Dear Survivors,

I hope you all were able to find some joy during the holiday season and were able to reflect on memories of your officer from years past, while also making new memories with your loved ones. My family did just that, knowing that 2023 marks 20 years since the death of my son, Officer Jeremy “Jay” Carruth and his friend and partner Officer David Ezernack, EOW 2/20/2003.

Recently, I was honored to have a short documentary made about my family’s journey from our loss to where we are at today. I hope you get a chance to watch it, as it was my hope that this project helps you understand my family’s story, our highs and lows, and that you are able to resonate with parts of our journey. All stories are different, but it’s the times where we hear other’s stories and say to ourselves “I felt that way, too!” that can often be the first steps in opening up our hearts to the vital peer support which is the heart of the C.O.P.S. organization.

We are gearing up for another big National Police Week. It breaks my heart that we will be welcoming the surviving family members and co-workers of 443 fallen heroes this year. That number is far too high. But no matter how high that number gets, C.O.P.S. will be there to support every single person who needs us.

Not only is this another big year attendance wise, this year is bringing a lot of changes. We will be calling the Washington Hilton “home” for the week, as this will be the location of the C.O.P.S. Host Hotel. The benefit of this change is that we can all be together for the main events. Registration and check-in will be in one hotel, family members and co-workers will attend sessions and meals together under one roof, and the Blue Honor Gala will also be hosted in the beautiful and famous International Ballroom of the host hotel. There are three restaurants on-site, two of the other C.O.P.S. hotels are located just across the street, and the location of the hotel is much closer to all downtown Washington, D.C. has to offer.

If you don’t have your tickets for the Blue Honor Gala, I encourage you to log on to the C.O.P.S. website and get yours as soon as possible. We are excited to present a formal night of honor and fellowship, an incredible menu, encouraging speakers, and a private concert by famed country music artist Easton Corbin!

If you have questions about National Police Week or any of the upcoming Hands-On Programs that will begin in March, please know the C.O.P.S. National Office is here for you. Myself and my fellow National Board members look forward to welcoming you and connecting with you in May!

Take care my friends,

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

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

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

Submission Information

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

Information for Our Readers

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

W=Spouse; AC=Adult Child; C= Child; S=Sibling; M=Mother; F=Father; CW = Co-Worker; SM=Step-Mother; SF=Step-Father; SC=Step-Child; GM=Grandmother; GF=Grandfather; GC=Grandchild; FS=Former Spouse; FN=Fiancé; SO=Significant Other; F-IL=Father In-Law; M-IL=Mother In-Law; D-IL=Daughter In-Law; S-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
The upcoming National Board Meeting will be held at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C., on May 11th at 8:30 am. Another meeting will be held on July 27, 2023, at the Embassy Suites in St. Charles, MO, starting at 8:00 a.m. If you have a topic of discussion to submit for either meeting, please email Barbie Squires at barbie_squires@nationalcops.org.

Updates Regarding the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) Program:

The amount of the PSOB benefit is $422,035 for eligible deaths and disabilities occurring on or after October 1, 2022. The amount of the PSOB educational assistance benefit for one month of full-time assistance on or after October 1, 2022 is $1,401.

The PSOB office recently released a Frequently Asked Questions document regarding the Public Safety Officer Support Act (PSOSA) of 2022. This document is a good resource for any agency, surviving family member, and/ or C.O.P.S. Chapter who have been impacted by suicide. Included in the document is:

- Definition of a public safety officer
- Qualification requirements for death benefits
- Who may file a claim under PSOSA
- What is a “traumatic event” under PSOSA

For the full document, please visit bja.ojp.gov.
To enable the C.O.P.S. organization to provide peer support close to home, below are 55 C.O.P.S. Chapters that are here to help you through the difficult times. These are the Chapter Representatives as of March 1, 2023:

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

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

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

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

**California**  

**Central CAL C.O.P.S.**  
Helen Garner, President  
helen.cencalcops@gmail.com  
(209) 534-3141  
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.**  
Jennifer Lobo, President  
jlobo.socalcops@gmail.com  
(909) 770-3549  
www.socalcops.org

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

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

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

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

**Florida**  

**Central FL C.O.P.S.**  
Virginia Ricks, Chapter Director  
centralflcops@gmail.com  
(850) 445-2589  
www.centraflFloridaCops.org

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

**Northwest FL C.O.P.S.**  
Harold Shover, President  
haroldshover@gmail.com  
(850)-635-5484

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

**West Central FL C.O.P.S.**  
Gary Dukeman, President  
autumnwfcops@gmail.com  
(727) 859-7011  
www.westcentraflcops.org

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

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

**Illinois C.O.P.S.**  
Debbie Wiseman, President  
kdonwart@ilcops.org  
(630) 926-4318  
www.ilcops.org

**Indiana C.O.P.S.**  
Dan Calvin, President  
dan.calvin@co-alliance.com  
(765) 438-3760  
www.indianacops.org

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

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

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

**Louisiana C.O.P.S.**  
Jada Breaux, President  
cops@la-cops.org  
(337) 339-4553  
www.la-cops.org

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

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

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

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

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

**Mississippi C.O.P.S.**  
Tressie Hall-Durr, President  
tressiehall@micops.org  
(601) 295-2314  
www.mnncops.org

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

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

New England C.O.P.S.
Mario Oliveira, President
mario1009111.org
(617) 799-9190
www.copsne.org

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

New Jersey

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

NJSP Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S.
Michelle Carroll, President
njspottcops@aol.com
(732) 208-2811
www.survivorsofthetriangolareg.org

New Mexico C.O.P.S.
Kim Talbott, President
ktalbott@plateautel.net
(575) 673-1714
www.newmexicocops.org

New York

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

Metro NY C.O.P.S.
Muriel Worst, President
muriel.worst@metronycops.org
(631) 258-8998
www.metronycops.org

Western NY C.O.P.S.
Kim Knox, President
wnycops@gmail.com
(716) 983-3799
www.westernnycops.org

North Carolina C.O.P.S.
Wanda Rhyn, President
wanda212@windsor.net
(910) 315-8150
www.nccops.net

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

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

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

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

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

South Carolina

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

South Carolina

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

Tennessee

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

West TN C.O.P.S.
Lisa Woods, President
lisawoods381@aol.com
(901) 618-4790
www.westtennesseecops.org

Texas

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

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

South Texas C.O.P.S.
Patrick Murnin
southtxcops@yahoo.com
(210) 391-0446
www.southtexascops.com

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

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

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

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

Washington State C.O.P.S.
Leslie Merklin-Barber, President
leslie.barber@washingtonstatecops.org
(425) 522-2677
www.washingtonstatecops.org

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

States without an active chapter:
Hawaii
North Dakota
South Dakota
West Virginia
Wyoming
Congratulations to Patricia “Pat” Newlin who was united in marriage to Ernest B. Porter on December 31, 2022.


Jillayne Nielsen married Justin Granger on October 23, 2021, in Granbury, TX.

The couple enjoyed having their children, JayLynn, Johnathon, and Landon in the wedding, alongside their nieces Gabby (Maid of Honor) and Lily (Bridesmaid).

Jillayne is the surviving sister of St. John the Baptist Parish (LA) Deputy Brandon J. Nielsen, EOW 8/16/2012. Gabby and Lily are Brandon’s surviving daughters.

Kyleigh Chisum married the love of her life, Logan Fults, on December 17, 2022, in Pacific, MO.

Kyleigh is the surviving daughter of Fulton County (IL) Deputy Sheriff Troy P. Chisum, EOW 6/25/2019.

Annie White was united in marriage to her high school sweetheart, Christopher White, on September 4, 2022. On January 28, 2023, they welcomed their first child, Scarlett Luna White, who weighed 6 lbs 7 oz, and measured 20 inches long.

Annie said, “I never realized how much I could love one little thing. She is beautiful beyond belief and I know my dad would love his first grandchild even more.”

Annie is the surviving daughter of Fort Bend County (NY) Deputy Constable Caleb Rule, EOW 5/29/2020.
**Births**

Congratulations to **Kourtney (Young) and Tanner Krietemeier** on the birth of their daughter, Teagen Rae. Baby Teagen was born on November 10, 2022 weighing 6 lbs 7 oz, measuring just over 19 inches long, and sporting a full head of hair.

Teagen has started smiling and laughing and they are all enjoying life as a party of three. Kourtney is the surviving daughter of Denver (CO) Detective Donald Ray Young, EOW 5/8/2005.

**Graduations**

**Sarah McNair** graduated from the University of Georgia in December 2022 with her master’s degree in Natural Resources with a specialization in Fisheries. Pictured at right is a photo of her with her uncle, John McNair, who drove from Florida on her graduation day to surprise her since her dad couldn’t be there.

Sarah is the surviving daughter of Hall County (GA) Sheriff’s Lieutenant Brian McNair, EOW 7/20/2020. She thanks C.O.P.S. for the scholarships that enabled her to get her master’s degree.

**Hallie Woods** graduated with her Master of Science in Forensic Investigation from Missouri Western State University on December 17, 2022.

Hallie is the surviving daughter of Colerain Township (OH) Police Officer Dale J. Woods, EOW 1/7/19.

Congratulations to **Maddy Moody** who has decided to attend Chico State University in Fall 2023! Maddy is set to graduate on June 10, 2023, from Vacaville (CA) High School. Good luck, Maddy!

**Danielle Rose Collins** is set to graduate from Doyline High School in May 2023. She plans to attend Louisiana State University Shreveport to major in Biological Sciences, with a concentration in Molecular and Cellular Science.

Danielle is the surviving daughter of Doyline (LA) Police Officer William E. Collins, Jr., EOW 7/9/2021.

**Susan Shea Calhoun** graduated in May 2022 from Wilmington University (DE) with a Master’s Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Susan completed the program with her identical twin, Shannon Fowler. They both passed the National Counselor Exam in November. Future plans are to work towards licensure and assisting clients with mental health challenges in Delaware.

Susan is the surviving spouse of Delaware State Police Corporal Christopher M. Shea, EOW 07/18/04. Shannon is Corporal Shea’s surviving sister-in-law.
C.O.P.S. Sends Condolences to the Families of:

**Ofelia Gonzalez, 97,** died on December 14, 2022. Ofelia was the surviving mother of Metro Dade (FL) Police Detective Evelyn Gort, EOW 10/30/1993. The following excerpt was taken from her obituary:

“When she lost her youngest child, Officer Evelyn Gort, instead of becoming bitter she emerged herself in the organization of C.O.P.S. and helped parents that suffered the same pain of losing a child in service. She loved and cared for the officers in the MDPD as they were her own children. They cared for her as a second mother and she was always ready with a Cuban expresso when they came to visit her.”

**Lendra Faye Cheek, 76,** died on January 24, 2023. Faye served as a past president for the Georgia C.O.P.S. Chapter and was among the founding members where she was a vital part of the success the chapter has today.

Faye was the surviving spouse of Oglethorpe County (GA) Sheriff’s Sergeant Ronald Cheek, EOW 8/5/1995.

**Guy A. Cook, 72,** died on December 22, 2022. Guy retired as a Police Sergeant from the Palisades Interstate Parkway (NJ) Police Department after 31 years of service.

Guy and his wife, Liz, are members of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club (NY Chapter XVII), where they became great friends and supporters of C.O.P.S., showing a presence at National Police Week every year.


Suzie Sawyer, C.O.P.S. Executive Director Emeritus, wrote, “I had the privilege and honor to know Beverly Coates because of the tragic death of her son. She took the grief and sorrow she experienced and reached out to other grieving surviving families. She brought peace and comfort to many survivors not just in S.C. but across the nation. When people needed support, Beverly was there.”

**Suzanne Haddad, 83,** died March 5, 2023. Suzanne enjoyed living on the lake, swimming, bowling, golfing, and rooting for the Detroit Red Wings. She loved her sisters and the time spent with them. Suzanne was a huge supporter of her children and grandchildren. She loved attending sporting events and making it known she was there.


Evelyn’s daughter, Elaine, serves on the Volunteer Committee for National C.O.P.S. and is an active member of the Louisiana C.O.P.S. Chapter.
C.O.P.S. and our partnering organizations are working together to welcome you to the events of National Police Week 2023. Events will run from May 11th through May 16th, with the final departure day recommended to be May 17th for attendees.

We know this week may bring your family and agency stress and fear of the unknowns, but please know you are in good hands. This will be a week full of honor for your officer, support for survivors, and a created bond that only the blue family can provide.

For detailed information or questions, please visit www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org or call 573-346-4911. Here is a brief breakdown of the official planned events:

**Thursday, May 11**

**Early Arrival Day at Reagan National Airport (DCA)**
C.O.P.S. provides escorted transportation between 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. to your C.O.P.S. hotel. Transportation is provided to those who have both pre-registered with C.O.P.S. and will be staying at a C.O.P.S. hotel. **Please send your transportation information to cops@nationalcops.org as soon as possible.**

**Friday, May 12**

**Official Arrival Day at Reagan National Airport (DCA)**
C.O.P.S. provides escorted transportation between 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. to your C.O.P.S. hotel. Transportation is provided to those who have both pre-registered with C.O.P.S. and will be staying at a C.O.P.S. hotel.

**Law Enforcement United (LEU) Arrival Ceremony**
LEU raises awareness of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and provides support to the families. The Road to Hope bicycle ride concludes after over 250 miles are ridden in honor of officers who will be recognized during the May 15 Memorial Service hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police and its Auxiliary. Transportation will be provided. **LEU is one of C.O.P.S. major donors.**

The **Police Unity Tour** bicycle ride will also be arriving this day at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall; however, no transportation will be provided to this event.
### Saturday, May 13

**Candlelight Vigil hosted by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund**
The NLEOMF will host the Annual Candlelight Vigil on the National Mall at 8:00 p.m. to honor the law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

### Sunday, May 14

**C.O.P.S. hosts day one of the National Police Survivors’ Conference**
Surviving family member and co-worker sessions will be held at the Washington Hilton after a general session bringing survivors together in the morning.

**C.O.P.S. hosts day one of the Kids/Teens Program & Daycare**
These programs are for surviving children, step-children, and siblings of the fallen officer. Ages infant to 6 can go to Daycare, while grades K-12, can attend Kids/Teens while their parent/guardian attends the conference. Participants must be pre-registered prior to arriving at National Police Week.

**C.O.P.S. hosts the Annual Blue Honor Gala**
See page 14 for ticket information.

### Monday, May 15

**National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police and its Auxiliary (FOP)**
The FOP will host the Annual National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service on the West Front Lawn of the U.S. Capitol to honor officers listed on the 2023 Roll Call of Heroes.

### Tuesday, May 16

**C.O.P.S. hosts day two of the National Police Survivors’ Conference**
Both surviving family member and co-worker sessions will be held at the Washington Hilton on this day.

**C.O.P.S. hosts day two of the Kids/Teens Program & Daycare**
for surviving children, step-children, and siblings of the fallen officer.

**C.O.P.S. hosts the Blue Family BBQ** at the Washington Hilton. Join us for a fun evening to relax and enjoy activities and dinner with other survivors!

### Wednesday, May 17

**Official Departure Day**
There is limited transportation from the Washington Hilton and the DoubleTree to Reagan National Airport only. Shuttles are first come, first served. Contact your hotel front desk for shuttle information or consider using a ride share app.
2023 Roll Call of Names

J'Mar C. Abel
Jennifer S. Abramowitz
Paul C. Adam
Neil P. Adams
Austin D. Aldridge
Darren Almendarez
Emanuele Alongi
Jorge D. Alvarado Jr.
Jamie J. Arakawa
Jorge A. Arias
Steven H. Armbruster
Terry R. Arnold
Fernando U. Arroyos
J. Adam Ashworth
Jean-Harold L. Astree
Darrell Avery
Clarence G. Backherms
Troy T. Bailey
Thomas E. Baker III
Chris A. Bardwell
Richard L. Barnes
Roy A. Barr Jr.
Hugh P. Bartlett Jr.
James P. Bast
Anthony N. Bautista
Gary L. Bean
Chad M. Beattie
Gregory J. Bednarek
Fred D. Beers III
Wayne E. Bennett
John W. Berry III
Richard A. Bianchi Jr.
Kahlil J. Biddle
Collin B. Birnie
John G. Blankenship
Matthew W. Blansett
Steven S. Bobbitt
Oscar Y. Bolanos-Anavisca Jr.
Mickey J. Bowen
Christopher M. Bracks
Gerald T. Brennan
John B. Broadway
Christopher J. Broadhead
Marzell J. Brooks
Shannon M. Browning
Tamar A. Bucci
Barbara Burnette
Lane A. Burns
Seara B. Burton
Lorenzo Bustos
Ronald R. Butler
Ned P. Byrd
Ramon Caban Jr.
Lawrence E. Cabana
Dominique B. Calata
Joseph C. Capriotti
Gino Caputo
Jeffrey H. Carson
Sidnee T. Carter
Jody W. Cash
Charles W. Catron
Joshua D. Caudell
Jacob R. Chaffins
Michael D. Chandler
Jennifer L. Chavis
F. Brent Chomyszak
Philip C. Closi
William E. Collins Jr.
Edward A. Contreras Jr.
Benjamin L. Cooper
Trey S. Copeland
Isaiah A. Cordero
Loren M. Courts
Rodrick C. Covington
Robert P. Craft
Thomas C. Craig
Daniel L. Creighbaum
Enrico J. Crisafi
James J. Critchelow
Kennis W. Croom
Donald R. Crooms
Tommy W. Cudd
Scott R. Dawley
Manuel P. De La Rosa
Jose A. De Leon
William J. DeBlock
Jeffrey P. Dela Cruz
Kenneth P. Delano
Vincent A. DeMarino
Dustin W. DeMonte
John J. Donohue
Tracy J. Dotson
Laurence J. Dougherty
Cornelius J. Douglas
Matthew E. Dow
Jade N. Drennan
Jason T. Dumlao
Michael D. Dunn
Kevin D. Dupree
Patrick D. Dupree
Robert E. Duran
Arthur G. Duron
Ray E. East
Cesar Echaverry Jr.
Bruce R. Eckhoff
Peter C. Egan
Scott P. Enser
Ricky A. Entmeier
Marshall S. Ervin Jr.
Jerry Esparza
Brandon P. Estorffe
David G. Evans
Christopher N. Fariello
Thomas J. Fennessy
Carmen M. Figueroa
Steven R. Finley
Matthew R. Fishman
Addison M. Ford Sr.
David Formeza
Frederick L. Forni
Darryl W. Fortner
Melissa M. France
Dominic M. Francis
Ralph H. Frasure
Sean M. Free
Michael S. Fuller
Tolbert A. Furr
Joseph J. Gallagher
Charles E. Galloway Jr.
Maria A. Garcia
Pedro Garcia
Brian J. Gaunt
Michael E. German
Matthew S. Gibbs
Christopher D. Gibson
Michael L. Gillis
Sheli Y. Godbold
Michael W. Godwin
Joseph W. Goertz
Jose E. Gomez
Raul H. Gonzalez Jr.
Diane Gonzalez
Hector M. Gonzalez Jr.
Darryl L. Goodrich Jr.
Edward R. Gorczynski Jr.
Vincent K. Gough
Thomas J. Graham Jr.
John L. Grampovnik
Jack L. Guthrie Jr.
Raymond J. Gutierrez
Ramón Gutierrez Jr.
Lori H. Ha
Ray C. Hamilton
Alex A. Hamzy
Burke N. Hannibal
William R. Hargraves
Ty’Isha R. Harper
Raymond Harris
Michael R. Hartwick
William C. Hayes
Shawn P. Hennessee
David H. Henry
Jeffrey L. Hermanson
Glenn R. Hilliard
Braxton M. Hofman
James D. Holdman Jr.
Gregory T. Horne Sr.
John S. Horton
Matthew S. Horton
Michael A. Houlanah
Michael S. Howard
Robert A. Howard
Dennis J. Howard
Richard C. Howe
Jose M. Huerta
Raymond D. Hughes
Jeremiah J. Hunt
Bridgette L. Hunter
Travis D. Hurley
Thomas K. Hutchison
David L. Ingle
Jordan T. Jackson
Valerie K. Jacobs
Jewel Jenkins
Christopher A. Jenkins
Walter D. Jenkins Jr.
Matthew A. Jimenez
Franklin Joe
Walter L. Johnson
Lonnie D. Johnson Jr.
Bradley S.H. Johnson
David P. Jones
Kenneth C. Jones
Corille C. Jones
William D. Kelley
Gary R. Kelley
Daniel J. Kin
Douglas M. King
Kevin K. Kokinis
Jonathan R. Koleski
Lawrence G. Koren
Nicholas J. Kozak
Daniel R. Krupa
Emilio Laboy
Blane L. Lane
Jesus D. Lara III
James A. Lear
William D. Lebo
Amber J. Leist
Tyler R. Lenehan
Todd L. Leveille
Michael A. Levison
Howard C. Liebengood
Oliver J. Little
Matthew S. Locke
Mark A. Loecken
Anthony L. Lombardo
Richard D.R. Lopez
Adrian Lopez Sr.
Raphael A. Lora
John D. Luck

12
These names are of officers who will be honored at the Peace Officers’ Memorial Service on May 15th.
The 16th annual National Police Week 5K is Saturday, May 14, 2022.

National Police Week 5K
Honoring our own

Join us for our global event uniting thousands of law enforcement officers and their supporters to remember our fallen heroes. After the deadliest year in law enforcement history, the Officer Down Memorial Page (ODMP) and Concerns of Police Survivors need your continued support.

For more information go to nationalpoliceweek5k.com or contact Amy Herrera at 5k@odmp.org.

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NPW VIRTUAL MEMORIAL

Join us this National Police Week (NPW) in remembering those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and supporting the surviving family members and co-workers left behind.

In Memory Of - Notification & NPW Memory Board - $50
Make a donation in memory of a fallen officer and your message will be displayed at National Police Week on the “In Memory of Board” at the Host Hotel. C.O.P.S. will also send a notification letter to the family on your behalf.

In Memory Of - Notification - $25
Make a donation in memory of a fallen officer and C.O.P.S. will send a notification letter to the family on your behalf.

To submit your memory, scan the QR code!

100% of the proceeds benefit NPW 2023.
Hi, I am Cherese Hillman and I became a Surviving Spouse on October 31, 2020 when my husband, Avery Hillman, died as a result from complications after contracting COVID-19 while he was working in the Hospital division. Avery was a hard worker who served his country in the United States Army for 25 years as well as working in law enforcement for 30 years.

We have a son, Maleakhi, and it has definitely been a struggle for us to live without Avery. Maleakhi was 11 when his dad passed away. They had a very special bond that was unbreakable. Maleakhi loves to share stories about his dad who was an extreme sports fanatic and a huge Pittsburg Steelers fan. Avery was definitely a great Father.

Maleakhi and I were very hesitant at first about getting involved with C.O.P.S. because we felt our loss was still so fresh and our emotions were all over the place.

For me, I felt like we really didn’t belong at C.O.P.S. because my husband was not shot or ambushed like others. Now, after attending for two years, I realize it was the best decision that I could have ever made for Maleakhi and me. I learned through the many counseling sessions that a loss is a loss and that we all grieve differently, but we are not alone. It was such a huge weight lifted off of our shoulders to learn that there were others who lost their loved one the same way. We have heard stories about officers from all around the country, which brings us all closer together.

Through C.O.P.S., Maleakhi and I have made lifelong friends. The organization has helped us in so many ways along this journey of healing. Knowing that we will always have a family that can truly understand our grief process because they have walked in our shoes is priceless. C.O.P.S is a great organization to help cope with emotional stress, mental stress and grieving.
Some advice to other survivors; everyone grieves differently and sometimes those emotions make you react in different ways than others. That doesn’t mean that you are reacting wrong, it just means you are processing it differently. Always remember that you are not alone and that C.O.P.S. is just a phone call or email away.

Maleakhi and I hope that telling our story has given some encouragement to others.

Avery, WE LOVE AND MISS YOU EVERY DAY!

C.O.P.S. thanks Cherese and Maleakhi for sharing their story and images. If you need assistance with registering for a Hands-On Program or an upcoming event, please reach out to the National Office at 573.346.4911.
Law enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.)
Hands-On Program Updates and Answers to Questions

The National Office has been receiving a lot of questions regarding some changes happening with the Hands-On Programs. We hope this brief article helps answer your questions. If you would like to chat with a staff member for more information, please do not hesitate to call 573.346.4911.

Here are some of the questions we have received and the answers:

**What happened to the Outward Bound® Experience?**

The Outward Bound® Experience is planned for surviving children ages 15-20 years old. Outward Bound® is a non profit with the mission of using intense nature experiences and challenges to build self-worth, survival, and overcoming grief. While we continue to monitor the rules and regulations set by this organization, restrictions put in place during and after the pandemic remain. These restrictions inhibit the majority of our attendees from being able to participate at this time. C.O.P.S. Staff will actively pursue Outward Bound®, or a similar experience, in 2024.

**Are Retreats Going to Move Locations?**

As C.O.P.S. membership continues to grow, the Services Department is always monitoring whether a facility is able to accommodate our needs each year. Several of the larger programs are quickly outgrowing the space where they are currently held. More sleeping rooms are needed, more meeting room space is required to host more sessions, and we want to make sure new activities become available to participants who continue to come each year.

There are several different possible locations being discussed and researched. With that said, if you know of a large facility that would be able to accommodate our programs, please e-mail Erin Barnett at erin_barnett@nationalcops.org and she will follow up on your suggestion.

**Why are there separate retreats for suicide survivors?**

Since the Public Safety Officer Support Act of 2022 passed in August, C.O.P.S. is continuing to figure out the best way to ac-
commodate all types of grief, which includes addressing the needs that may come with the different types of line-of-duty death. At the current programs, debriefing sessions are already separated by type of death, whether it be felonious, accidental, medical/illness, and now suicide.

We believe that once we connect one-on-one with suicide survivors during their programs, we will have a better understanding of their specific needs and how to address them through our sessions in future programs. It is our goal to have suicide survivors attend their designated retreat at least once to address the unique dynamics of grief that are specific to suicide. When their PSOB claim is approved, they can choose to keep attending the suicide retreats or go to a current Hands-On Program.

Starting in 2023, there will be two programs available to suicide survivors. The Summer Retreat is planned for surviving spouses, fiancés, significant others, adult children, spouses in-laws, and grandchildren of law enforcement suicide. The Fall Retreat is planned for surviving parents, step-parents, siblings, grandparents, and other extended family members of law enforcement suicide.

Both suicide programs are co-hosted by C.O.P.S. and Survivors of Blue Suicide Foundation.

**What happens at the Suicide Survivor Retreats?**

Just like all of the current Hands-On Programs hosted by C.O.P.S., the two programs available to suicide survivors will offer the same bonding experience with their survivor peers, offer sessions designed for their support needs, and activities that will challenge their limits. The programs are all held in a peaceful setting that allows participants to unwind and de-stress from everyday life. It is always our goal for survivors to leave the program feeling relaxed with a support system of peers and knowledge to help in the future.

Again, if you should have any other questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the National Office or visit www.concernsofpolicessurvivors.org. We look forward to seeing you at your program!
Your Grief Feels Enormous When Someone Dies
Here’s Why:

By Eleanor Haley, M.S. and Litsa Williams, MA, LCSW-C

It bends my mind to consider how universal and common the experience of losing a loved one is. How could something that feels so catastrophic be such a normal and expected part of being human?

But then I consider that although a living cell is enormously intricate, it is only about 1 micrometer in size. And while there are an estimated 37 trillion living cells in the human body, the Earth is 3.5 million times larger than a single person. And while the Earth is massive, it exists in a solar system about 36 billion times larger. So I guess my point here is that complex, meaningful, and profound things can exist within even larger and more complex systems.

People often underestimate grief. Partly because it’s a normal part of being human and partly because it’s hard to imagine the breadth of it when you’re not living it yourself. But to the person going through it, it’s a mysterious experience that involves incredibly nuanced dynamics. Humans are complicated, and relationships create systems as entangled as balls of yarn. And when loss happens, it’s as though someone cuts your ball of yarn clear in half, leaving a hundred loose and lonely ends.

Your Grief Feels Enormous Because it is Enormous

Though losses come in all shapes and sizes, some are so significant that they turn your life upside down. To better understand why your grief might feel so overwhelming, let’s consider all the types of things a person might grieve after the death of a loved one.

When someone dies, you grieve for them.

It goes without saying that when someone significant in your life dies, you grieve that person. Even if you had a rocky relationship with the deceased, you are likely to have a lot of feelings about the fact that they’ve died because grieving for a person is far more complicated than simply feeling sad that they’re gone.

When someone dies, you will often grieve a timeline that involves the past, present, and future. Memories of happy times may be difficult to access at first because they cause overwhelming sadness, though there’s reason to hope they feel more comforting in the future. You also maybe remember and rehash more troubling experiences – things you never got to say, wrongs you think you never righted, and mistakes you believe you made. (Tip: when looking at life in reverse, be mindful of the impact of hindsight bias and counterfactual thinking).

In the present, you grieve their absence. You may struggle to live alongside the vast, dark, and unfamiliar space they have left behind. You worry the only way you’ll ever feel better is to have them back, which you intellectually know isn’t possible, so at times you may feel hopeless. And finally, you grieve the future they never had. We’ll discuss this further in a few sections.

You grieve for yourself.

It’s natural for loss to cause a person to contemplate things like their own mortality, their identity and purpose here on Earth. However, many people are hesitant to acknowledge that they are grieving for themselves because they worry it’s selfish when it’s their loved one who has died. But if you can recognize a person’s impact on who you are in life, it follows that their death would have one as well. And understanding who you are in the wake of loss is a necessary part of understanding your grief story.

Most obviously, someone might grieve the loss of roles related to their loved one and past life because relational identities (who you are in relation to others) often change. So, for example, a person might grapple with questions like, “Who am I now that I’m not a caregiver?”
or, “Am I a spouse or a widow, and how do those things differ?”

But beyond roles and identities, people might question things they thought they knew about themselves. For example, we often hear people express that their confidence and self-esteem felt destroyed by grief. They no longer move through the world with the ease and certainty they once did, and they feel unsure about their ability to show strength in the face of adversity.

You grieve for your day-to-day life.

Something I personally find incredibly distressing is that, as I grow older, there are more and more places in my past that I can never return to. For example, my grandmother’s home or the old Blockbuster on Erie Boulevard that we would hit up every Friday evening in my teen years. Two very different places, but I’m nostalgic for them both.

When someone significant dies, it can feel like the loss has split your life into two parts. There’s the life you live now and the life you lived before that you can never return to. You miss your previous life because your loved one was in it, of course, but also perhaps because you think you felt better back then.

Further, loss may have set off a domino effect of subsequent losses that impacts things like finances, home, roles, responsibilities, friends and family, worldview, etc. These may present new challenges you have to navigate under a fog of grief, and the culminating effect is that life looks forever altered. Ultimately, your life now feels drastically different, and you struggle to acclimate to your new reality.

You grieve for the future.

As previously mentioned, when someone dies, your grief extends into the future. Contrary to what people often expect, thoughts and ideas about the deceased don’t stay forever locked in the past. As time passes and you move forward, you will likely think about them, the things they missed out on, and the ongoing impact they might have had on your life.

You may grieve for the future they didn’t have – experiences they never had, unaccomplished goals, or hopes and dreams they didn’t realize. And you may grieve for the future you wanted to share with them – conversations you imagine you would have had, a reconciliation you might have come to, things you wish you could have experienced together, or the simple fact that you expected them to be by your side.

Finally, you may grieve for your future. The absence of your loved one might have practical impacts that mean you cannot pursue the future you imagined you would. Further, a loss can change your sense of priority, value, and direction, so you may feel you aren’t even the person you imagined you would be as you move into the future.

When someone dies, you grieve your changing worldview.

From childhood, we build an understanding of the world and the people in it. Our worldview includes beliefs and assumptions about faith, spirituality, justice, fairness, morality, right and wrong, good and bad, trust, etc.

We’re protective of our worldview because having a sense of how the world works allows us to feel a greater sense of control and security and can help to provide us with purpose and meaning. Though we often have experiences and learn new information throughout life that causes us to revise our assumptions, we resist major shifts and struggle when our belief system is significantly compromised. You can probably see where I’m heading with this.

Though some losses fit within our worldview better than others, many defy our expectations and beliefs about how things should be. We often say that some losses are like violent storms that are so strong they tear your foundational views and assumptions out of your life’s bedrock. As a result, much of grief must focus on reorienting yourself
to a vastly different world and reconstructing a sense of meaning, purpose, and understanding, having now been through something life-altering.

Sometimes, the way you come to understand the world can feel far worse and more scary, threatening, or random. And sometimes, with the wisdom you’ve gained and, perhaps, through a continuing bond with your deceased loved one, you’re able to reconstruct beliefs that suit you better or feel stronger and richer than before.

**Books by Survivors for Survivors**

Brian Posey was five years old when his father, Kennett Square Police Officer Richard Posey was murdered getting out of his police car with his partner William Davis, on November 15, 1972.

As a newspaper reporter who covered the court case, Bruce Mowday was asked to write a book on the murders and the police investigation which led to the arrest and conviction of the murderer. With tremendous support from Brian, his family, and the Davis family, Mowday completed the book, which was just released this year.

About the book, Bruce said, “The sorrow suffered by families of slain police officers is too often overlooked by the public. The families of officers Richard Posey and William Davis made my book complete by relating their painful experiences. Their stories are a major part of my book. The dedication written for my book summarizes my feelings: ‘Dedicated to all of the law enforcement officers who have given their lives to protect their communities. Their families and friends are included in this dedication.’”

This book can be purchased on Amazon or on the publisher’s website at: https://schifferbooks.com/.

“This is the story of an amazing little girl who grew up into an incredible woman who dedicated her life to helping others. After a tragedy, a dragonfly appeared to remind others of her presence, and to support and encourage them.”

The Sorrells family have been fixtures of the Baltimore County community for their entire lives. Gary and Debbie raised their three daughters into amazing and caring ladies. Their youngest daughter, Amy, soon pursued her dream of becoming a police officer, and in 2014, she achieved that dream. Only four short years later, Amy was tragically killed while responding to a burglary call on May 21, 2018. During her career with Baltimore County, Amy was awarded Officer of the Month twice, having been nominated three times. She was the first female officer killed in the line of duty in the history of the department, and was awarded the Medal Of Honor posthumously for her heroism and sacrifice. She left behind her family as well as her husband, Tim.

As time moved on, Debbie was compelled to write this book. Amy and her family love dragonflies. Once the words were roughed out, Amy’s sister, Laura, took over and illustrated the book. This book, which is available for purchase on Amazon, is written in, and dedicated to, Amy’s memory.
Oregon C.O.P.S. was honored to attend the Battle for the Badge Wrestling Tournament in December in Tillamook (OR). This tournament hosted youth and law enforcement officers from around Oregon. It was a great opportunity for children to interact in a positive way with officers. The officers gave the chapter’s challenge coins to wrestlers who had demonstrated special effort, sportsmanship, or helpfulness.

Oregon C.O.P.S. took the opportunity to meet people in the community and share the mission of C.O.P.S. It was also great to meet so many members of law enforcement from across the state who came out to support.

The tournament organizers donated some of the proceeds to Oregon C.O.P.S. Chapter President Alan Painter, Vice President Bruce Holt, and Dana Holt represented the chapter.

Michigan C.O.P.S. hosted their Annual Christmas Luncheon in Lansing (MI) on December 4th, 2022, at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West Hotel. They had great attendance with many of the surviving families coming out to celebrate and be together.

The luncheon began with the color guard, a soloist, and survivors lighting candles as their names were read. There was a special recognition of selected surviving families for three decades – ten, twenty, and thirty years. The event continued with a delicious buffet of food, raffle tickets, and a visit from Santa with gifts for the children. The children pictured with Santa are: Henry and Ariana Garza with Mom Halle, Dad Dan and Grandpa Steve Corry (Survivors of Sergeant Patrick O’Rourke, EOW 9/9/2012).

The “Carole Law Award” was presented to the Michigan Police Unity Team who ride their bikes 360 miles to honor the fallen officers in Michigan and a generous donation was given to the chapter. It was a special time to meet new and familiar faces, and share fond memories.

So glad many survivors joined us!
Illinois C.O.P.S. held their Annual Holiday event the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The chapter says it is a great way to help surviving families prepare for the upcoming holiday season. Some of the activities included story time with Santa, professional family photos with Santa, caricature artist, balloon sculpting, kids crafts, bingo, and stuff your own animal.

Keith Dorwart stepped down as Chapter President and appointed Debbie Wiseman to fill his remaining term. Mike McTighe was appointed Vice President, and continuing to serve are Dave Johnson as Treasurer, Kim Cessna as Secretary, and Eric Stacy as Executive Liaison.

The chapter says, “The appreciation dinner is a time to show our survivors that we will always be involved with their lives. At times it does not seem like ‘Thank You’ is enough for our supporters, survivors, and friends of our chapter who continue to make sacrifices and do great things, but thank you.”

The chapter says they have some great things planned for 2023!

Ohio C.O.P.S. held their Annual Holiday event the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The chapter says it is a great way to help surviving families prepare for the upcoming holiday season. Some of the activities included story time with Santa, professional family photos with Santa, caricature artist, balloon sculpting, kids crafts, bingo, and stuff your own animal.

Minnesota C.O.P.S. attended the annual Blue Light Service on October 8, in St Paul (MN) at the state’s Peace Officer Memorial. Over 100 survivors and supporters were in attendance to honor Minnesota’s fallen heroes.
Pennsylvania C.O.P.S. hosted their annual Winterfest Weekend Retreat at the Fulton Steamboat Inn located in Lancaster (PA). Instead of doing a Christmas party, the chapter decided survivors needed a weekend away after the holidays. It was an awesome weekend at a venue that took on all aspects of a real steamboat! In addition to providing the venue and food, the chapter also offered a train ride or an Amish buggy ride through the countryside. Pennsylvania State Senator Mike Regan attended, who this past year awarded the chapter a grant in the amount of $150,000! Needless to say, he’s a very strong supporter of survivors!

On March 11, the chapter participated in the Pittsburgh St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Members gathered the night before and decorated the PA C.O.P.S. float. The kids typically ride the float while adults walk the route through downtown Pittsburgh handing out candy. Stay tuned for pictures of that event!

Missouri C.O.P.S. hosted their annual Winter Party Weekend on January 13-15 at the Lake of the Ozarks (MO). Over 130 survivors came out for the event. The theme was an 80’s Dance Party! Missouri families enjoyed each other’s company while ice skating, swimming, and crafting. They also got to attend an open house held at the National C.O.P.S. Office. It was a great time, and plans are already underway for the next event.

The chapter is making plans for several gatherings and meetings this Spring, so mark your calendars: Molly’s Miles 5K & 10K is April 29th in Columbia, and the State Memorial Weekend is May 5th and 6th held in Jefferson City. More details can be found on our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/MOCOPS

Congratulations to Maryland C.O.P.S. on their 25th anniversary. The chapter held a celebration as part of their annual survivor retreat on the weekend of October 14, 2022, in Ocean City (MD).

Colonel David Mitchell was the keynote speaker as he could speak to the origin of C.O.P.S. by co-founders Suzie Sawyer and Trudy Chapman Radley and how when they moved the main office to Missouri, it left Maryland needing a chapter.

Earl Kratsh, a retired Baltimore City Homicide Detective, was awarded the Volunteerism Award. Earl’s dedication to the chapter, specifically the Annual Law Ride which raises money for the chapter, is greatly appreciated.
The popular NorCal Black and Blue Ball sold out once again in its 7th year! Over 800 people came out for the formal evening of fun and fellowship to raise money for the chapter. Pictured at right is the Northern California C.O.P.S. Chapter Board, and far right is Pinal County (AZ) Sheriff Mark Lamb, who the chapter invited as the keynote speaker.

Congratulations to Northern California C.O.P.S.’ Past President, Matt Bloesch, who was promoted on December 2, to Captain at the Fairfield (CA) Police Department. He will oversee the Operations Division. He is pictured at right with his wife Karin, daughter Bridget, and son James.

Matt is the son of Officer Jim Bloesch, San Francisco (CA) Police Department, EOW 8/2/88.


The West Central Florida C.O.P.S. Chapter said goodbye to 2022 with their annual Christmas Party. We are told fun was had by all ages while survivors played games at Dave & Buster’s in Tampa (FL).

The chapter started 2023 with LEAD by delivering cookie trays and thank you notes to seven of our local law enforcement departments. The officers and deputies appreciated the act of kindness and thanked us for our thoughtfulness.

The chapter also successfully held their inaugural “HOPE Gala” on February 18 in Tampa (FL). Thank you to Dr. Tina Jaeckle, Ph.D. as the Keynote Speaker, FOX 13’s Allie Corey as Emcee, and Dave Bray USA as the musical guest.

Over 200 people were in attendance and helped raise over $30,000 for the chapter! Great job to all who planned such a great event for the first time!
The **Alabama C.O.P.S. Chapter** has been busy with several events over the past few months. Fun was had at the Paint Party during their September meeting. They welcomed almost 30 survivors to enjoy the painting and fellowship with other survivors.

Almost 50 survivors attended the Alabama Christmas Party. Sheriff Wade of Calhoun County personally invited the Grinch along with the Blue Santa! The Grinch brought a great deal of mischievous activity and fun while Santa brought gifts for the children.

For LEAD, the Blue Blood Drive produced enough pints of blood to assist 36 people in need, several area house porches were lit up with blue lights, and the chapter enjoyed shrimp and fish at Wintzell’s Oyster House.

To Alabama survivors: Kathy Duck is heading up the cookbook committee. They are collecting recipes that were favorites of their fallen officers. Any Alabama survivors can submit recipes. Reach out to Kathy for details.

**Greater Houston (TX) C.O.P.S.** has a new member of their chapter. Lucia and Joe Canales are now proud grandparents to **Felipe Lorenzo Morado**. Felipe was born January 12, 2023, weighing 8 lbs 3 oz. His parents are Felipe and Kristina Morado.

Pictured at right is proud big sister, Lilliana. Baby Felipe is the surviving great nephew of Houston (TX) Police Officer Henry Canales, EOW 6/23/2009.

**Arkansas C.O.P.S.** also added a new member to their chapter. **Cooper Ray Carmikle** was born November 20, 2022, to proud parents Caleb and Madison Carmikle. He weighed 7 obs 13 oz and measured 20.25 inches long. Cooper’s grandma is former National Board Trustee and Arkansas Chapter Past President Mary Carmikle.

Baby Cooper is the surviving granson of Arkansas Game & Fish Commission Sergeant Darrell “Monty” Carmikle, EOW 11/16/2008.

The Arkansas C.O.P.S. Chapter unfortunately lost a member with the death of **Lyla Campora, 76**, who died October 31, 2022. Lyla was the surviving mother of Arkansas Game and Fish Wildlife Officer Joel Campora, EOW 5/31/2013.
It is that time again to submit YOUR designs for the 2023 C.O.P.S. Christmas ornament design contest. You don’t have to be a graphic designer to share your ideas. Simply sketch out a drawing of your idea, or email us your thoughts! The only requirements are it must be law enforcement themed, it must encourage hope and positivity during the holiday season, and the artist must be a survivor (no age limit). Designs do not need to be in a final format, as we will adjust everything to fit on an ornament. We have included the transition of last year’s design into the final ornament for reference.

Please email your ideas to sara_slone@nationalcops.org no later than July 1, 2023. The artist of the chosen design will receive a complimentary ornament and a gift certificate to the COPS SHOP.
The 2022 Krawl’n for the Fallen fundraising event in Starke (FL) saw another successful year! Chrissy Johnson and her team at **Off Road United Foundation** work tirelessly each year to create a fun, muddy, honorable Jeep event to honor fallen heroes and support the survivors they left behind.

Over 2,000 attendees came out to the Florida International Rally Motorsport Park on November 11-13, which raised $75,000 for C.O.P.S. There were 800 Jeeps and 72 vendors.

Thank you to all who attended or volunteered. This event will happen at the same location in 2023 on November 10-12. To register or just come out to see this incredible event for yourself, visit www.offroadunitedfoundation.com.

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This year’s Golf for COPS event by The McDavid Group Charities was one for the record books! With attendance well over 400 the night of the gala and 42 foursomes over two courses for the Pro-Am. To hear Ashley White, surviving daughter of Clay County Detective, Dave White, repeat the words “You are not alone” as to what C.O.P.S. did for her and her family, was not only amazing, but did not leave a dry eye in the house. And, again on Monday morning, when Ashley’s beautiful voice sang the National Anthem, she left everyone speechless.

Other survivors who were in attendance were Tanya Barrett, surviving spouse of Virginia State Trooper Mark D. Barrett, EOW 9/14/2010. Tanya serves as Executive Director of McDavid Group Charities. Erica Rakow Reynolds, surviving daughter of Miami Beach Police, Scott Rakow, also spoke of the synchronicities she now sees after her father’s passing and the brotherhood that became family through C.O.P.S. and her dad’s department.

The McDavid Group Charities plans to give C.O.P.S. a check for $100,000 to help support National Police Week and college scholarships.

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Todd Piro of Fox & Friends acted as the evening’s emcee where he welcomed Eric Trump as the special guest speaker.
Faith Azure is a student at Florida State University, completing her Masters in Criminology. Faith is the daughter of Renee Azure, EOW 8/6/2002.

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

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

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

Aaron Blount is a student at Howard University, completing his degree in Media/Journalism. Aaron is the son of Aaron Blount, EOW 4/22/2003.

Karley Burbridge is a student at University of Nebraska at Omaha, completing her degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Karley is the daughter of Mark Burbridge, EOW 5/1/2014.

Kristin Burt is a student at Brigham Young University, completing her degree in Genealogy. Kristin is the spouse of Don Burt, EOW 7/13/1996.

Jack Cicora is a student at Michigan State University, completing his Bachelor’s Degree. Jack is the son of Jeffrey Cicora, EOW 8/10/2019.

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

Ashley De Lorenzo is a student at Mid Michigan College, completing her Nursing degree. Ashley is the daughter of Jeremy Wilkins, EOW 12/17/2021.

Kadin Denner is a student at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, completing his degree in Electrical Engineering. Kadin is the son of Kevin Denner, EOW 5/6/2013.

Elizabeth Diebel is a student at Florida Atlantic University, completing her degree in Health Sciences. Elizabeth is the daughter of Robert Edwards, EOW 1/21/1984.

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

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

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

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

Amelia Helmke is a student at University of Connecticut, completing her degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences. Amelia is the daughter of Robert Helmke, EOW 7/28/2007.

Kaila Holloway is a student at LSU School of Medicine, completing her degree in Medicine MD/MPH Program. Kaila is the daughter of Daryle Holloway, EOW 6/20/2015.

Deanndra Jeanbaptiste is a student at Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, completing her degree in Naturopathy. Deanndra is the daughter of David Jeanbaptiste, EOW 5/1/2021.

Kathy Jenkins is a student at Florida State University- Corporate Training, completing her degree in Project Management. Kathy is the spouse of Walter Jenkins, EOW 5/11/2022.

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

Ethan Lee is a student at University of Alabama, completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering. Ethan is the stepson of Scott Lunger, EOW 7/22/2015.

Trevor Lee is a student at Chico State, completing his Bachelor’s Degree. Trevor is the stepson of Scott Lunger, EOW 7/22/2015.

Robin Lee is a student at Benedictine University, completing her degree in Graphic Design. Robin is the daughter of Gene Lee, EOW 10/30/2019.

Kevin Lewis is a student at Georgia Institute of Technology, completing his degree in Civil Engineering. Kevin is the son of Andrew Lewis, EOW 3/5/2017.
Deadline Dates for Scholarship Applications are as follows:

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

APPLY ONLINE at concernsofpolicesurvivors.org

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

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**Saralyn Lunger** is a student at University of Texas Health & Science Center, completing her Master’s Degree in Speech Language Pathology. Saralyn is the daughter of Scott Lunger, EOW 7/22/2015.

**Aaliyah MacAlpine** is a student at Johnson and Wales Online, completing her degree in Public Health. Aaliyah is the daughter of David MacAlpine, EOW 9/17/2021.

**Myareoh Martinez** is a student at University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, completing her degree in Physical Therapy. Myareoh is the daughter of Alejandro Martinez, EOW 11/21/2014.

**Nicholas Massey** is a student at University of Colorado - Boulder, completing his degree in Arts & Sciences. Nicholas is the son of Curtis Massey, EOW 1/28/2009.

**Michael Masterton** is a student at University of Arizona W.A. Franke Honors College, completing his degree in Statistics, Data Sciences, & Economics. Michael is the son of Owen Masterton, EOW 12/6/2014.

**Caitlan McManus** is a student at University of Central Florida, completing her degree in Hospitality Management. Caitlan is the stepdaughter of Paul Dunn, EOW 1/9/2020.

**Trentten Orth** is a student at Arizona State University, completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering. Trentten is the son of Joseph Sanders, EOW 12/15/2008.

**Rachel Platt** is a student at Salisbury University, completing her degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Rachel is the daughter of John Platt, EOW 10/14/2000.

**Jorge Sanchez Hernandez** is a student at Palmer College of Chiropractic, completing his Doctor of Chiropractic degree. Jorge is the son of Jorge Sanchez-Santiago, EOW 8/15/2009.

**Joel Santiago** is a student at Grand Canyon University, completing his degree in Mental Health Counseling. Joel is the son of L. Tyler Britt, EOW 1/11/2021.

**Adrian Seals** is a student at Northeastern University, completing his degree in International Affairs. Adrian is the son of Joseph Seals, EOW 12/10/2019.

**Gwendolyn Sherwood** is a student at Alderson Broaddus University, completing her degree in Criminal Justice. Gwendolyn is the daughter of Kevin Sherwood, EOW 10/9/2003.

**Jordan Silvera** is a student at University of Montana Western, completing his Bachelor’s degree in Business. Jordan is the son of Shawn Silvera, EOW 9/6/2005.

**Jacob Smith** is a student at Iowa State University, completing his degree in Liberal Arts. Jacob is the son of Robert Smith, EOW 8/13/2010.

**Errica Stakely** is a student at Strayer University, completing her degree in HR Management. Errica is the daughter of Ronnie Bogan, EOW 1/5/2001.

**Sean Strzalkowski** is a student at ECPI University, completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering. Sean is the son of David Strzalkowski, EOW 11/28/1988.

**Amber Sylvester** is a student at Louisiana State University-Alexandria, completing her degree in Criminal Justice. Amber is the daughter of Peggy Sylvester, EOW 4/14/2013.

**Sydney Taylor** is a student at Purdue University, completing her degree in Veterinary Medicine. Sydney is the daughter of David Hewitt, EOW 2/13/2019.

**Alexandria Velazquez** is a student at Purdue University, completing her degree in Engineering. Alexandria is the daughter of Cesar Velazquez, EOW 5/21/2009.

**Margaret Vera** is a student at Pennsylvania State University, completing her degree in Biology and Pre Med. Margaret is the daughter of Nemesio Vera, EOW 12/3/2020.

**Stephanie Vidal-Echevarria** is a student at University of Turabo, completing her degree in Psychology. Stephanie is the daughter of Nikolai Vidal-Perez, EOW 10/16/2004.

**Vicky Yan** is a student at Harvard University, completing her Bachelor’s Degree. Vicky is the daughter of Ching Yan, EOW 5/16/2020.
Cheryl Railsback  
*Surviving Mother of Chambers County (TX) Deputy Shane Detwiler, EOW 7/13/2009*

On July 13, 2009, my world changed forever when my only son, Deputy Shane Detwiler, was shot and killed in the line of duty. Shane left behind his spouse, three young children, his sister and her family, and my husband and I as his parents. He also left many co-workers, friends, and extended family members.

The week after his death, I met some moms who hugged me, cried with me, and told me how C.O.P.S. would connect me with other surviving parents. That October, my husband and I attended our first Parent’s Retreat. It was there I learned what true support looked and felt like from others experiencing the same immense loss.

I started serving C.O.P.S. as President of my local chapter and was elected as Western Region Trustee on the National Board in 2020. Serving survivors at the local and national level is one of my proudest accomplishments. It gives me great joy to represent C.O.P.S. at law enforcement conferences, as well as through tv, radio, and podcasts. I serve as Chair of the Trustees and continue my passion as a trainer at TLE’s, NPW, Board/Chapter Training, and the National Conference.

As I prepare to run for National President of C.O.P.S., I reflect on my story and how many of you have become members of this “club” no one wants to belong to. It has been placed on my heart to continue serving this amazing organization, and I would be honored and humbled to serve as your National President!

Connie Moyer  
*Surviving Spouse of Lancaster (OH) Police Patrolman M. Scott Moyer, EOW 5/26/2017*

On May 26, 2017, my soulmate for over 40 years, Lancaster Ohio Police Officer M. Scott Moyer, died. Like every one of you realize, the loss of your loved one changes your life forever. Being tossed mentally and physically to and fro seemed to last an eternity.

My mother instilled in me that helping others is the best way to endure the hardships in life. During NPW 2018 survivors surrounded me. Many needed help, while others were examples of how C.O.P.S. provided them HOPE and possibilities for their future.

In 2018, I became an active member of the Ohio Chapter serving as Treasurer. In 2020, the position of Midwest Trustee on the National Board opened up. With my experience since 1985 handling the finances of several government entities, including the elected official position of Fiscal Officer for Rushcreek Township, it was a perfect fit.

During my tenure as National Trustee, my focus was on survivors at the grassroot level. Although promoting C.O.P.S. is important, walking beside each survivor as we travel through our grief journey have been the most rewarding experience. My financial and political knowledge has enabled me to help survivors through many avenues.

As your President, it is my goal to meet the needs of as many survivors as possible. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your inspirational stories as we walk beside each other into the future. I encourage you to “Reach out for C.O.P.S. healing hands, there’s a light where the darkness ends.”
Applicants for National Board Regional Trustees

Atlantic Region
Lynne Parry
Surviving Spouse of Baltimore County (MD) Sergeant Mark Parry, EOW 1/21/2002
Region: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Washington, D.C.

Midwest Region
Connie Moyer
Surviving Spouse of Lancaster (OH) Police Patrolman M. Scott Moyer, EOW 5/26/2017
Region: Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia

Northeast Region
Kyle McCallister

Northwest Region
Debbie Jacobs
Surviving Adult Child of Spokane (WA) Police Detective Brian F. Orchard, EOW 7/20/1983

South Central Region
Dave Wallace
Surviving Sibling of Stanislaus County (CA) Sheriff’s Office Deputy Sheriff Dennis Wallace, EOW 11/13/2016
Region: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama

Southeast Region
Virginia Coates Ricks
Surviving Spouse of Orange County (FL) Sheriff’s Office Deputy First Class Brandon L. Coates, EOW 12/08/2010
Region: Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

Southwest Region
Max Morgan
Surviving Co-Worker of Utah County (UT) Sheriff’s Office Sergeant Cory B. Wride, EOW 1/30/2014

Cathy Hobbs
Region: California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Hawaii, and the Mariana Islands

Central Plains Region
Staci Brakhage
Region: North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri

Western Region
Danielle Story-Stinson
Surviving Spouse of Arlington (TX) Police Officer Craig G. Story, EOW 1/13/2010
Region: Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas
COPS Walk Southwest was held along the Verrado Trail in Buckeye (AZ) on February 24-26. There was a tremendous show of support with 20 registered volunteers and even more on-site support from local law enforcement and community members.

“C.O.P.S. Arizona is honored to host the event, along with the Buckeye Police Department and all their volunteers who provide trail support. This was our 12th year of hosting the event in the Valley of the Sun, however it wasn’t so sunny this year. I want to give a huge shout out to the Verrado Community Association for all they do to support this walk over the last four years. And of course it couldn’t be accomplished without the support of the National C.O.P.S. team that travels out each year. Plus, A BIG SHOUT OUT TO ALL THE WALKERS!”

-Jim Warriner, Arizona C.O.P.S. Chapter President

Over $83,000 was raised by 47 walkers. To many, this event doubles as a retreat where they spend their time reflecting on their officer, connecting with support personnel, and bonding with their fellow survivors. We hear this group has a big goal to increase participants in 2024!

Congratulations to all participants!

EVERY MILE... A MEMORY IN HONOR OF:

ALL FALLEN OFFICERS
INDIANA FALLEN OFFICERS
VIRGINIA FALLEN HEROES
WA STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
BUCKEYE FALLEN OFFICERS
OREGON FALLEN HEROES
SNOHOMISH COUNTY (WA) FALLEN OFFICERS
SUPPORTING SURVIVING CHILDREN

OFC. JAYME L. BIENDL EOW 01/29/2011
DET. DARYLE W. BLACK EOW 04/30/2000
DEP. LEROY D. BROWN EOW 12/06/1969
OFC. THOMAS P. COLEMAN EOW 06/11/2010
LT. GARY W. CRUMP II EOW 06/30/2021
TPR. CODY J. DONAHUE EOW 11/25/2016
SGT. MARK M. DRYER EOW 07/03/1993
DEP. TIMOTHY D. GRAHAM EOW 08/10/2005
DEP. JOHN T. HOBBS EOW 03/03/2014
DEP. JEREMY MARTIN EOW 10/28/2014
OFC. TRAVIS P. MURPHY EOW 05/26/2010
TPR. SEAN M. O’CONNELL JR. EOW 05/31/2013
OFC. ROLANDO A. TIRADO EOW 05/01/2011
SGT. TIMOTHY F. LITTLEFIELD EOW 09/14/1986
OFC. EDWARD A. REBEL EOW 06/28/1988
OFC. DANIEL C. ROCHA EOW 03/25/2022
SGT. MICHAEL D. RUDD EOW 10/11/2021
DEP. JUAN “JOHNNY” RUIZ EOW 10/11/2021
LT. STEVEN M. TAYLOR EOW 02/24/2022
OFC. DILLON M. VAKOFF EOW 09/11/2022
DEP. NICHOLAS D. WEIST EOW 04/29/2022
UPCOMING:

TRAUMAS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAININGS

TRAUMAS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
WICHITA, KS
JUNE 12-14, 2023

TRAUMAS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
VANCOUVER, WA
JULY 10-12, 2023

TRAUMAS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
KANNAPOLIS, NC
AUGUST 28-30, 2023

TRAUMAS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
NAPERVILLE, IL
SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2023

REGISTER TODAY - bit.ly/COPSNGT OR CALL 573.346.4911

REGISTER BY 7/21/23

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE
PER TEAM FEE
BREAKFAST AND LIGHT LUNCH
SILENT AUCTION/PRIZES/RAFFLES
$600
PER PLAYER FEE
18 HOLES OF GOLF
$150

GOLFER INFORMATION
REGISTRATION PROVIDES
SHOTGUN START | 9:00 A.M.
OSAGE NATIONAL / 400 COUNTY RD - LAKE OZARK, MO
7.30.23

SUBIE SAYWERS
Tenth Golf Classic
LAKE VALLEY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
367 BLAIR DR - CAMDENTON, MO
MONDAY - JUNE 12, 2023

SHOTGUN START - 8:00 A.M.$75 PER PLAYER
$300 PER TEAM (6 PLAYERS)

LUCKY LADDER DROP
YOU RECEIVE
- 18 HOLES OF GOLF
- LUNCH
- GREAT PRIZES
- RAFFLES
- TWISTED FUN

PURCHASE TODAY: CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Samantha Brauman at Samantha_Brauman@NationalCOPS.org or 573.346.4911

17th Annual
C.O.P.S. NATIONAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT
JOIN US
7 - 30 - 23
SHOTGUN START | 9:00 A.M.

GOLFER INFORMATION
- PER PLAYER FEE $150
- PER TEAM FEE $800
- 4 PERSON SCRAMBLE

REGISTRATION PROVIDES
- 18 HOLES OF GOLF
- BREAKFAST AND LIGHT LUNCH
- SILENT AUCTION/PRIZES/RAFFLES

OSAGE NATIONAL / 400 COUNTY RD - LAKE OZARK, MO
REGISTER TODAY - bit.ly/COPSNGT OR CALL 573.346.4911

An additional TLE training is being added in the Washington, D.C. area. The date and location will be announced soon!
YOU ARE INVITED

C.O.P.S. PRESENTS THE

2023
C.O.P.S. NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT WELLNESS & TRAUMA

ORLANDO, FL
NOVEMBER 10TH - 12TH

CONFERENCE LOCATION
ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER
9800 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE - ORLANDO, FL

PRICING
$350/PERSON - $175/SPouse OR SIG. OTHER W/ PAID ATTENDEE
*PRICE WILL INCREASE ON OCTOBER 1ST*

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
Law Enforcement Administrators, Officers and Deputies, Peer Support and Employee Assistance Personnel, Planning and Research, Chaplains, and Law Enforcement Spouses. Survivors are also welcome to attend.

HOST HOTEL
HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO - 9801 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE - ORLANDO, FL

REGISTER TODAY
CONCERNSOFPOLICESURVIVORS.ORG - 573.346.4911
### Thank you to our generous donors who contributed $250 or higher between October 2, 2022 and February 1, 2023. Your continuous support is greatly appreciated!

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General Donors and Chapter Donations - 10/2/2022 - 2/1/2023

National Police Week is a time to honor our fallen heroes and support their survivors. From May 11th through May 17th, there are a lot of events happening; registration, the COPS Shop, the Blue Honor Gala, and more. We need YOUR help!

If you are a survivor returning to National Police Week in 2023, consider signing up to volunteer and support new survivors attending for the first time. There is a task and time available to fit all schedules!

To sign up, visit concernsofpolicesurvivors.org and click on the “Volunteer” button.
This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 2020-PS-DX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.