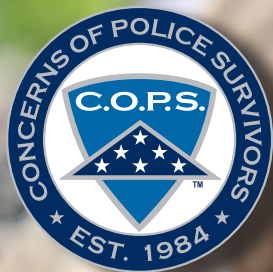


The Official Publication of Concerns of Police Survivors for Survivors, Agencies, and Supporters

H O P E



SUMMER 2026



HOPE



SUMMER 2026 VOL. 40, 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

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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: 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 Please know that all submissions will be considered but may not be published.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 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



Hope.

When it comes to grief and loss, hope can sometimes feel like a contradiction, can't it? But if you could have seen what I saw during National Police Week in Washington, D.C., and at the California memorial events the week before, you would better understand my perspective.

For more than two weeks, I had a front-row seat watching survivors from this incredible organization put hope into action. They continued their own healing journeys by reaching out to others in their time of need. They walked alongside fellow survivors, offering comfort, support, and simply being present when it mattered most.

I am incredibly proud of the efforts of my fellow National Board members and our Chapter Board members who served during National Police Week, as well as at state and local memorial events. I witnessed our dedicated staff doing what they always do—providing exceptional care to nearly 5,000 attendees while working long and demanding days. I also saw countless volunteers giving their time and energy, nearly 100 members of Support Services providing comfort and care, and hundreds of law enforcement officers honoring their fallen brothers and sisters through their service and volunteer efforts.

The compassion, dedication, and commitment displayed by everyone involved cannot be overstated. Add to that the many partnerships that help make these events possible, and it truly is something remarkable to witness.

On May 14, I had the honor of speaking at the opening of our C.O.P.S. Conference. During my remarks, I shared a simple but important message: long after the ceremonies end, we will still be here for you.

Being here for one another is at the heart of our mission. Relationships and community are essential pieces of the puzzle as we learn to navigate grief. Through our programs, services, and peer support, C.O.P.S. and our survivor family remain committed to walking this journey together.

Hope. It's the name of this magazine. It's also what so many of us have found through one another. And most importantly, it's what we want for you.

Blessings,

Dave Wallace, C.O.P.S. National President



A child smiles during the 45th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, hosted by the National Fraternal Order of Police and Auxiliary.

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Non-Voting Board Member

Suzie Sawyer

The upcoming National Board Meeting will be held on January 16-17, 2027 in Fort Myers, FL.

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



Thank you to the 2025–2026 outgoing Board Members for your leadership, service, and dedication to C.O.P.S. Your commitment has helped strengthen our organization and support survivors across the country.

JOIN US IN
SAN DIEGO, CA



November
5th - 8th

2026 SURVIVING TO THRIVING

C.O.P.S.
PRESENTS

\$250/Attendee*

*

If a survivor chooses to attend this conference in place of their survivor specific weekend or camp, their registration fee will be waived and they will be eligible to have the cost of their hotel room for up to 3 nights stay reimbursed by National C.O.P.S. In order to be eligible, survivors must submit their hotel receipt to National C.O.P.S. within 30 days of the conference and attend all planned sessions and activities. National C.O.P.S. will not reimburse the cost for any meals. However, the conference will provide two lunches and one dinner during the conference.



REGISTER

"I really enjoy connecting with survivors from different states and all walks of the journey. Every conversation is a chance to learn something new, and I like carrying those takeaways with me in case they can help me or someone else down the road. Bringing so many different survivors together in one place is what makes this conference truly unique and so important."

2025 CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

WHY ATTEND?

SURVIVOR CONNECTION



IMPACTFUL SPEAKERS



INFORMATIVE SESSIONS



CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG

NEWS OF NOTE

GRADUATIONS/AWARDS



Congratulations to **Xaviel Diaz** who graduated from the Englewood (FL) Fire Training Center on July 8, 2026.

Xaviel is the surviving son of Charlotte County (FL) Sergeant Elio Diaz, EOW 12/15/2024.



Ethan Lee graduated from the University of Alabama on December 13, 2025, and commissioned into the Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant.

Ethan is the surviving son of Hayward Police Sergeant Scott Lunger, EOW 7/22/2015.



Kaylin Sheffield graduated from Bartlett (TN) High School in May 2026, with plans to attend Dyersburg State in the Fall.

Kaylin is the surviving niece of Shelby County (TN) Sheriff's Deputy Rupert Peete, Jr, EOW 3/08/2000.



Congratulations to **Randi Bateman** who graduated with a Master of Education from Ohio University on May 1, 2026.

Randi is the surviving daughter of Franklin County (OH) Sheriff's Deputy Terrance Bateman, EOW 1/15/2022.



Paige Jansen graduated from the University of Central Missouri with her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology on May 9, 2026.

Paige is the surviving daughter of St. Charles (MO) Police Officer Grant Jansen, EOW 9/10/2008.

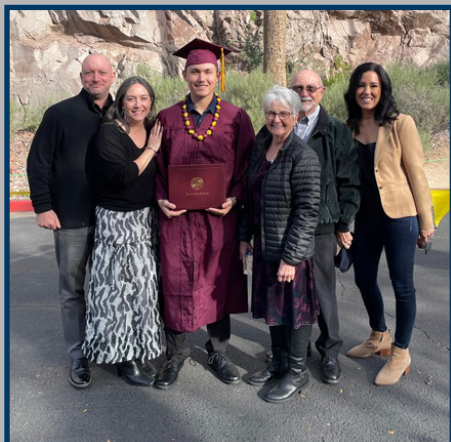


Congratulations to **Camila McKinney** who graduated from Kindergarten at Munford Elementary (TN) School in May 2026.

Camila is the surviving daughter of Memphis (TN) Police Officer Joseph McKinney, EOW 4/12/2024.

Myah Mitchell graduated from Tuskegee University School of Engineering on May 9, 2026, and commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a Fighter Jet Aviator.

Myah is the surviving niece of New York City Police Detective Shantay Neal-Baker, EOW 8/14/2021.



Mason Hobbs graduated from Arizona State University in December 2025 with a Bachelor's Degree in Sports Science and Performance Programming.

Mason is the surviving son of Phoenix (AZ) Police Detective John Hobbs, EOW 3/3/2014.



Cecelia Hobbs graduated from high school in December 2025 and is studying interior design at Arizona State University.

Cecelia is the surviving daughter of Phoenix (AZ) Police Detective John Hobbs, EOW 3/3/2014.

GRADUATIONS/AWARDS CONTINUED...



The first-ever Joshua Phipps, EOW 9/16/2024, Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Kaydence Karnes during this school year. The four-year, full-tuition scholarship was awarded to the Adair County High School Graduate.



Dylan Vella completed her Adult Program at Laguna Beach Schools and was chosen to open the Commencement Ceremony.

Dylan is the surviving daughter of Huntington Beach (CA) Police Officer Nicholas Vella, EOW 2/19/2022.



Congratulations to **Hallie Woods** on being sworn in with the Colerain Township (OH) Police Department on March 9, 2026. Hallie earned the "Top Scholar Award" while she was in the Police Academy.

Hallie is the surviving daughter of Colerain Township officer Dale Woods, EOW 1/7/2019.



Tristan Haley graduated from the Metro Nashville Police Academy on January 8, 2026 and is currently working for the department as a police officer.

Tristan is the surviving son of Columbus (OH) Police Officer Tim Haley, EOW 08/26/2008.

Congratulations to **FBI Special Agent Brigitte Wendel** who received the 2025 William H. Webster Award from the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. The Award came with a \$5000 donation to the charity of her choice and she selected Virginia C.O.P.S.

Brigitte is the surviving daughter of Richmond (VA) Police Officer Douglas Wendel, EOW 7/30/2003



MARRIAGES/ENGAGEMENTS



Congratulations to **Cathy Hobbs** who was united in marriage to Brian Goheen on January 1, 2026.

Cathy is the surviving spouse of Phoenix (AZ) Police Detective John Hobbs, EOW 3/3/2014.



Congratulations to **Holly Thornell** who recently became engaged to Austin Cader. They set their wedding date for April 25, 2027.

Holly is the surviving niece of Brookhaven Patrolman James White, EOW 9/29/2018.

Kathy McClelland was united in marriage to Tracy Flournoy on April 4, 2026.

Kathy is the surviving daughter of Ludowici (GA) Police Chief Frank McClelland, Jr., EOW 9/15/2018.



DEDICATIONS



In fall 2025, Russell County honored Deputy Sheriff Joshua Phipps, EOW 9/16/2024, with the dedication of Highway 127 as the Deputy Sheriff Joshua Phipps Memorial Highway. The ceremony at the Russell County Courthouse in Jamestown brought together family and friends to remember his sacrifice. State Rep. Josh Branscum spoke, and a memorial highway sign was unveiled.

On March 18, 2026, the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department honored Deputy Adam J. Hartwig, EOW 3/18/2016, on the 10th anniversary of his end of watch. The memorial featured a slideshow celebrating his life and a community food drive, with family, friends, and law enforcement members in attendance. Supporters also plan to travel to Washington, D.C., for the addition of his name to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.



DEDICATIONS CONTINUED...

On April 26-29, 2026, a 100-member-strong Jamaican American Law Enforcement Organization's (JAMLEO) humanitarian initiative in honor of New York City Police Detective Dillon H. Stewart, EOW 11/28/2005, was held in Westmoreland, Jamaica at the Unity Primary School, Detective Stewart was a former student of the school

The event featured several days of engaging activities and fellowship, bringing together numerous attendees, including Vice President of the New York City Sergeants Benevolent Association, Edmund Smalls; Detective Stewart's surviving family members Samantha Stewart (daughter), Leslyn Stewart (spouse), Alexis Stewart (daughter); and Police Benevolent Association of the City of New York City-Wide Trustee Lethimyle Cleveland.



On March 31, 2026 the Dallas (TX) community came together to dedicate a street to Dallas Police Officer Sunny Ma Lov, EOW 11/4/1990.

Those in attendance included surviving family members Kieu Lov (spouse), Sunnat Lov (daughter), Amara Ruffin (granddaughter), Austin Ruffin (grandson), Kimmie Ellis (daughter), and Mitchell Ellis (son-in-law), along with representatives from the Dallas Police Department, Fort Worth Police Department, Dallas Fire Department, and Dallas Police Department Class 209 (Sunny's academy class).

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



Aleta Woodworth, 79, died January 7, 2026. Aleta was active in the Washington State Chapter of C.O.P.S. and audited the Chapter's books for several years.

Aleta was the surviving daughter of California Highway Patrol Officer Charles Woodworth, EOW 08/12/1964.



Christy Sheffield, 46, died April 13, 2026. Christy was active in the West Tennessee Chapter where she previously served as Board Secretary.

Christy was the surviving niece of Shelby County (TN) Sheriff's Deputy Rupert Peete, Jr., EOW 3/8/2000.



Michael "Barnesy" Barnes, 57, died June 3, 2026. Michael was a driving force in establishing the Illinois C.O.P.s. Critical Incident Memorial Team. His dedication, leadership, and compassion touched countless lives, leaving a lasting impact on all who knew him.

Michael was the surviving co-worker of Joliet (IL) Police Officer Jonathan Walsh, EOW 8/20/2004.

CHAPTER CHATTER:

What is going on in your area?



Ohio C.O.P.S. had students gather from Girard Jr./Sr. High School to make blue ribbons for Ohio C.O.P.S. Ohio C.O.P.S. President Dave Leo and Pat Leo provided the 45 students with an overview of the organization's mission and demonstrated the ribbon-making process.

The after-school group included members of the Builders Club, Key Club, and other student volunteers. The event was organized by GHS Guidance Counselor Angie Cochran. Girard students have participated in ribbon-making efforts for several years in honor of GHS graduate Officer Justin Leo, EOW 10/21/2017.

The Officer Justin Leo Foundation recently awarded four graduating seniors \$5,000 scholarships. Over the past eight years, the foundation has provided a total of \$160,000 in scholarships to Girard High School students.



Carolina C.O.P.S. recently hosted its 2nd Annual Got Your Six Benefit Motorcycle Ride, bringing together more than 30 surviving family members, 50 riders, six sponsors, and law enforcement representatives from across the region. The event included a ride and gathering at Harley-Davidson of Greenville, giving survivors, donors, and supporters an opportunity to connect and strengthen the relationships that support healing and recovery.



Missouri C.O.P.S. was honored to assist with the 10th Annual Molly's Miles 5K, 10K, and Virtual Run, which raised \$55,000 for surviving law enforcement families. For a decade, the event has provided vital support to families of officers killed in the line of duty. Organizers plan changes for next year while continuing the event's lasting legacy.





Maryland C.O.P.S. had several members of their chapter board and police liaisons who attended and volunteered during National Police Week.

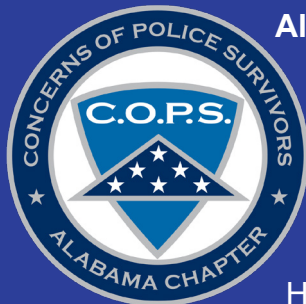


These members assisted in COPS Shop, National Police Week registration, and most importantly, supported the surviving family members and co-workers of Cecil County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Brenda Lowery, EOW 6/4/2024 and Fairmount Heights Police Chief Edward Ivey, Jr., EOW 6/14/2022.



Kansas C.O.P.S. provided 25 rooms to survivors attending the state Candlelight Vigil and the Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial. After the Vigil, they held a pizza and camaraderie opportunity at the hotel. On May 1st, KS CENTRAL Transportation Services provided 46 survivors with a ride to and from the Capitol for the Memorial to avoid congested parking challenges.

During National Police Week, the chapter supported four current-year families and their law enforcement agencies by providing five liaisons, hosting a Kansas C.O.P.S. dinner, organizing a Washington, D.C., night tour for 48 attendees, and coordinating U.S. Capitol tours hosted by Congressman Derek Schmidt.



Alabama C.O.P.S. held their annual candlelight vigil on May 2, 2026 at the State Memorial Wall in Anniston, AL. The program featured survivor speakers Charlene Thompson Hembree, daughter of

Corporal Matthew Thompson, EOW 2/12/2004, and Isabella Vice, daughter of Senior Trooper Jason Vice, EOW 9/9/2021, who shared powerful messages of healing and resilience. During National Police Week, Kristie Crabtree, widow of Chief Buddy Crabtree, EOW 10/30/2021, represented the chapter in Washington, D.C., supporting current survivors and their families.



Minnesota C.O.P.S. hosted their 3rd Annual C.O.P.S. & Joggers Run on May 9, 2026, at Lake Phalen in St. Paul during National Police Week. More than 100 participants, survivors, law enforcement, families, and community members gathered to honor fallen officers and support surviving families. The event featured a memorial display, strong community participation, and support from sponsors and volunteers, continuing a growing annual tradition of remembrance and unity.



The event's success was made possible by generous sponsors, as well as the many volunteers who gave their time and support.



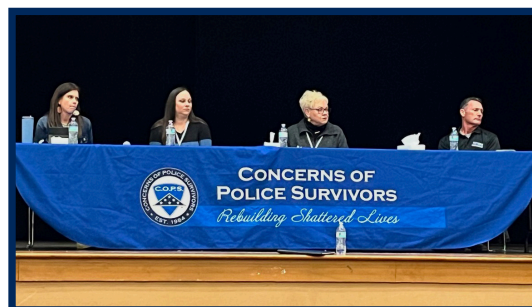
Michigan C.O.P.S. held their annual Law Enforcement Officers Candlelight Memorial Service on May 4, 2026, at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing, honoring officers who died in the line of duty over the past year, as well as those being recognized at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. The chapter would also like to thank the law enforcement agencies that attended in support of the families.



For National Police Week, members Steve Schwein and Tom Coombs joined a nearly 300-mile ride from Somerset, New Jersey, to Washington, D.C., alongside Chapter VII and thousands of riders, culminating at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on May 12 in honor of the fallen.



Mississippi C.O.P.S. in conjunction with Horn Lake High School, presented a token of appreciation to Officers Norfolk and Weeden of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, the school's resource officers for National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. The chapter also supported National C.O.P.S. in hosting a Traumas of Law Enforcement training in Biloxi, MS, in February 2026.



MORE THAN A TRUCK

How One Father's Legacy Continues to Drive His Son Forward: Levi Seals-Gregory, Surviving Son of Officer Jason Seals, EOW 11/17/2018



For Levi Seals-Gregory, his truck is much more than steel, tires, and an engine. It is a connection to his father, a collection of cherished memories, and a reminder that love and legacy can survive even the deepest loss.

Levi was just eight years old when he lost his father, Slidell Police Officer Jason Seals, who died in the line of duty on November 17, 2018. While many childhood memories fade with time, Levi's memories of his father remain vivid. He remembers a man who was loving, compassionate, and devoted to both his family and the community he proudly served.

Officer Seals wore a badge, but his commitment to helping others extended far beyond his profession. Whether responding to a call or spending time with family, Jason approached life with a servant's heart and a desire to make a difference.

To the citizens of Slidell, he was a respected police officer. To Levi, he was simply Dad.

Some of Levi's favorite memories were made alongside his father in a lifted black Ford F-250 Power Stroke. The truck was more than transportation—it was part of their adventures. Together, they traveled to campsites, fishing holes, hiking trails, and countless places that became the

backdrop for unforgettable moments between father and son.

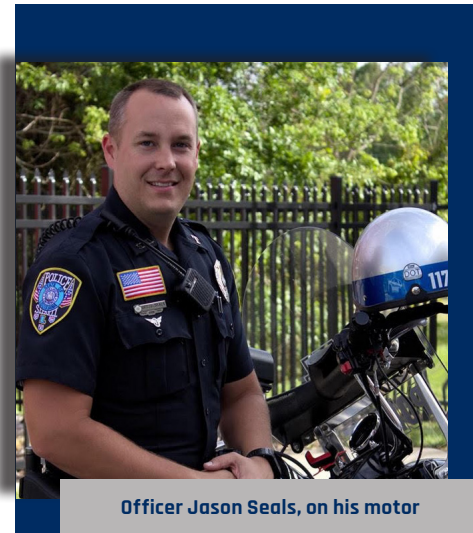
They spent hours outdoors fishing, hiking, and camping beneath the stars. Even ordinary drives became opportunities for conversation, laughter, and bonding. Looking back, it wasn't the destinations that mattered most, it was the time they shared. The truck became a symbol of that connection and the bond that helped shape Levi's childhood.

After Jason's passing, those memories became even more precious. Though Levi could no longer create new memories with his father, he carried those experiences with him as he grew older.

As Levi approached his sixteenth birthday, his mother, Kristen, asked what kind of vehicle he wanted.

Without hesitation, he knew the answer.

He wanted his dad's truck.



Officer Jason Seals, on his motor



Levi and his sister, Lilianna visiting their dad's grave

The request had nothing to do with horsepower or appearance. Levi wasn't asking for a vehicle, he was asking for a piece of his father and the memories they shared.

There was only one problem.

The truck had been sold years earlier, and no one knew where it was.

Many families might have accepted that reality, but Kristen understood what the truck meant to her son. Determined to find it, she began searching. With help from friends, community members, and supporters, leads were followed and information pieced together until, against the odds, the truck was found.

The same black Ford F-250 Power Stroke that had carried Jason and Levi on so many adventures had finally been located.

For Levi's sixteenth birthday, the truck was returned to the family and gifted to him.

The moment was about far more than a vehicle. It was the return of a cherished piece of family history and a tangible connection to a father whose legacy continues to live on.

For Levi, sitting behind the wheel was more than a milestone. Every detail of the truck carried memories, and every mile represented another chapter in a story that continues today.

Since receiving the truck, Levi has begun creating new memories while honoring the old ones. One of the most meaningful additions has been a display for law enforcement patches he has received over the years and has attached them to the inside of his truck. The collection reflects the ongoing support of the law enforcement community and serves as a tribute to the profession his father loved. Each badge represents remembrance, respect, and the lasting impact of Officer Jason Seals' service and sacrifice.

The display is also a reminder that Jason's legacy lives on—in the officers who remember him, in the community he served, and most importantly, in the



Levi, Lilianna, and Jason, making memories by touring a baseball stadium.

young man his son is becoming.

The story of Levi and his father's truck is about far more than a recovered vehicle. It is a story of resilience, family, and the enduring power of memory. It reminds us that while tragedy can change a family's life forever, it cannot erase the love that binds them together.

For Levi, the truck is a bridge between past and present. It carries memories of fishing trips, camping adventures, and countless conversations with his dad while helping him create new experiences of his own.

Some inheritances are measured in dollars and possessions. Others are measured in memories, values, and love. Levi received all of those from his father. The truck simply helps carry them forward.

With every mile he drives, the legacy of Officer Jason Seals, his Dad, rides with him.



The patches that Levi displays in the truck.

C.O.P.S. PRESENTS THE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT WELLNESS & TRAUMA

NOVEMBER 5 - 8, 2026
SHERATON SAN DIEGO RESORT
SAN DIEGO, CA

Empowered by



Special gift from:



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



KWESI MILLINGTON



TIM WHITCOMB



DARRELL AULSTON

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 FEE ONLY \$350 PER PERSON!

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

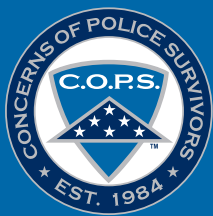
Fee includes access to all classes, general sessions, law enforcement appreciation night reception/dinner, and 2 lunches.

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

WWW.CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG



SCAN ME



SEVEN IN SEPTEMBER

7 just turned into 8! 8 prizes in 7 days!

Take your chance at this new raffle! Prizes include 7 firearms and 1 grand prize trip to the Sig Sauer headquarters! Drawing will be held once per day starting September 20, with the Daniel Defense rifle and Sig Sauer grand prize to be drawn September 26.

Prizes include:



TWO Sig Sauer P365X



ONE Ruger RXM 9mm (Model #19443)



ONE Ruger RXM 9mm (Model #19400)



ONE .22 Magnum Mini Revolver from North American Arms



ONE Sig Sauer P320C 9mm from ProForce



ONE Daniel Defense DDM4V7 Rifle

Each prize comes with a cleaning kit from Otis Technology!



Grand Prize:

All expense paid trip to Sig Sauer Headquarters!

Each prize comes with a cleaning kit from Otis Technology!

Cost:

- * 1 Raffle Entry – \$10
- * 5 Raffle Entries – \$45
- * 20 Raffle Entries – \$100
- * 125 Raffle Entries – \$500

Scan to Enter:



Please note: All winners will receive a certificate to obtain their prize. Firearms **MUST** be exchanged through a Federal Firearms Licensed (FFL) dealer. Dealer fees may be applied.

A background check will be required.

Contributing Sponsors:



FINAL 2026 TRAUMAS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING LOCATIONS

NO COST TO REGISTER

August 17 - 19
El Paso, Texas

September 14 - 16
Newark, New Jersey



Register Now

TURNING GRIEF INTO PURPOSE

THE STORY OF PAT NADING-AMMAN
SURVIVING SPOUSE OF DENVER (CO) PATROLMAN
MERLE NADING, EOW 10/3/1971

Pat Nading-Amman's story is one of quiet strength, relentless advocacy, and lasting impact, an example of how one voice, driven by love and loss, helped shape a national program that continues to support thousands of surviving families today.

In 1971, tragedy struck Pat's life when her husband, Denver Police Officer Merle E. Nading, Jr., was killed in the line of duty. At just 29 years old, Pat was left to raise two young sons, ages 8 and 10, on her own. Like so many survivors of that era, she faced not only the emotional devastation of loss but also the overwhelming realities of financial uncertainty and isolation. There were no structured support systems, no counseling resources, and no national safety net for families like hers. As Pat would later describe, once the funeral ended and the community support faded, "the loneliness of the life ahead...really hit me hard; I was alone."

At the same time, a national conversation was beginning to take shape. Following a surge in line-of-duty deaths in 1971, President Richard Nixon introduced what would become the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Act. The legislation aimed to provide financial assistance to the families of fallen officers, including a \$50,000 death benefit, a significant measure at the time. Whether the bill would apply retroactively to families like Pat's, whose loved ones had already been killed because a critical issue. This is where Pat's role became pivotal.



PAT, MERLE, AND THEIR SONS

As Congress worked to reconcile differences between House and Senate versions of the bill, Pat was asked to lend her voice to the process. She did more than that. Pat became a passionate advocate, she wrote letters to members of Congress in both chambers, urging lawmakers to ensure the bill included retroactive relief. Her argument was simple but powerful. No family raising minor children after losing a loved one in the line of duty should be excluded from receiving support.

"I passionately believed that any mother raising children of minor age should receive the benefit from this bill and not be left out," she later reflected.

Pat did not advocate for a specific date or narrow eligibility window. Instead, she pushed for a principle, that the legislation should serve all who were impacted by the very tragedies that prompted its creation. With so many officers killed in 1971, she believed strongly that their families, at the very least, must be included.

Her efforts did not go unnoticed. Remarkably, Pat received a personal reply from every Congressman and Congresswoman she contacted, a testament to both the reach of her advocacy and the sincerity of her message. At a time when she was navigating grief, financial hardship, and the demands of single parenthood, she still found the strength to fight for others.

The stakes were deeply personal. Pat understood firsthand how transformative the PSOB benefit could have been for her family. With no college savings and limited income, she worried constantly about how she would provide for her sons' futures. The financial support offered by PSOB would have eased that burden significantly, offering not just stability, but hope. While



PAT, MERLE, AND THEIR SONS



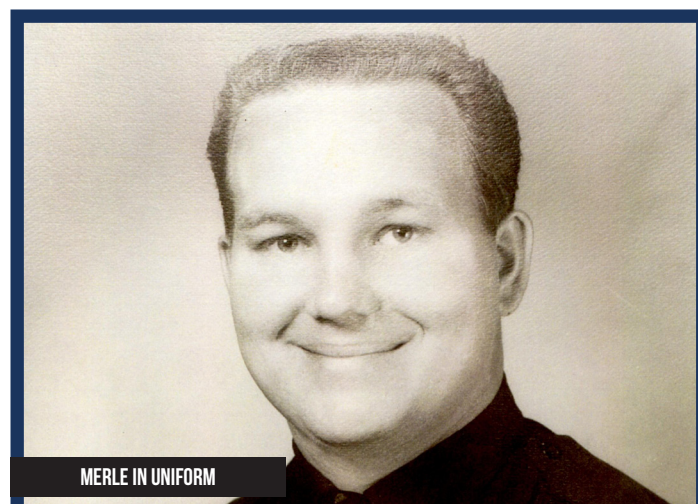
A RECENT PHOTO OF PAT
AND HER FAMILY

ultimately unsuccessful in securing PSOB benefits for her own family, Pat's advocacy ensured that future families would have access.

Yet her advocacy extended beyond finances. Pat recognized the broader need for support, guidance, community, and connection. In the early 1970s, those resources simply did not exist. Survivors were left to navigate grief alone, without a roadmap or a network to lean on.

The PSOB program was established in 1976 and expanded, becoming a cornerstone of federal support for fallen officers' families. Today, it stands as a vital lifeline, providing financial assistance and helping ensure that survivors are not left behind. While many contributed to its passage, voices like Pat's were instrumental in shaping its purpose and pushing for greater inclusivity.

DECADES LATER, PAT CONTINUES TO WITNESS THE LASTING IMPACT OF HER WORK. WHILE SHE DID NOT PERSONALLY BENEFIT FROM IT, HER EFFORTS HAVE IMPACTED THE LIVES OF SO MANY OTHERS.



MERLE IN UNIFORM

Now 55 years after her husband's death, she is involved with Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), a national organization that provides emotional and practical support to families of fallen officers. Through her involvement with the Colorado Chapter, Pat has found community, connection, and a renewed sense of purpose. She shares her experiences, offers guidance to newer survivors, and takes pride in the life she built for her family, raising two successful sons and watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren thrive.

Her journey with C.O.P.S. also brought moments of long-awaited healing. In 2025, Pat attended National Police Week in Washington, D.C. for the first time, visiting the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and seeing her husband's name engraved on the wall. The experience, she said, was deeply moving, providing a sense of closure that had eluded her for decades.

That same year, she attended her first Spouses Weekend, a milestone that marked a powerful full-circle moment. Surrounded by others who understood her journey, Pat experienced the kind of support she had once gone without. It was, in many ways, the realization of everything she had fought for.

Today, Pat Nading-Amman stands as both a beneficiary and a builder of the survivor support system. Her advocacy helped lay the groundwork for the PSOB program, and her continued involvement with C.O.P.S. ensures that its spirit lives on, not just in policy, but in people.

After more than five decades, her story has come full circle. Through C.O.P.S., she now both receives and provides the support she once needed, proving that even in the face of unimaginable loss, one voice can create lasting change for generations to come.

PHOTO RECAP

Enjoy these photos from the Survivor Weekends that have been held so far!

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.

SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT

WRITTEN BY JESSICA STEPHAN, SURVIVING SPOUSE OF
INDIANA STATE TROOPER PETER "BO" STEPHAN, EOW 10/11/2019

My life can be divided into two very distinct parts: before the knock on the door and after.

That knock is something many in the law enforcement family know all too well. It is the knock we pray never comes; the one we hope only happens to someone else. I never imagined it would happen to me.

Then one night, it did.

Before the knock, I was a wife and a new mom trying to navigate changing schedules and the beautiful chaos of building a life together. My husband and I believed we were living our dream. We were planning a future, building careers, and imagining the life we would create as our daughter grew up. Like so many families, we assumed we had more time.

Then came October 11, 2019.

My husband, Indiana State Trooper Peter "Bo" Stephan, was killed in a single-vehicle crash while responding to assist another trooper.

I WATCHED HIM PULL OUT OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WITH LIGHTS AND SIRENS ON, NEVER IMAGINING IT WOULD BE THE LAST TIME I WOULD SEE HIM.

Just before the call came out, Bo had been home washing dishes. It may seem like a small detail, but to me it says everything about who he was. I



had been carrying a difficult week, and all he wanted was to take one thing off my plate so I could relax. When the call came over the radio, I knew he would leave. Everyone who knew Bo knew he would be among the first to respond because helping others was simply who he was.

He promised he wouldn't be gone long.

A little more than an hour later, I received that knock. In an instant, the future we had planned disappeared. Our daughter was not yet five months old. I remember standing in her nursery, trying to comprehend how life could change so completely and wondering how we were supposed to move forward without him.

What I wish more people knew, however, is not how Bo died, but how he lived.

One of the greatest gifts I have received since his death has been the stories others have shared about him. Coworkers describe his calm presence in the middle of chaos. They talk about his servant's heart, his willingness to help anyone, and the steady confidence he brought to difficult situations. Every story makes me smile because they are describing the same man I knew at home.

The more stories I heard, the more I realized how



many lives Bo had touched. To me, he was my husband and the father of our daughter. To others, he was a trusted friend, mentor, coworker, and source of strength. Looking back, I do not think I fully understood the impact he had on people until I saw it reflected through their memories of him.



At his funeral, I looked out over a sea of law enforcement officers and their families and referred to them as family. At the time, I had no idea how true those words would become.

As the years passed, my grief changed. In the beginning, I grieved the husband I lost and the future we would never have. Later, I found myself grieving for our daughter. She would never remember her dad's voice, his laugh, or the way he looked at her. She would never run to him with her first broken heart or celebrate milestones with him by her side.

She would never have memories of him. But she would have his stories. In 2022, a friend whose story closely mirrored my own convinced me to attend a C.O.P.S. Spouses' Weekend. I had been hesitant because accepting help meant accepting that I truly was a surviving spouse. What I found was something I didn't realize I needed: a place where people understood. For the first time, I was surrounded by others who knew this journey without explanation.

That weekend, I heard a lot about C.O.P.S. Kids Camp and knew immediately that I wanted my daughter to experience it one day.

In 2025, she attended her first Kids Camp. I watched her come out of her shell and build friendships with children who understood loss in a way most kids never will. She found a place where

talking about her dad felt normal and where she didn't have to explain why his absence still mattered. When she thanked me for taking her, I knew she had found something incredibly valuable; a place where she belonged.

As a parent, there is tremendous comfort in knowing she has people walking alongside her who understand this part of her story.

Then, this past December, I learned just how far that support extends. While hospitalized more than a thousand miles from home, officers I had never met learned who I was through law enforcement connections. One by one, they walked into my hospital room simply to check on me.

In that moment, I realized how far this family reaches.

In 2026, my daughter will attend her second Kids Camp, and I will attend my fifth Spouses' Weekend. Those milestones are not simply reminders of time passing. They are reminders of the people who helped us survive, heal, and move forward.

My life will always be divided into before and after. But over time, I have learned that the "after" was not just about losing Bo. It was also about finding a family that refused to let us walk this journey alone.

While I would give anything to return to the before, I will always be grateful for the people who have carried us through the after, and for the family we found because of him.

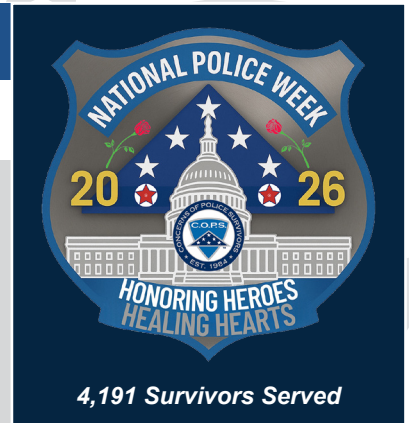


NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

C.O.P.S. National Police Week 2026 Statistics

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

Adult Child: 165	Mother In-Law: 36
Aunt: 26	Nephew: 82
Brother In-Law: 55	Niece: 73
Child: 168	Other: 15
Cousin: 56	Sibling: 180
Co-Worker: 1,788	Significant Other: 8
Co-Worker Family: 300	Sister In-Law: 71
Daughter In-Law: 29	Son In-Law: 26
Father: 59	Spouse: 236
Father In-Law: 16	Supporters: 341
Fiance: 12	Uncle: 14
Friend: 232	Special Guests: 335 *Donors,
Grandchild: 87	Bureau of Justice Assistance,
Grandfather: 3	Support Services, Kids/Teens Staff
Grandmother: 5	& Mentors, Volunteers, Staff, etc.
Mother: 108	



C.O.P.S. Conference Statistics

24	Organizations on the NPW Planning Committee
30	Agencies involved with Support Services
103	Support Services Team Members
47	C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens Staff
65	C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens Program Attendees
86	Agencies involved with Motorcades
329	Motors involved with Motorcades
5,744	Pre-registrations Processed by C.O.P.S. Staff
378	Registrations Processed On-site
6,624	Hotel Room Nights Booked

Legacy Sponsor

Guardian Sponsor

Benefactor Sponsor

Peacekeeper Sponsors

Defender Sponsors

NATIONAL POLICE SURVIVORS' CONFERENCE



NPW

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MAY 14TH SPONSORS

Hope Sponsor



New York State Fraternal Order of Police
Police Sergeants & Associates
(Order #240)

Helping Hand Sponsors

Arizona C.O.P.S.
Georgia C.O.P.S.
Missouri C.O.P.S.

Support Sponsors

Illinois C.O.P.S.
Maryland C.O.P.S.
Washington State C.O.P.S.

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

Healing Sponsors





Hope Sponsor



Helping Hand Sponsor

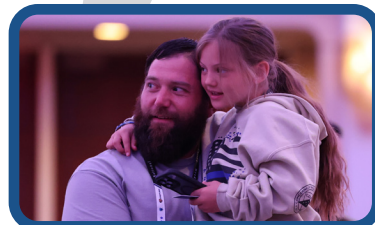
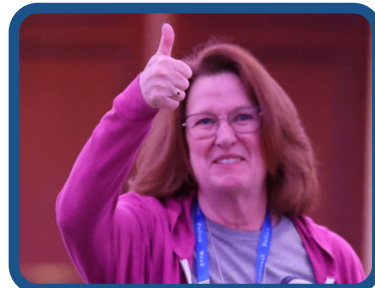
Iowa C.O.P.S.

Support Sponsor

Pennsylvania C.O.P.S.

On May 14 and 16, the C.O.P.S. National Police Survivors' Conference brought survivors together for two powerful days of connection, healing, and support. Through thoughtfully organized breakout sessions, surviving family members and co-workers were provided meaningful resources and guidance tailored to the unique challenges of their grief journey.

Attendees also had the opportunity to gather together for an uplifting and meaningful conference experience, including hearing from Sam Glenn, whose message encouraged resilience, hope, and the importance of finding light even in life's most difficult moments.



NPW

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MAY 16TH SPONSORS

Hope Sponsor



HHV
Hard Head Veterans

Helping Hand Sponsor

Arizona C.O.P.S.

Support Sponsors

Illinois C.O.P.S.
Maryland C.O.P.S.
Montana C.O.P.S.

Blue Family BBQ

Hope Sponsors




Critters For Kids Sponsors






CANDLELIGHT VIGIL



On the evening of May 13, thousands gathered in solemn remembrance for the **38th Annual Candlelight Vigil**, hosted by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. As candles illuminated the night, the names of 363 fallen law enforcement officers were newly engraved and reverently read aloud, ensuring their sacrifice and service will never be forgotten. Each name represented a life dedicated to protecting others and a legacy that will forever be remembered. To date, 24,775 officers' names have been permanently etched into the Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., serving as a powerful and lasting tribute to our nation's fallen heroes.

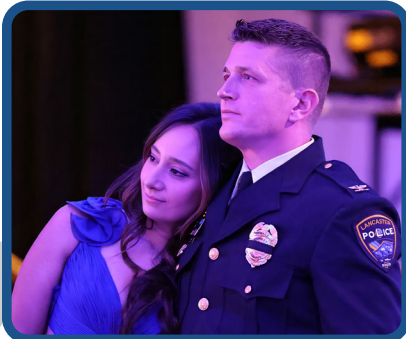


C.O.P.S. BLUE HONOR GALA



The **C.O.P.S. Blue Honor Gala** welcomed more than 1,200 attendees on May 14 for an evening of remembrance, musical performances, and tributes honoring our fallen heroes.

Thank you to the sponsors, volunteers, staff, National Board members, chapters, and supporters who made this meaningful event possible.



One of the most special parts of the annual Blue Honor Gala during National Police Week is the survivor speaker. This year, James Haynes brought joy, tears, laughter, reflection of memories of his father, and the life James has lived following his father's death. James is the surviving son of South Carolina Highway Patrol Lance Corporal James Darryl Haynes II, EOW 2/1/2008.

In front of over 1,200 guests, James spoke of his late father. How he was a hero, father, husband, and so much more. He spoke about C.O.P.S. Kids Camp, Young Adults Camp, and the lifelong bonds, that programs like these have created in his life. James acknowledged his mother, brother, fiancée, and many other supporters that have helped mold James into the man he is today.

"I made a promise to myself that I would become the protector and leader my dad would have wanted me to be; someone who would continue his legacy and make him proud."



PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE



On May 15, the **45th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service**, hosted by the National Fraternal Order of Police and Auxiliary, served as a powerful tribute to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Held at the United States Capitol, the service brought together survivors, co-workers, and supporters from across the nation as the names of 232 fallen officers were solemnly read aloud. In one of the memorial's most moving moments, families stepped forward to place carnations into the memorial wreath, symbolizing enduring love, remembrance, and sacrifice. Vice President JD Vance, also attended the service, delivering remarks honoring the courage of America's law enforcement officers and reaffirming support for those who continue to serve and for the families carrying the legacy of the fallen.



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 many attendees who came together to enjoy a great bbq dinner, popular activities such as airbrush tattoos and bounce houses, dancing, a DJ and overall a fantastic night for all!



COPS SHOP

ROLL CALL SALE
\$10 PER SHIRT



copsshop.org



SHOP HERE

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Charles Shinholser Award for Volunteerism

Joe Bernhard

This award recognizes an individual who has gone above and beyond in service to this organization, someone who has generously given one of life's most valuable gifts: their time. It honors a person whose quiet dedication, unwavering commitment, and servant's heart have made a lasting impact on C.O.P.S. and the survivors we serve.

For the past 12 and a half years, while his wife, Dianne Bernhard, has served as Executive Director of C.O.P.S., Joe Bernhard has been a constant and steadfast presence behind the scenes, supporting the organization in countless ways that often go unseen, yet are truly irreplaceable. Whether lending a helping hand, stepping in wherever needed, or simply showing up without hesitation, Joe has consistently embodied the very spirit of volunteerism. After retiring from a distinguished 25-year career in law enforcement, his commitment to serving others never wavered; instead, it found a new home through C.O.P.S.

Joe Bernhard exemplifies what it means to lead through humility, compassion, and action. His dedication has strengthened this organization in immeasurable ways, and today, we proudly celebrate and honor him for the extraordinary difference he continues to make.



C.O.P.S. Chapter of the Year *Pennsylvania C.O.P.S.*



In a year marked by profound loss, Pennsylvania C.O.P.S. demonstrated extraordinary compassion, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to survivors. Following the tragic loss of five officers in the line of duty, your chapter stood beside every surviving family and agency, ensuring no one faced grief alone. Members attended each service, offering steadfast peer support and a compassionate presence during some of life's most difficult moments.

Your chapter's impact reaches far beyond organized events; it is found in the consistency of showing up and walking alongside survivors long after the services have ended. Survivors describe your greatest strength simply: "You are there."

For exemplifying the mission of C.O.P.S. through unwavering peer support, compassion, and service to the law enforcement community, we are proud to honor Pennsylvania C.O.P.S. as the recipient of the 2026 C.O.P.S. Chapter of the Year Award. Congratulations on this incredibly well-deserved recognition.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITED DONATES \$340,000 TO C.O.P.S.!



With unwavering purpose and hearts set on remembrance, members of Law Enforcement United (LEU) rode into the Washington Hilton, C.O.P.S.' host hotel during National Police Week, paying tribute to our fallen heroes and standing in solidarity with the survivors they left behind. This year, 825 individuals participated in the journey, including riders, support personnel, and volunteers representing seven divisions: Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland (Ruff Ride), Tough Ride, Long Ride, and New York (Honor 37). Their arrival served as a powerful reminder that the sacrifices

of our nation's law enforcement officers will never be forgotten.



Following the ride, LEU members gathered in the International Ballroom to present three charitable donations, including an extraordinary \$340,000 contribution to support National C.O.P.S. and the mission of serving surviving families and co-workers of fallen officers.

"The impact of Law Enforcement United reaches far beyond the miles they ride," said Dianne Bernhard, Executive Director of C.O.P.S. "Their steadfast support honors the memory of our fallen heroes while bringing hope, healing, and a powerful reminder to survivors that they will never walk this journey alone."



For years, LEU has remained steadfast in honoring officers who died in the line of duty while ensuring their survivors are never alone. Through remembrance and support, LEU fully funds Kids Camp and funds a portion of Young Adult Camp each year, turning hope into healing.

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

STREAMLIGHT'S LEGACY OF SUPPORT CONTINUES



During National Police Week, longtime partner and steadfast supporter Streamlight, Inc. presented C.O.P.S. with a

generous donation of \$145,245 to help provide critical programs and services for surviving families and co-workers of fallen officers.

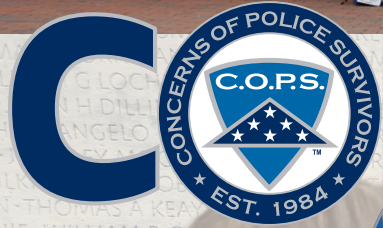
For years, Streamlight has been a beacon of hope for survivors, standing alongside C.O.P.S. in its mission to rebuild shattered lives. Their unwavering partnership has helped bring healing, support, and connection to countless survivors navigating the unimaginable.



"Our partnership with Streamlight is one we deeply value because together, we have helped rebuild so many lives," said Dianne Bernhard, Executive Director of C.O.P.S. "Streamlight's commitment to survivors goes far beyond financial support — they genuinely care about the families and co-workers we serve. Through every challenge and every step forward, they have stood beside C.O.P.S. with compassion, dedication, and unwavering support."

With this year's contribution, Streamlight's lifetime giving to C.O.P.S. has surpassed \$2.7 million. Together, C.O.P.S. and Streamlight remain committed to ensuring survivors never walk this journey alone, continuing to bring hope and healing to those who need it most.

WALK in honor of YOUR HERO!



COPS WALK

**OCTOBER 9-11, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

TO THE WALL

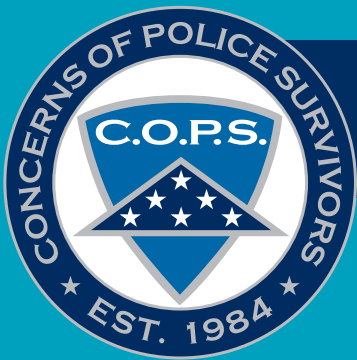


Day 1 - We will walk the beautiful Rock Creek Trail which offers majestic trees, wild animals, and thousands of years of nature in the heart of our nation's capital!

Day 2 - Enjoy "Miles of Monuments" where we will walk alongside our nation's most historic monuments and end at the honorable National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall and Museum!



2 Days / 25 Miles / Every Mile A Memory
Each walker must reach the \$1,000 fundraising goal.



YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

Within Concerns of Police Survivors, no one has to walk the journey alone, healing often comes through connection with those who understand. Local chapters offer more than events; they provide a support network where survivors can share, listen, and encourage one another. Support can be as simple as a call, coffee, or attending an event together, as well as mentorship and informal gatherings. Giving and receiving support can bring comfort and healing, and C.O.P.S. chapters are there to walk alongside survivors at every stage of the journey. Get involved with your local chapter by scanning the QR code provided.



YOUR CHAPTER

C.O.P.S. KIDS COUNSELING PROGRAM



ELIGIBILITY

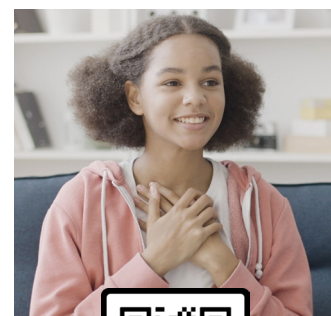
Any dependent child, under the age of 22, of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty (according to federal government criteria) since May 14, 1984, is eligible.



Assists with out-of-pocket counseling costs



Prescribed Medication Assistance



APPLY TODAY

WHY WE GIVE

✦ Flock Safety

Flock's Commitment to C.O.P.S. and the Law Enforcement Community

At Flock, we believe safer communities are built by people.

Every day, law enforcement officers step forward to protect the communities they serve. Their work is visible in the moments that make headlines and in countless moments that never do. What is often less visible are the families who stand beside them through every shift, every call, and every sacrifice. When an officer is lost in the line of duty, that loss reaches far beyond an agency. Families, friends, coworkers, and entire communities are left to navigate an unimaginable absence.

That is why Flock is proud to support Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.).

For Ashlee Adeli, board member of Flock's "LEOs of Flock" employee resource group – which brings together employees who started their careers in law enforcement – the mission of C.O.P.S. is deeply personal.

Ashlee first attended National Police Week in 2013. During that week, she met survivors and



family members who returned year after year to honor loved ones and support one another through shared experiences of loss and service. In 2017, she returned to Washington, D.C., to honor Dennis Wallace, a fallen officer whose story helped shape her path into law enforcement.

Reflecting on this year's Police Week, Ashlee shared:

"The first time I stood at the Candlelight Vigil on the Capitol lawn was the moment I knew I wanted to find my place within the law enforcement family."





This year, thanks to the incredible work being done by Concerns of Police Survivors, the LEOs of Flock board was able to attend and support. Even at eight months pregnant, I knew I wanted to be there.

Police Week will always hold a special place in my heart. It's a time to honor those we've lost, support their families, and reflect on the impact of service and sacrifice.

I'm grateful to have spent time alongside fellow Flock employees volunteering during such a meaningful week and giving back in support of the law enforcement community and the families at the heart of Police Week."

THE C.O.P.S. MISSION RESONATES DEEPLY WITH MANY OF US ACROSS THE FLOCK ORGANIZATION. SOME MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM HAVE SERVED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT THEMSELVES.

Others have parents, spouses, siblings, or close friends who have dedicated their lives to public safety. Those connections create a lasting appreciation for the commitment that public service requires and the impact it has on the families who share in that responsibility.

Over the years, we have had the privilege of spending time with the C.O.P.S. community during National Police Week, at the C.O.P.S. Gala, and through events that bring survivors and supporters together from across the country.

In those moments, we have witnessed something remarkable: resilience strengthened through connection, and healing made possible by community.

At Flock, we often talk about helping communities thrive. We believe that responsibility extends beyond the work we do every day. It includes showing up for the people who have given so much in service to others and supporting the organizations that stand beside them when they need it most.

Supporting C.O.P.S. is one way we put that belief into action.

To the survivors served by C.O.P.S.: thank you for allowing us to stand alongside you. Your strength honors the legacy of your loved ones, and their impact continues to be felt in communities across the nation.



LEARN MORE



C.O.P.S. Scholarships

C.O.P.S. Granted \$42,127.36 in Scholarships for the 2026 Summer Semester.

Several benefactors help C.O.P.S. provide these scholarships. The scholarship fund has provided over \$3.1 million in scholarships to survivors since 1993.

Recipients of the 2026 C.O.P.S. Summer scholarship are:

Natalie Boone

Western Governors University
Adult Child of Richard Weinhold
EOW 10/31/2000

Taylor Born

Heidelberg University
Adult Child of Dominic Francis
EOW 3/31/2022

Ramon Caban

University of Central Florida
Adult Child of Ramon Caban
EOW 10/18/2021

Kyle Clerge

Southern New Hampshire University
Adult Child of Sony Clerge
EOW 8/20/2021

Mariah Darden

Notre Dame of Maryland University
Adult Child of Seneca Darden
EOW 5/21/2006

Mary Dinger

Millersville University
Adult Child of Steven Jerman
EOW 2/20/1999

Tiauna Douglas

Texas A&M International University
Adult Child of Thomas Douglas
EOW 3/10/2004

Jazmyn-Te'ana Enriquez

Hawaii Pacific University
Adult Child of Tiffany-Victoria Enriquez
EOW 1/19/2020

Grace Gaunt

University of Utah
Adult Child of Brian Gaunt
EOW 10/24/2021

Nicole Gilner

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Adult Child of Stephen Gilner
EOW 7/24/1999

Whitney Grant

Meridian University
Adult Child of David Grant
EOW 5/31/2004

Lindsey Hamilton

Idaho State University
Adult Child of Rick Cromwell
EOW 12/9/1998

Reilly Hannon

University of South Florida
Adult Child of Thomas Hannon
EOW 9/1/2017

Cassandra Helentjaris

Wright State University
Adult Child of Mark Heinl
EOW 11/28/2020

Jazmin Hernandez

Temple University
Spouse of Jaime Roman
EOW 9/10/2024

Jennifer Hernandez-Reyes

Universidad Anna G. Mendez
Spouse of Jorge Sanchez-Santiago
EOW 8/15/2009

Adelina Herrera

Bellevue University
Adult Child of L. Herrera
EOW 9/7/2020

Randy Jones

Career Development Center
Adult Child of Saxton Jones
EOW 5/1/1995

Adrian Junco-Seals

Northeastern University
Adult Child of Joseph Seals
EOW 12/10/2019

Joshua Katherman

Simpson University
Adult Child of Michael Katherman
EOW 6/14/2016

Kaitlyn Kennedy

Abilene Christian University
Adult Child of Korby Kennedy
EOW 6/25/2015

Trenton Mahaffey

Anderson University
Adult Child of Brian Mahaffey
EOW 5/8/2010

Roselyn Martin

Kennesaw State University
Adult Child of Clinton Martin
EOW 7/3/2021

Maverick McClendon

Southeastern Nazarene University
Adult Child of William McClendon
EOW 10/1/2006

Christina Molloy

Molloy University
Adult Child of James Molloy
EOW 1/30/2017

Tyler Mosher

University of Kansas
Adult Child of Michael Mosher
EOW 5/3/2020

Jazmin Olsen-Coulter

VCOM- Auburn Campus
Adult Child of Thomas Coulter
EOW 5/21/2018

Brandon One Feather

Michigan State University
Spouse of Kelmar One Feather
EOW 7/1/2000

Ilia Ortiz

Wake Forest School of Medicine
Adult Child of Norberto Ortiz Ocasio
EOW 8/11/1993

Caroline Parry

Loyola University of Maryland
Adult Child of Mark Parry
EOW 1/21/2002

Asjah Pippin

Grand Canyon University
Adult Child of Bryan Pippin
EOW 9/8/2021

Stephanie Raetz

Arizona College of Nursing
Adult Child of Daryl Raetz
EOW 5/19/2013

Kimberly Redd

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

Dara Runyon

Montclair University
Spouse of Frederick Baker
EOW 7/30/1997

Eric Schroeder

St. Vincent College
Adult Child of Jonathan Schroeder
EOW 8/31/2006

Benjamin Sloan

Grand Canyon University
Adult Child of Patrick Sloan
EOW 10/31/2020

Jazlyn Smith

Campbellsville University
Adult Child of James Smith
EOW 4/9/2021

Rory Thompson

Art of Education University
Adult Child of David Grant
EOW 5/31/2004

Aubrey Wall

PACE University
Adult Child of Michael Wall
EOW 4/30/2021

Emalie Wall

Amberton University
Adult Child of Ronnie Lerma
EOW 9/21/1998

Ashley Warner

Rockhurst University
Adult Child of Jeff Howey
EOW 6/13/2000

Kendall Wise

Wyoming College of Law
Adult Child of Michael Wise
EOW 6/5/2004

Donna Ybarra

University of Phoenix
Adult Child of Jose Barraza
EOW 4/18/2016

For the Fall 2026 semester, the National Board approved \$115,000 in scholarships. The amount will be evenly split between the 81 scholarships awarded, which is \$1,420 per scholarship awarded.

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.

Deadline dates for scholarship applications are as follows:

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

Scholarships are not awarded to survivors who are entitled to a tuition-free education as a state death benefit.



LEARN MORE

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Thank you to our generous donors who contributed \$250 or higher between February 2, 2026 and June 1, 2026. Your continuous support is greatly appreciated!

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THROUGH THE AMERICAN HEROES SCHOLARSHIP FUND, ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH AND MARTIN COUNTIES, WE PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDREN OF FALLEN LAW ENFORCEMENT PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION, ENSURING EVERY OFFICER, ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES, IS NEVER FORGOTTEN.

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November 13-15, 2026

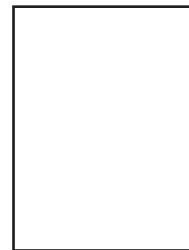
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