especially when Santa arrived with gifts for the children.

The chapter also cheered on Rachael Starr, the surviving spouse of Michigan State Police Trooper Caleb Starr, EOW 7/31/2020, as she participated in the 2025 Law Enforcement United ride during National Police Week. Rachael cycled with the New Jersey Chapter of the Road to Hope, riding over 250 miles in three days in memory of Caleb. She is currently a trustee with the Michigan Chapter of C.O.P.S. (In the photo, Rachael is on the far left.)









Arizona C.O.P.S. held their annual holiday party on December 7, 2024 at Rustlers Rooste, a legendary cowboy steakhouse. It has become a long-standing tradition to invite all Arizona survivors to enjoy a festive celebration filled with joy and community spirit. Over 100 guests struck a pose in our fun-filled photo booth, danced to the music of a live western band, and were

amazed by the illusions of a magician. Both children and adults created their own stuffed critters to take home as cherished keepsakes.

The magic of the season wouldn't be complete without a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who distributed small gifts to the



children in attendance. As we gathered together, we took the time to honor our officers and celebrate the resilience of our survivors, making this event not only merry, but truly meaningful.





C.O.P.S.

Illinois C.O.P.S. celebrated the chapter's 20th anniversary on February 15, 2025, by holding their Blue Gala event. This was one of the largest gatherings to date, and the chapter would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the gala. During the event, Cycle Across Illinois presented a check for \$159,237.00 to Illinois C.O.P.S. The chapter appreciates everyone who

continues to prioritize this chapter and support Illinois survivors.



Additionally, Crystal Jimenez shared her survivor story during National Police Week. Crystal is the surviving spouse of Chicago Police Officer Samuel Jimenez, EOW 11/19/2018. Crystal and her children are a significant part of Illinois C.O.P.S., and

the chapter is truly grateful to have them as part of their family.





## TREAT BOX DONATION

Written By Linda Lee, Surviving Spouse of Maricopa County (AZ) Detention Officer Gene Lee, EOW 10/30/2019

My husband, Detention Officer Gene "Jim" Lee, was assaulted by an inmate at the Lower Buckeye Jail of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). When Jim died from his head injuries on October 30, 2019, my life was thrown into disarray. In addition

to my own mourning, I could see that family, friends, and fellow colleagues at MCSO were also in shock and grieving.

I had been contemplating how to thank the MCSO officers for their unwavering support during these difficult times. I developed a plan and presented it at the annual Maricopa County 4-H leaders' training session in August 2024 and began working toward my vision. The leaders were very receptive to assisting me with my idea to create "treat boxes" in MCSO colors, complete with individual cards expressing gratitude on the back for the officers' service.





The leaders took these treat box kits to their club meetings, and 4-H members, ranging in age from 5 to 18, along with their club leaders, began helping me assemble 1,200 treat boxes. Additionally, 4-H staff organized several community service days for us to put together and fill the treat boxes. They also took this project to the 2025 Maricopa County Fair, where fairgoers could help assemble treat boxes and write greetings for the officers.

I am also grateful for the financial donations from all who contributed to this project.

## C.O.P.S. Sends Condolences to the Families of:



*Maureen King, 72,* died January 16, 2025. Maureen played a significant role in the New Jersey Price of Honor license plates which funds the state's survivor scholarship program.

Maureen was the surviving spouse of Long Branch (NJ) - City Public Safety Detective Patrick King, EOW 11/20/1997.



*Jim Whitehead, 81,* died February 24, 2025. Throughout his time with C.O.P.S., Jim held various roles at both the chapter and national levels, including National Region Trustee and Chapter President, as well as serving on multiple committees. In recognition of his commitment and service to C.O.P.S., Jim was awarded the Presidential Award during National Police Week 2024.

Jim was the surviving father of Multnomah County (OR) Reserve Deputy Mark Whitehead, EOW 2/26/1993.



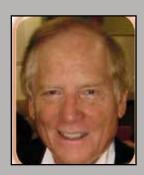
Vanessa Walsh, 48, died February 11, 2025.

Vanessa was the surviving spouse of Federal Way (WA) Police Officer Brian Walsh, EOW 3/21/2010.



*Margaret Reynolds, 97,* died on June 12, 2025. Margaret initiated a three-generation tradition in Washington State of handcrafting remembrance cards to send to survivors during the month commemorating their line of duty death.

Margaret was the surviving mother-in-law of Omak (WA) Police Officer Mike Marshall, EOW 3/26/1998.



**Bob Haworth, 81,** died April 10, 2025. Bob was a proud honorary deputy with the Miami-Dade (FL) Police Department.

Bob was the surviving father of Miami-Dade (FL) Police Detective Amanda Haworth, EOW 1/20/2011.

## **SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT**

Written By Lynn Schwab, Surviving Sister of Wisconsin Department of Corrections Youth Counselor Corey Proulx, EOW 6/25/2024



June 24, 2024, the day that changed our lives forever. This date propelled us into an unknown future, one that felt impossible to comprehend in the minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years to come. It altered our family irrevocably.

My name is Lynn Schwab, and I am the youngest sister of Corey P. Proulx, EOW 6/25/2024, a youth counselor with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. I want to share our grief journey, give insight into the man Corey was, and highlight the incredible impact that Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) has had on our lives.

Growing up in a large family, eight children to be exact, there was never a shortage of jokes, sibling teasing, and arguments. Yet, even amidst all the chaos, Corey had a servant's heart from a young age. I was the annoying little sister who wanted to play Kick the Bucket with the older kids, even though the idea of creeping around the edge of the woods by myself at night terrified me. There was no way I could outrun the teenage boys to kick that pail to declare myself "safe." But Corey was always there for me, hoisting me onto his back and darting through the shadows to reach that bucket, kicking it triumphantly. Even then, as a little girl, my big brother was my hero.

Corey was an incredible human being. He was a

man of his word, had a heart the size of Texas, and was always there for anyone in need. He was a hard worker—honest, dedicated, and loyal. He consistently saw the silver lining, maintaining a positive attitude even on the darkest days. It's safe to say that he was everyone's favorite, regardless of the relationship, uncle, brother, or friend. His

quick wit combined with a sense of humor that some might consider "inappropriate" was appreciated by many, a family trait, no doubt. A nature lover, he found God's beauty each time he was on the boat or in the deer stand, often sharing his appreciation on social media with



pictures of his views. He was artistically gifted, loved painting, and gave old muscle cars a new lease on life by fixing them up. More than anything, he cherished his family and friends.

In 2021, I asked Corey if he would take my dad and me fishing. Our dad had faced health issues recently, and I hoped to have one last fishing trip with him. Corey happily obliged and became our guide, taking us to his favorite secret spot. We



ended up caught in a downpour in the middle of the lake, laughing about how we needed windshield wipers for my glasses. We watched the wildlife, which seemed to be enjoying the show, while Corey spent more time baiting my hook and taking fish off my line than he initially planned, always doing so with a smile and never complaining. I didn't realize that would be our last fishing trip together.

Corey spent several years in the utility industry before transitioning to Juvenile Corrections. After a brief departure, he chose to return, despite the dangers. When asked why, he said, "Those kids didn't get to grow up like I did. If I could change just one kid's life, it would all be worth it."

Fast forward to the evening of June 24, 2024. Just before shift change, the unthinkable happened. Corey was involved in an altercation with a juvenile who attacked his female partner. He stepped in to save her life.

When we were notified, we were deeply concerned but lacked details, as is often the case in our family. We divided responsibilities: who would notify whom, who would go to the hospital, who needed to come in from out of state and would need transportation, and so on. So many questions raced through our minds, and then the feelings of helplessness set in. You can only control yourself, and even that seemed impossible.

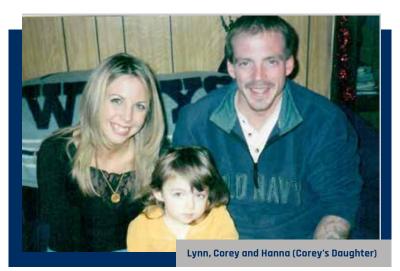
The words, "Lynn, it's Corey. He was hurt at work. It's serious. The doctor said the family needs to come. It's unrecoverable. I've got Mom and Dad, and we are headed to the hospital," still replay in my mind, each time feeling more unbelievable. What do you mean, hurt at work? Not our Corey. Our Corey doesn't get hurt, that's ridiculous. I had loved ones to call and deliver the news to, but I could barely speak. It felt as though my lungs had collapsed along with my hopes that the doctors were mistaken. Getting the words out took an act of Congress.

June 25, 2024, further testing confirmed our worst fears. Corey had succumbed to his injuries and was declared brain dead. Even through his death, Corey proved once again how amazingly selfless he was. Several of his organs were able to be har-



vested, and he continued to save lives. The Chaplain that worked at the facility was very fond of Corey and shared with me a story about one of the juveniles in their care. She told me how this young man wept over Corey's loss, saying "he was one of the good ones," and calling him "an Angel here on Earth." That he was, and maybe, just maybe, this was "that one life" Corey hoped to change.

From the very beginning, and I do mean VERY beginning, there was an outpouring of support from Jo Ann Mignon, President of the Wisconsin Chapter of C.O.P.S., and Corey's colleagues. They let us know that they were here for our family, that they too were mourning our loss with us. Jo Ann has been incredibly encouraging and compassionate as she helped, and continues to help all of us navigate this new terrain. We have a large extended family and she has embraced each of



us fully as her own. Jo Ann has made every effort to let us know we are not alone through our grief journey, both as a family and as individuals, and that there are other survivors struggling just like

## **SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...**

us. We are all on this road together, no matter what stage of grief we are in. We have a family that reaches far beyond the Merrill city limit signs. I know, in my heart of hearts, that if one of us



others are there to rally to our feet. These are the bonds that are built through C.O.P.S.

In the months leading up to National Police Week, Jo Ann and other members of C.O.P.S. assisted us with our registrations and room accommoda-

tions, answered texts, emails and phone calls, and explained to us how emotionally exhausting this week could be; the highs, the lows, a full gamut of emotions ranging from sadness and feelings of loss to love and laughter. Although I trusted fully in what I was told, after experiencing it for myself the first time, I don't believe there was any way I could be prepared for the surge of emotions that I was about experience.

It was overwhelming at times. To see all of the law enforcement agencies, other survivors and supporters was beyond anything I had ever witnessed. Every single individual was there to honor our fallen and their loved ones. The feelings of immense gratitude, honor and respect on display were quite profound. I often felt speechless and in awe. There was an underlying somberness throughout the course of events, but at the same time I felt hope and peace. There were times it

didn't even feel right, to be treated with such dignity and respect. After all, it was not I who laid down my life for another man, but someone far more courageous than myself. Then the moments stumbles and falls, that of laughter and happiness that trickled in here and there, given the gravity behind the reason we were around and get us back there, felt out of place and to an extent, inappropriate. Grief is a beast, so it is said, and no one person grieves the same. This much is true.

> We were encouraged to take advantage of all that National Police Week had to offer us, especially as first-year attendees. I am so glad that I decided to take that advice and was able to share these experiences with my family. Everything from the Bicycle Arrival Ceremonies and Candlelight Vigil, to the Welcome Session to the Honor Guard and Pipe Band Tribute, to the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, and everything in between was meticulously planned and executed.

> My siblings and I attended the Surviving Sibling Support Session while my sister-in-law participated in the Surviving Extended Family Members Support Session. Was it raw? Yes, it was raw. Was it difficult? Yes, it was difficult. Did it take your breath away at times? Yes, it certainly did. However, there is a healing element to listening to others—siblings, in this case—talk about their loved ones, their struggles, and their grief.

> Hearing other stories of immeasurable loss serves as a reminder of the unique bond we share as siblings and how we often find ourselves prioritizing the needs of other family members over our own. Many times, we focus on checking





in on them and lose sight of the fact that we have our own grief to deal with. It's important to remember, especially during times like these, that you cannot pour from an empty cup. In order to help others, you must find time to nourish your own soul.

While sitting in this class, I felt surrounded by brothers and sisters I didn't know yet sensed a kinship

with. That kinship was forged through a shared experience of loss, heartbreak, and fellowship.

During the session, the group had an opportunity to share stories about their loved ones. Our youngest brother, Tristen, recounted a story about Corey's obsession with pumpkin pie, revealing that Corey had eaten eight pies well before Thanksgiving. Corey passed away just two weeks shy of his 50th birthday, so to celebrate him, Tristen visited four different stores to find a pumpkin pie. Halfway home, he realized he had forgotten the Cool Whip and needed to return to the store. With the Cool Whip in hand, he jokingly said to Corey, "Do you know how hard it is to find pumpkin pie in July? You could at least show some appreciation for my efforts!" As if on cue, a brief but spontaneous downpour occurred. I truly believe it was Corey's way of acknowledging Tristen. This story-sharing was a wonderful opportunity for us as siblings to reminisce about the good times we had with our brother and to remember that it's okay to laugh. It reinforced the idea that, no matter what, we still have each other to lean on.

Another insightful session was "Preparing for Trial and Post-Conviction Rights." This class was filled with vital information regarding the trial process and victims' rights. The speaker was clearly a subject matter expert in her field and thoroughly explained the procedures involved. I remember

leaving the class wishing I had known this speaker when this all began, as I had taken it upon myself to research state statutes and related articles, reaching out to law firms and state representatives from the very start. This individual would have been an incredible resource for me at that time.

you cannot pour from an empty cup. In not emphasize how invaluable these resources are. For anyone who is hesitant, for any reason, to attend the support sessions, I highly encourage you to go. The therapists and counselors there are absolutely phenomenal, and there is no pressure to share your story if you're not ready.

The afternoon and evening of the Candlelight Vigil were cold and rainy. Our family huddled together under umbrellas, soaked through our ponchos, sharing laughter and making the best of the evening. I'm sure Corey was upstairs enjoying the humor of our antics. We lived in the moment that night, embracing it and making the most of it, just as he would have wanted.

C.O.P.S. is an extraordinary group of individuals with servant hearts who are here to support you. This organization truly lives up to its slogan, "Rebuilding Shattered Lives," and it is their honor to assist survivors on their journey.

Our family is forever grateful to everyone at C.O.P.S. for all they have done for us during this incredibly difficult time. They made our visit to D.C. much easier than it would have been otherwise. They worked hand-in-hand with Corey's colleagues toensure everything went as smoothly as possible. Without their



Corey Proulx
Wisconsin Department of Corrections
Youth Counselor
EOW 6/25/2024

support, we would have struggled significantly. Thanks to their combined efforts, our family was able to take full advantage of all the opportunities that National Police Week had to offer. This experience has become, and will always be, the greatest family I never wanted to be a part of.

# NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2025

## C.O.P.S. National Police Week 2025 Statistics

## C.O.P.S. Attendance by Survivors (listed in alphabetical order)

Adult Child: 200

Aunt: 54

Brother In-Law: 87

Child: 248 Cousin: 86

Co-Worker: 2,014 Co-Worker Spouse: 291

Co-Worker Significant Other: 99

Daughter In-Law: 25

Father: 81

Father In-Law: 27

Fiance: 20

Former Spouse: 13

Friend: 392 Grandchild: 156 Grandfather: 12 Grandmother: 12 Mother: 121

Mother In-Law: 45 Nephew: 60

Niece: 69 Other: 21 Sibling: 238

Significant Other: 10 Sister In-Law: 76 Son In-Law: 42 Spouse: 295 Step-Child: 22 Stepfather: 15 Stepmother: 13 Supporters: 384

Uncle: 36

Special Guests: 379 \*Donors, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Support Services, Kids/Teens Staff & Mentors, Volunteers, Staff, etc.





Guardian Sponsor



Presenting Sponsor



**Warrior Sponsors** 

















- 23 Organizations on the NPW Planning Committee
- 30 Agencies involved with Support Services
- 104 Support Services Team Members 50
- C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens Staff 115 C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens Program Attendees
- 88 Agencies involved with Motorcades 300 Motors involved with Motorcades
- Pre-registrations Processed by C.O.P.S. Staff 7,256
- 728 Registrations Processed On-site 7,612 Hotel Room Nights Booked

## NATIONAL POLICE SURVIVORS' CONFERENCE







### Helping Hand Sponsors

Arizona C.O.P.S. Georgia C.O.P.S. Missouri C.O.P.S. Ride4Cops SOLE/Mossy Oak Washington State C.O.P.S.

### Support Sponsors

Illinois C.O.P.S. Maryland C.O.P.S. Super Seer Team One Network

### C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens Sponsors

Healing Sponsors



Hope Sponsors





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lowa C.O.P.S. Maryland C.O.P.S.

Support Sponsor

Louisiana C.O.P.S.

On May 14th and 16th, the **C.O.P.S. National Police Survivors' Conference** was held offering survivors valuable resources, including organized breakout sessions designed for surviving family members and co-workers. These sessions focused on topics and support tailored to each individual's grief journey. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear a panel of survivors share their personal experiences with grief.













MAY 16<sup>™</sup> SPONSORS

Hope Sponsor



Helping Hand Sponsors

Arizona C.O.P.S. Ride4Cops

## Support Sponsors

Garden State C.O.P.S. Illinois C.O.P.S. Maryland C.O.P.S. Runner's Depot

Blue Family BBC

Healing Sponsors



Critters for Kids Sponsors





Helping Hand Sponsors



Support Sponsors

Iowa C.O.P.S. Louisiana C.O.P.S. Northern Nevada C.O.P.S.

## CANDLELIGHT VIGIL



The **37th Annual Candlelight Vigil** took place on the rainy evening of May 13th, hosted by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. This year, 343 officers' names were engraved and read during the vigil, which was attended by thousands of people. To date, a total of 24,412 officers' names have been etched into the Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.









The **NPW 5K**, organized by the Officer Down Memorial Page (ODMP), was held on May 11th during National Police Week. The event attracted over 2,700 runners and supporters participating in person and virtually from across the nation. National C.O.P.S. would like to express gratitude to ODMP for donating a portion of the proceeds from the NPW 5K to support our mission!



The C.O.P.S. Blue Honor Gala had an incredible turnout, with over 1,000 attendees. The evening of May 14th was filled with outstanding musical performances and heartfelt tributes to our fallen heroes. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the sponsors, volunteers, staff, national board members, chapters, and others who contributed to making this event such a success. C.O.P.S. appreciates your support!











One of the most special parts of the annual Blue Honor Gala during National Police Week is the survivor speaker. This year, Crystal Jimenez brought joy, tears, laughter, and a standing ovation to the crowd. Crystal is the surviving spouse of Chicago Police Officer Samuel Jimenez, EOW 11/19/2018.

In front of nearly 1,000 guests, Crystal spoke of her late husband and the father of their beautiful children. How he ran towards the gunfire to save lives, while others fled. She spoke of their children growing up through C.O.P.S. Kids Camp and her attending Spouses Weekend. She spoke of the friends and connections they have all made through C.O.P.S. and the Law Enforcement United Inc. ride.

Here is a snippet of the impactful speech Crystal gave:

"It's been almost seven years since we lost Samuel. Life can still be hard at times. He is missing so much with our incredible kids. Julian will be 16 and a sophomore in high school. Angelina just turned 11 and is in 5th grade. They have their struggles and that attitude! But my kids are good, they have the support they need from C.O.P.S. programs and our huge blue family. My children don't go forgotten. Our blue family always makes sure to show up for huge milestones from birthdays to holidays to even the first day back to school. Life will never be the same without Samuel. But one thing I can be sure of is my children will be okay!



I mentioned that life got pretty dark. But that darkness didn't last long. The people we have met through C.O.P.S. truly bring a bright light to survivors. When officers die in the line of duty, people come out of the woodwork to help us in the days and weeks that follow. But then people go back to their own lives and the world keeps spinning for them. Our worlds stay stuck in a rotation of grief that will never go away. But C.O.P.S. is there to push us forward and show us that life can be good again. Nobody in my C.O.P.S. family had met Samuel, but they know him and they love him because they know and love my children and I. For us, keeping his memory alive and allowing people to know the incredible hero he was is indescribable."



The **44th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service** was held by the National Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police and Auxiliary at the U.S. Capitol on May 15th. Families gathered to place carnations into the memorial wreath as the names of 232 officers were read aloud. Vice President JD Vance attended the memorial service and delivered an impactful speech in support of America's law enforcement community.











## C.O.P.S. BLUE FAMILY BBQ

During National Police Week, C.O.P.S. hosted the annual C.O.P.S. Blue Family BBQ at the host hotel, attracting over 1,850 attendees who came together to enjoy delicious food, engaging activities, lively dancing, and a fantastic time!













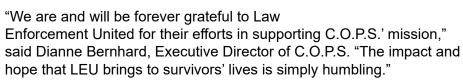
## LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITED DONATES \$440,000 TO C.O.P.S.!



Law Enforcement United (LEU) rode into the Washington Hilton, the C.O.P.S.' host hotel, honoring our fallen heroes and supporting all survivors. A total of 825 members participated, including riders, support personnel, and other volunteers from seven different divisions: Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland (Ruff Ride), Tough Ride, Long Ride, and New York (Honor 37).

Following their ride, LEU members gathered in the International Ballroom where they presented three separate charity donations.

One of these donations was \$440,000 to support National C.O.P.S.





LEU's mission has always been to honor the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty and to remember the survivors left behind.

Secretary of the secret

For more information on how to get involved with LEU, visit leunited.org.

## NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## Charles Shinholser Award for Volunteerism Lynne Parry

The recipent of this award is gifted in bringing together surviving family members, co-workers, and law enforcement agencies. Lynne Parry brings a wealth of knowledge and always shares the many opportunities that National C.O.P.S. offers to survivors – from the survivor weekends and camps, to the law enforcement wellness and trauma trainings and National Police Week.

Lynne became a survivor on January 21, 2002 when her husband, Baltimore County Police Officer Sergeant Mark Parry died in the line of duty.



Over the years, Lynne has remained active with National COPS by attending survivor weekends and trainings. She is always a survivor who National C.O.P.S. could connect a new survivor with when they were struggling to find their way. Her compassion and wisdom are always welcomed by new survivors.

The Maryland C.O.P.S. Chapter, where she is currently the chapter president, is successfully assisting survivors behind the leadership, support, and wisdom of Lynne.

Congratulations, Lynne, and thank you for your dedication to C.O.P.S. and survivors nationwide.



## C.O.P.S. Presidential Award Pete Geary

The C.O.P.S. Presidential Award was first introduced last year during National Police Week. Its purpose is to pay tribute to a survivor who has gone above and beyond for their fellow survivors and the law enforcement community. The award highlights decades of service and dedication of someone who not only believes in the C.O.P.S. mission, they ARE the C.O.P.S. mission.

The recipient of this year's award has been a passionate advocate for the families of law enforcement officers, particularly those who have lost loved ones in the line of duty throughout his 30-year law enforcement career. Pete Geary's personal life is equally reflective of his dedication to service. Alongside his family, Pete has consistently sought to give back to those who serve in law enforcement, mentoring others and creating a lasting legacy of support and community. A legacy that will no doubt be carried on by his four children and 11 grandchildren!

Pete, we proudly congratulate and thank you.



## Chapter of the Year Michigan C.O.P.S. Chapter

In recognition of outstanding service to surviving families in their state, the Michigan Chapter fulfills the mission of rebuilding shattered lives in many ways and educating all survivors on what C.O.P.S. has to offer for the rest of their lives.

The Michigan C.O.P.S. Chapter runs as a team. The members who serve on the board take their tasks seriously and ask for help when they need it. Their local and regional meetings put open

communication at the forefront. Board members and trustees make personal connections with new survivors as early as possible to forge a long-lasting support system. The connections specifically made with co-workers by providing peer support after a line-of-duty death and an in-state counseling referral system have made them a trusted resource across the state.

Congratulations to all members of Michigan C.O.P.S.!

Suzie Sawyer Distinguished Service Award

Lisa Garland

Charlie Neal

Ed Paden

Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority

For survivors attending National Police Week for the first time, first impressions set the tone for their week ahead. From the second they step off the airplane in Washington, D.C., the men and women of Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Arlington County, and the



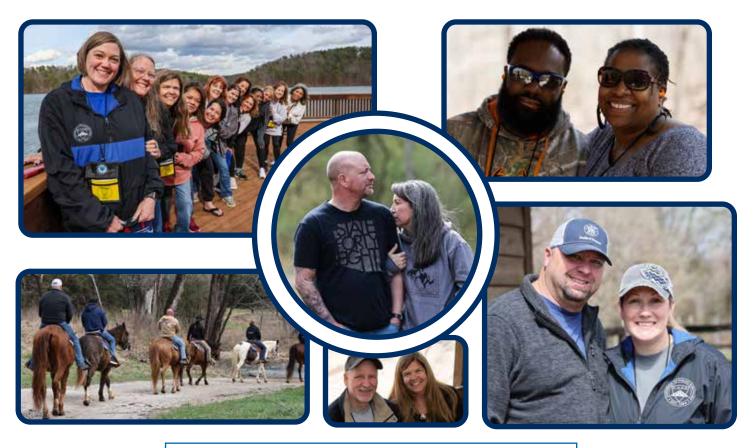
Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority set the tone for their experience as the Airport Arrival Team. It's an honorable tone that has brought survivors back to D.C. each year for over four decades to honor their heroes and support their fellow survivors.

It's the cordon of officers at the gate, the officers handling their luggage, the friendly smiles of officers connecting with young survivors, the incredible motor escorts through the city. Every perfectly timed detail is covered. What makes their team the most honorable is that as law enforcement officers, they always promise to take care of their fellow brothers' and sisters' families if the ultimate sacrifice is made. Through their dedication and service during National Police Week, they are taking care of those families for the entire nation.

For this, C.O.P.S. proudly presented the 2025 Suzie Sawyer Distinguished Service Award.

## PHOTO RECAP

## **Spouses for Couples Weekend**



Co-Workers for Couples Weekend



## Summer Suicide Survivors Weekend



Adult Children's Weekend



Photos from the remaining Summer and Fall Weekends and Camps will be featured in the next issue.

# NOW THAT THE SURVIVOR WEEKEND/CAMP IS OVER // NAVIGATING THE POST-CAMP REINTEGRATION //



It is often common to feel the blues upon returning home after attending a survivor weekend or camp. Attending a survivor weekend or camp is a time when connections and relationships are formed with others who have experienced a similar loss, resulting in an emotional high. With these bonds, it is often said, "I am with others who get me", even down to the youngest survivors. So, it only makes sense that a normal reaction to leaving a survivor

weekend or camp is to experience a let-down.

The let-down effect is a psychological response that manifests in negative symptoms following an intense emotional experience. Symptoms can include both physical and emotional responses, such as headaches, sleep disturbance, feelings of sadness or loneliness, and anxiety. Once home, a possible void may be felt after spending time with a group of individuals who understand and support you.

In talking with survivors about the let-down effect, all share that they experience some form of let-down, regardless of how long they have been

attending weekends/camps. One survivor shares that, "I still do, but it was really bad at first". This survivor shares that not only does she experience let-down, but her three children do as well after leaving the kids' camp. "At camp it is great having the support, and then you get home, and it is fine the first couple of days, and then it starts, you get lonely back by yourself and miss the people who can relate to you." She explained that she is thankful for her family and friends at home, but they do not get it in the same way the people at camp do. This survivor shares, "There is a little bit of depression that just hits you in how different your life is". When sharing about her kids, she states they experience a let-down by leaving their friend group, who relate best to them. This surviving spouse shares that her teenage daughter says her "camp friend group" understands her better than any other friends. She continued to explain that the let-down effect changes every year and is different for her children, too, clarifying, "You can try to prepare, but mostly it is just being aware that let-down is going to be there, but it is worth it when you see your kids thrive at camp".

In speaking with another survivor, he states that he experiences let-down because he is in an environment that allows him to feel his genuine emotions, and everyone is okay with that! He does not feel judged, and his grief is wholly accepted and, more importantly, welcomed. He states that he experiences complete acceptance during the weekend and feels somewhat "empty" when he returns home. However, he states that the feeling of emp-



tiness normalizes after a few days because he and his other survivors remain in contact throughout the year, especially for the first couple of weeks after returning home.

So, the question remains: How do you manage the let-down effect once you're home and reintegrating back into your regular envi-

ronment? Most importantly, it is imperative to know that the let-down effect is real, and it is NORMAL! Do not let negative self-talk tell you otherwise. The let-down effect is biopsychosocial, meaning there is an actual scientific reason you experience what you do. Now that you know there is a scientific reason, be proactive in addressing the let-down effect before you even get to your weekend/camp.

All survivors spoken to for this article stressed how vital it is to maintain contact with the community and support system built at their weekend or camp once they return home and throughout the year. The survivors shared that upon leaving their respective weekend/camp, they each keep in daily contact with at least one of their primary weekend/camp supports, but most often more than one, for at least the first week they are home. One stated, "I have texted or chatted every day since National Police Week," which is a typical pattern for them after leaving their weekend program and camp. Another stated, "I hold on to the fact that I will see them all again next year, which gives me something to look forward to throughout the year."

Another commonality is that all survivors I spoke to shared that the let-down effect changes for them

following each weekend/ camp. This is common as the grief process is a roller coaster; no matter how much time passes, there will always be highs and lows. Recognizing how the let-down effect may manifest itself for you, and that it may change, and embracing the knowledge that this



will occur is part of the grief process and growing. Reminding yourself that "it is okay to feel this way," and "this is normal," or "I am going to allow myself to feel these emotions knowing that it will get better" are cognitive restructuring techniques one can use to balance thought processes.

When addressing the let-down effect, first accept and acknowledge that it is something you will experience. We have already discussed the importance of staying connected to your weekend/camp "family", because we all know they become family. Most survivorships have a Facebook group specifically for your survivorship. If you have attended a weekend and have social media, connect with your survivorship group. Allow yourself a day to recover once you return home. Attending your weekend/ camp, despite how amazing an experience it is, is exhausting. Whether staying up late visiting with friends, or just the exhaustion of travel, it would be beneficial to rest and recover once you return home. Return to your regular routine as soon as possible; research shows that structure benefits one's mental health and grounds one. Plan an activity you enjoy before you return home, wheth-

er solitary or with a group of local friends, to have something to look forward to. Lastly, communicate with your loved ones that you are experiencing the let-down effect, explaining that it is a normal reaction after attending a weekend/camp. Also, remember that we are here to support you throughout the year!



## WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE C.O.P.S. TLE TRAININGS

## WHAT IS A TLE?

Each year, Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) provides training to America's law enforcement agencies on how to appropriately respond to officers and their families affected by line-of-duty traumas through the Traumas of Law Enforcement Trainings. At these trainings, instructors will present information that is important to America's law enforcement agencies regarding appropriate response to line-of-duty death, disability, critical incidents, and police suicide.

All of the participants in this training will be provided information about the available federal public safety officer benefits and their individual state benefits.

Some of the same issues that affect survivors come into play for officers with disabilities and those coping with trauma. Recognizing the importance of helping agencies provide appropriate support for survivors and injured or traumatized officers, C.O.P.S. provides this at <a href="NO COST">NO COST</a> or charge for the registration. **HOWEVER**, **PRE-REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY** and participants are responsible for their own travel costs.



## **AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW**



THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND THIS TRAINING

**REGISTER NOW!** 

Check out our monthly COPS Shop promotions today!

(Only Available Online)





St. Michaels T-Shirt



Thin Blue Line Hat (Two Colors)



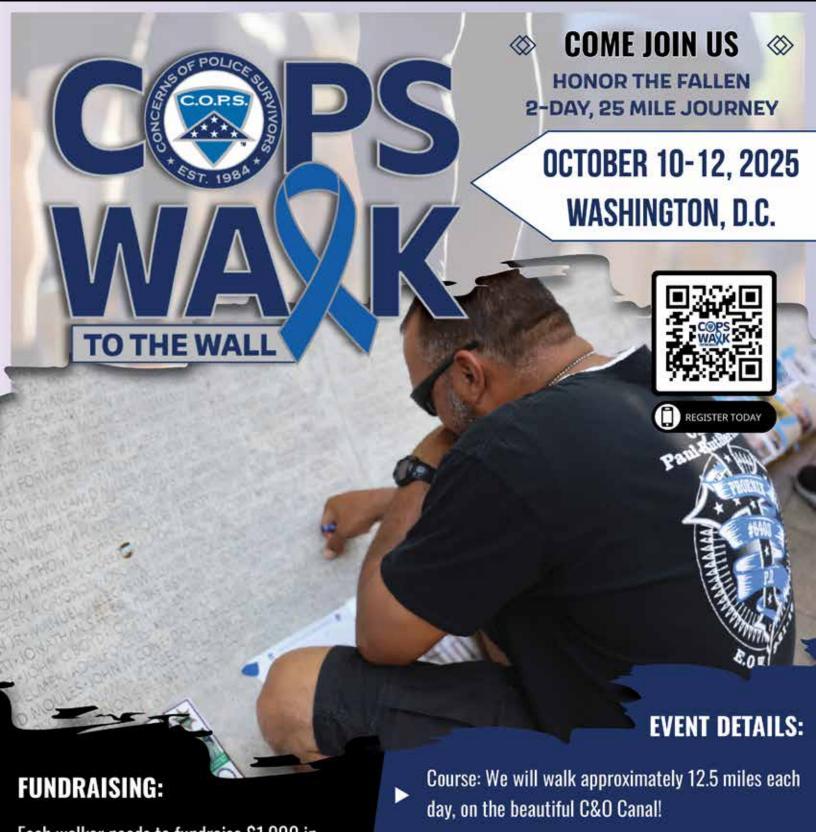
C.O.P.S. Honor T-Shirt



C.O.P.S. Flag Glass



copsshop.org



Each walker needs to fundraise \$1,000 in order to participate in COPS Walk to The Wall. This amount covers a t-shirt, meals, and lodging from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch.

Meals: All meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch are provided for the walkers.

Democracy Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20817

Lodging: Embassy Suites by Hilton Bethesda - 6711

## JOIN US IN NEW ORLEANS!

## NOVEMBER 13-16, 2025

- TOP-RATED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
- IMPACTFUL AND ENGAGING PRESENTERS
- LIFE-CHANGING SESSIONS
- NETWORKING WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY
- EASYGOING AND FESTIVE SPIRIT OF NEW ORLEANS





C.O.P.S. invites all active and retired law enforcement officers, peer support, counselors, police chaplains, correctional officers, dispatchers, and spouses/significant others, to attend this weekend of education, networking, healing and entertainment.

This conference focuses on trauma and wellness, proactively addressing the cumulative stressors that can occur throughout an officer's career. When you attend this conference, you not only get three days of over 25 incredible speakers, you also get the peer support and networking with your fellow law enforcement community members and supporters!

## **Conference and Hotel Location:**

New Orleans Marriott 555 Canal St., New Orleans, LA Room Rate is \$162.00/night (+ tax) (Single/Double)

A link to book a hotel room is available on the C.O.P.S. website. A link will also be included in the confirmation email once a registration is submitted.

## **CONFERENCE FEE ONLY \$350 PER PERSON!**

\$175 for Spouses/Significant Other if attending with paid participant.



Fee includes access to all classes, general sessions, law enforcement appreciation night reception/dinner, and 2 lunches.

## **FEATURING:**



Keynote Speaker
ALLYN GOODRICH
AUTHOR/LAS VEGAS SWAT



Keynote Speaker

DAVID BLACK, PH.D.

CORDICO CEO/FOUNDER



Keynote Speaker

SAM GLENN

AUTHOR/INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER



Entertainment

KEVIN JORDAN

COMEDIAN/AUTHOR/FORMER LAPD

Putting the focus on YOU, to bring you home to THEM!





## C.O.P.S. Scholarships

C.O.P.S. Granted \$36,502 in Scholarships for the 2025 Summer Semester.

Several benefactors help C.O.P.S. provide these scholarships. The scholarship fund has provided over \$2.8 million in scholarships to survivors since 1993.

Recipients of the 2025 C.O.P.S. Summer scholarship are:

## **Taylor Born**

Heidelberg University Daughter of Dominic Francis, EOW 3/31/2022

## Jake Gaunt

Arizona State University Son of Brian Gaunt, EOW 10/24/2021

## Nicole Gilner

University of Alabama at Birmingham Daughter of Stephen Gilner, EOW 7/24/1999

## **Whitney Grant**

Meridian University
Daughter of David Grant,
EOW 5/31/2004

## **Lindsey Hamilton**

University of Arizona Daughter of Rick Cromwell, EOW 12/9/1998

## Addie Herrera

Bellevue University Daughter of Luis Herrera, EOW 9/7/2020

## Walter Jenkins

The University of Tampa Son of Walter Jenkins, EOW 5/11/2022

## Maverick McClendon

Southeastern Nazarene University Son of William McClendon, EOW 10/1/2006

## Joseph McNair

North Georgia Tech Son of Brian McNair, EOW 7/20/2020

## **Jazmin Olsen-Coulter**

Edward Via College of Osteopathic -Medicine Spouse of Thomas Coulter, EOW 5/21/2018

## Ilia Ortiz

Wake Forest School of Medicine Daughter of Norberto Ortiz Ocasio, EOW 8/11/1993

### Christina Parks

Arkansas State University Spouse of Vincent Parks, EOW 7/17/2022

## **Nancy Plum**

Duquesne University Spouse of Stephen Plum, EOW 5/16/2022

## Kimberly Redd

Freed-Hardeman University Spouse of Geoffrey Redd, EOW 2/18/2023

## Mark Scarbrough

Lakeland University Son of Michael Scarbrough, EOW 2/9/2005

## Haleigh Schmidt

Ball State University
Daughter of Jonathan Schmidt,
EOW 4/13/2011

## **Benjamin Sloan**

Grand Canyon University Son of Patrick Sloan, EOW 10/31/2020

## **Emalie Wall**

Amberton University
Daughter of Ronnie Lerma,
EOW 9/21/1998

## **Jacqueline White**

Texas State University
Daughter of Robert White,
EOW 11/1/2014

## Deadline dates for scholarship applications are as follows:

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

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 are enrolled in under-graduate and post-graduate studies at an accredited college or university, or an accredited trade/vocational 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. APPLY ONLINE at concernsofpolicesurvivors.org



Thank you to our generous donors who contributed \$250 or higher between February 2, 2025 and June 1, 2025. Your continuous support is greatly appreciated!

name you to our generous across who contributed \$200 or in	igner between rebi	dury 2, 2020 and durie 1, 2020. Tour continuous support is g	really appreciated
Point 27/Shields of Strength*	\$445,898.00	Evan Sokolove	
Law Enforcement United	\$440,000.00	\$1,092.00	
JUSTIS	\$150,000.00	Northwest Florida C.O.P.S.	\$1,030.00
Streamlight, Inc.	\$141,997.00	Kelsay Stephensen	\$1,030.00
Michael Levy Trust	\$100,000.00	Fort Worth Police Officers Association	\$1,010.00
McDavid Group Charities, Inc.	\$100,000.00	Lonnie Long	\$1,010.00
Justice Federal Credit Union	\$84,241.36	Alan Richards	\$1,010.00
Estate of Patricia A League	\$51,366.67	Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	\$1,000.00
Ride4COPS	\$50,000.00	Donald Harper	\$1,000.00
Riverside County Peace Officer Memorial Foundation		Tammy Marich Aguirre	\$1,000.00 \$1,000.00
W: : 0.0 D.0	\$50,000.00	Jim and Joyce Petrina Project Peacekeeper LLC	\$1,000.00
Illinois C.O.P.S.	\$49,000.00	Protiviti Governemnt Services	\$1,000.00
T-Mobile US, Inc	\$35,000.00	Virginia C.O.P.S.	\$1,000.00
Verizon	\$35,000.00	GhostPatch*	\$975.00
Zox*	\$35,000.00	ESS Eye Pro*	\$943.00
QuikTrip	\$30,000.00 \$22,000.00	New England C.O.P.S.	\$871.06
Southeast Police Motorcycle Rodeo Maryland C.O.P.S.	\$22,000.00	Aristos Beverages/GC Water*	\$840.00
Runner's Depot, Inc.	\$17,850.00	John and Jeanne Roper	\$718.20
Northeast Florida C.O.P.S.	\$16,000.00	Adam and Renee Sale	\$618.00
Axon	\$15,000.00	Christine Hoffman	\$530.53
Central Florida C.O.P.S.	\$15,000.00	Peter Jaworski	\$530.53
U.S. Secret Service-ERA	\$15,000.00	Chad and Stephani Rose - James	\$530.53
Arizona C.O.P.S.	\$12,500.00	First Responder Whiskey Society	\$525.00
Galls	\$11,840.00	Jeremy Dishner	\$515.00
Ohio C.O.P.S.	\$11,400.00	Andrea Dishner	\$515.00
Barrels 4 Badges	\$10,000.00	Matt McGovern	\$515.00
Iowa C.O.P.S.	\$10,000.00	Scott Reichel	\$515.00
Renee Maher-Zieger	\$10,000.00	Dan Benson	\$510.00
Christopher M. Wouters Family Foundation	\$7,500.00	Peter Jung	\$510.00
Vista Outdoor/Federal Ammunition	\$7,500.00	Maryann Micciantuono	\$510.00
CSX Transportation	\$6,909.72	Don and Kathy Becraft	\$500.00
ReLEntless Defender	\$5,842.00	Sophie Boren	\$500.00
Missouri C.O.P.S.	\$5,500.00	John DeFrancesco	\$500.00
SoundOff Signal	\$5,360.00	Phyllis French	\$500.00
Northern Nevada C.O.P.S.	\$5,150.00	Bill French	\$500.00
Safariland	\$5,150.00	Leonard Goldner	\$500.00
Jason Grosfeld	\$5,010.00	Joshua Harrington	\$500.00
Blue Line Unlimited	\$5,000.00	Christian Harsha Mark Holmes	\$500.00 \$500.00
Georgia C.O.P.S.	\$5,000.00	Robert Johnstone	\$500.00
Louisiana C.O.P.S.	\$5,000.00	Michael H. Wise II Memorial Foundation, Inc.	\$500.00
Reebok Duty*	\$3,635.00	Michelle Putney	\$500.00
ProForce Law Enforcement/ Davidson's	\$3,000.00	Maureen Maraval	\$500.00
California Police Chiefs Association, Inc. Nawfal Filali	\$2,575.00	Friends Signal 30 Troopers Benefit Fund Inc.	\$500.00
Montana C.O.P.S.	\$2,575.00 \$2,500.00	Jared Wilson	\$500.00
New Jersey - Garden State C.O.P.S.	\$2,500.00	Carol Bates	\$480.00
Patrick Walsh	\$2,060.00	California Police Chiefs Association	\$462.50
Scott Brunner	\$2,000.00	Christina Doolittle	\$440.00
Descendants of Early First Responders	\$2,000.00	Michael Post	\$432.60
Joe Pedro	\$2,000.00	Oxygen Plus*	\$432.00
Veterans of Foreign Wars of Ohio Charities VFW		HR 141 Security, Tactical & K9 Solutions, LLC	\$416.00
Total and an engine range of Company and an engine	\$2,000.00	Brent Rogan	\$412.00
Michael Zack	\$2,000.00	Arthur Rubio	\$412.00
Mantra Band, LLC*	\$1,900.00	D. Alexis Secka	\$412.00
Vincent Trusso	\$1,565.60	Bob Woodall	\$412.00
Debbie Coolidge	\$1,545.00	John Cleland	\$400.00
Baltimore County FOP Lodge #4	\$1,500.00	Benjamin Hoffman	\$400.00
Strong Life Counseling, LLC	\$1,500.00	Steven Jonas	\$400.00
Ralph Norton	\$1,300.00	Larry D Johnson DC LLC	\$400.00
Kroll International, LLC	\$1,116.00	Robert Rohrer	\$400.00
Gene Ganiere	\$1,100.00	Amanda Malcolm	\$395.00

Mike Theetge	\$370.80	Joel Parsons	
Natalia Croom	\$360.50	\$300.00	
Karen Shuey	\$352.00	Becky Reid	
Colleen Petty	\$350.00	\$300.00	
Jenny and Scott Andry	\$318.44		
Shayna Amrein	\$309.00	\$300.00	
Vincent Bateholts	\$309.00	Lisa Taube	\$300.00
Jordan Benson	\$309.00		\$269.00
Bruce Dees	\$309.00	Thin Blue Line USA	\$259.00
Tj DeLitta	\$309.00		\$257.50
Mark Geraty	\$309.00		\$257.50
Anthony Ginyard	\$309.00		\$257.50
Timothy Goode	\$309.00	Ulster County Deputy Sheriff's PBA	\$257.50
Tela Inn	\$309.00	Joe Espy	\$257.50
Alyssa Leonard	\$309.00		\$257.50
Nathan Lundeen	\$309.00	Jeff Kropodra	\$257.50
Shawn McCurry	\$309.00	Tim Madden	\$257.50
Christopher Michael	\$309.00		\$257.50
Darrell Myers	\$309.00	Judy Meyst	\$257.50
Irina Petkova	\$309.00	Minnesota C.O.P.S.	\$257.50
Roman Puchovsky	\$309.00		\$257.50
Loren Ross	\$309.00		\$257.50
Amanda Rudd	\$309.00		\$257.50
Joe Speckels	\$309.00		\$257.50
Timothy Troxel	\$309.00		\$257.50
Travis Tuttle	\$309.00	Captain Eddie Wong	\$257.50
Stephenie Voyles		Heather Legieza	\$256.40
Rebecca Golchert	\$302.54		\$250.00
Mike Barletta	\$300.00	Pennsylvania C.O.P.S.	\$250.00
Nicholas Belback	\$300.00		\$250.00
Andrew Coulby	\$300.00	Randall Dibb	\$250.00
Terrence Cunningham	\$300.00	Danielle Frank	\$250.00
Marco DeLeon	\$300.00	Stephen Hansen	\$250.00
Seth Greene	\$300.00	Tom Wolff	\$250.00
Peter Grutzius	\$300.00	Tom Wom	Ψ200.00
Joseph J Hausch	\$300.00	* Indicates An In-Kind Donation	
Henry Hodson	\$300.00	maleates / III m Tana Bonation	
Matthew Hughes	\$300.00		
Jason Kirkpatrick	\$300.00		
Heidi Meyer	\$300.00		
Billy Michael	\$300.00		
Bryan Mutoza	\$300.00		
John Onorad	\$300.00		
JOHN OHOIAU	φ300.00		



JOIN US AT

## KRAWL'N FOR THE FALLEN

AN OFF-ROAD 4X4 CHARITY EVENT RAISING MONEY FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS.

Krawl'n for the Fallen 2025 November 7-9, 2025

This event has raised over \$850,000 for National C.O.P.S. since 2015!

## **CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS**

P.O. Box 3199 846 OLD SOUTH HIGHWAY 5 CAMDENTON, MO 65020

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED** 

