Dear Survivors,

I couldn’t be more excited to say we are in the swing of in-person retreats, and just a few short months away from National Police Weekend (NPW) in October. If you haven’t registered for NPW, please visit our website to get your information in. We need to make sure we have enough hotel accommodations, transportation, and seating at the main events.

I attended the Adult Children’s Retreat in June and it was incredible seeing survivors of all ages coming together. Some survivors had lost their parent in the 1960s, some lost their parent last year. It was also great to see kids who grew up going to Kids Camp and Young Adults Camp in attendance and sharing their perspectives and experience. No matter what stage of life you are in, C.O.P.S. retreats have something to offer you and your family.

This will be my last letter as National President, as my two-year position comes to an end in July. What a crazy ride these past two years have been and I want to sincerely thank each of you for supporting me through these times. I’ve always said, “If the ship experiences rough water, I’m glad I’m able to be at the helm.”

There is no doubt my time serving C.O.P.S. has been unprecedented. But I look forward to passing the proverbial torch to the next dedicated survivor who will bring support, passion, and leadership to this organization. I will still be serving on the National Board as Immediate Past President. I wish to thank Cheryl Schultz, current Immediate Past President, for her guidance and leadership as we navigated the past two years together.

At C.O.P.S., we understand that as we come out of this global pandemic, there will be mixed feelings. We assure you we are continuing to take precautions at all of our events to make sure survivors feel safe, healthy, supported, and heard. If you have questions about precautions at the Hands-On Programs, National Police Weekend, trainings, or the National Conference on Law Enforcement Wellness & Trauma, please reach out to the National Office at 573-346-4911.

I look forward to seeing you all soon! Until then, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve survivors as National President.

Take care,

Emilio J. Miyares
C.O.P.S. National President
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Mission Statement

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

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

Submission Information

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

Information for Our Readers

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

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

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Concerns of Police Survivors National Board Members

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Atlantic Region Trustee
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Lynne Parry W/02
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Cheryl Railsback M/09
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Joyce Kramer M/06
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Executive Director
Non-Voting Board Member
Dianne Bernhard CW/05
dianne_bernhard@nationalcops.org

Executive Director Emeritus
Non-Voting Board Member
Suzie Sawyer

The National Board Election Results for 2021-2022 will be announced at Board/Chapter Training on Friday, July 23, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Nominees are as follows:

**National President Nominees:**
- Patricia Carruth
  *Surviving Mother (2003)*
- Leslyn Stewart
  *Surviving Spouse (2005)*

**Region Trustee Nominees:**

**Atlantic Region**
- Lynne Parry
  *Surviving Spouse (2002)*
  -Uncontested

**Central Plains Region**
- Sharon Byrne
  *Surviving Sibling (2007)*

**Northeast Region**
- Kyle McCallister
  *Surviving Grandchild (1972)*
- Leslyn Stewart
  *Surviving Spouse (2005)*

**Northwest Region**
- Joyce Kramer
  *Surviving Mother (2006)*
  -Uncontested

**Midwest Region**
- Connie Moyer
  *Surviving Spouse (2017)*
  -Uncontested

**South Central Region**
- Mary Carmikle
  *Surviving Spouse (2008)*
  -Uncontested

**Southeast Region**
- Virginia Coates Ricks
  *Surviving Spouse (2010)*
  -Uncontested

**Southwest Region**
- Max Morgan
  *Surviving Co-Worker (2014)*
  -Uncontested

**Western Region**
- Cheryl Railsback
  *Surviving Mother (2009)*
  -Uncontested
To enable the C.O.P.S. organization to provide peer support close to home, 55 C.O.P.S. Chapters are functioning, and others are in the process of organizing. Below are state or regional chapters that are here to help you through the difficult times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Country</th>
<th>President/Contact Information</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Troy Shuey, President (907) 354-1488</td>
<td><a href="http://www.alaskacops.org">www.alaskacops.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Cindy Hatcher, President (251) 604-0602</td>
<td><a href="http://www.alabamacops.org">www.alabamacops.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Linda Craig, President (501) 425-0645</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arkansascops.org">www.arkansascops.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>James Warriner, President (602) 448-7600</td>
<td><a href="http://www.copsarizona.org">www.copsarizona.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
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<td>Central CAL C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Mercedes Wallace, Secretary (209) 765-6789</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cencalcops.org">www.cencalcops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern CAL C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Matt Bloesch, President (707) 592-5643</td>
<td><a href="http://www.norcalcops.org">www.norcalcops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern CAL C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Jennifer Lobo, President (909) 770-3549</td>
<td><a href="http://www.socalcops.org">www.socalcops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Robert Cook, President (970) 567-4885</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coloradocops.org">www.coloradocops.org</a></td>
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<td>Connecticut (See New England C.O.P.S.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DC C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Brett Parson, President (202) 246-3138</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dc-cops.org">www.dc-cops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaware C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Eleanor Allione, Vice President (302) 388-2657</td>
<td><a href="http://www.delawarecops.org">www.delawarecops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Dan Calvin, President (765) 438-3760</td>
<td><a href="http://www.indianacops.org">www.indianacops.org</a></td>
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<td>Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central FL C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Virginia Ricks, President (850) 445-2589</td>
<td><a href="http://www.centrafloridacops.org">www.centrafloridacops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast FL C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Janis Lampe, President (904) 251-3219</td>
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<td>Georgia C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Roger Parker, Director (770) 354-8771</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gacops.org">www.gacops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Yanira Scarlett, President (515) 360-4187</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iowacops.org">www.iowacops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Idaho C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Debbie Jacobs, President (208) 596-5264</td>
<td><a href="http://www.idahocops.com">www.idahocops.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Keith Dorwart, President (844) 245-1915</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ilcops.org">www.ilcops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kansas C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Dustin Dierenfeld, President (816) 518-3041</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kscops.org">www.kscops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Brandy Durman, President (859) 230-0986</td>
<td><a href="http://www.copskentucky.org">www.copskentucky.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisiana C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Kim Stuckey, President (225) 933-5191</td>
<td><a href="http://www.la-cops.org">www.la-cops.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>New England C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Maryellen Barry, President (617) 877-7302</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newenglandcops.org">www.newenglandcops.org</a></td>
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<td>Maine (See New England C.O.P.S.)</td>
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<td>Maryland C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Sue Nickerson, Director (410) 708-1334</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mdcops.org">www.mdcops.org</a></td>
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<td>Massachusetts (See New England C.O.P.S.)</td>
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<td>Michigan C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Andrea Arrington, President (586) 945-0882</td>
<td><a href="http://www.micops.org">www.micops.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Jackie Bergeron, President (651) 295-2314</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mncops.org">www.mncops.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri C.O.P.S.</td>
<td>Kim Roberts, President (417) 849-9438</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mo-cops.org">www.mo-cops.org</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Some of the most crucial work C.O.P.S. does is to help survivors apply for or check on the status of their benefits through the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, as well as other available benefits. If you need assistance with your benefits, please contact Katrina Old, Director of Survivor Support, at (573) 346-4911.
Mississippi C.O.P.S.
Tressie Hall-Durr, President
(662) 678-3192

Montana C.O.P.S.
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New Jersey

Garden State C.O.P.S.
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NJSP Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S.
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Northern Nevada C.O.P.S.
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Southern Nevada C.O.P.S.
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North Carolina C.O.P.S.
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Angela McDowell, President
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www.ohiocops.org

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

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www.copsoregon.org

Pennsylvania C.O.P.S.
Kim Weigand, Director
(717) 259-6622
www.centralpacops.org

Rhode Island (See New England C.O.P.S.)

South Carolina

Carolina C.O.P.S.
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www.middleandeasttn cops.org

West TN C.O.P.S.
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www.westtennessee cops.org

Texas

Greater Houston C.O.P.S.
Cheryl Railsback, President
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www.greaterhouston cops.org

Metroplex TX C.O.P.S.
Stacy Harvey, President
(806) 281-8192
www.metroplexcops.org

South Texas C.O.P.S.
Chuck Freeman, Secretary
(361) 765-3428
www.southtexascop s.com

West TX C.O.P.S.
Javier Garcia, President
(915) 539-6755

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

Vermont (See New England C.O.P.S.)

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

Washington State C.O.P.S.
Penny Brenton, President
(425) 522-2677
www.washingtonstate cops.org

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

States without an active chapter:

Hawaii
North Dakota
South Dakota
West Virginia
Wyoming
MaKayla Kelley graduated from Eufaula High School on May 22, 2021, with honors. We hear she has multiple college offers waiting for her, although she plans to attend Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee (FL) where she will major in Allied Science Health.

MaKayla is the surviving daughter of Alabama Department of Corrections (Bullock County) Officer Rodney Kelley, EOW 10/3/2008.


Because her uncle couldn’t be there to watch her graduate, we’re told her family made t-shirts so he could support his niece.

Vivien is the surviving niece of Everman Police Officer Alex Arango, EOW 10/22/2020.

Erin Robinson graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Erin graduated with a degree in Biochemistry, is studying to take the MCAT, and is looking to continue her education into medical school.


Tyler Martin, surviving child of Houston Police (HPD) Officer Richard Martin, EOW 05/18/2015, graduated from Katy High School, and can be seen here signing his Letter of Intent to attend University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Waco, Texas.

Tyler is surrounded by Austin Gryder, surviving adult child of HPD officer Gary Gryder, EOW 06/19/2008, and Henry Canales, Jr. surviving adult child of HPD Officer Henry Canales, Sr. EOW 06/23/2009.

It’s amazing to see survivors supporting each other!

Sharon Fuller, received her Master’s degree in Marriage and Family Therapy in Trauma Studies on April 26, 2020 from Pacific Oaks College in San Jose, California. Sharon is currently working as a counselor at a domestic violence shelter for women and children in the Bay Area and loves being able to help others in their mental health journey.

Sharon is the surviving daughter of Richmond, California, Police Department Narcotics Officer Ronald H. Fuller, EOW 7/5/1984.
Cierra Ridley graduated from Mount De Sales Academy in Macon (GA) on April 29, 2021. She will be attending Kennesaw State University in the Fall, majoring in nursing. Cierra has plans to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Cierra is the surviving daughter of Richmond County (GA) Sheriff’s Department Narcotics Investigator, Cecil Dwayne Ridley, EOW 11/19/2019.

Tyler Winfield graduated from Marysville High School in Marysville, Ohio, on May 22, 2021. He plans to work at Honda of Marysville as intern for their Auto Body Program.

Tyler is the surviving son of Marion County (OH) Deputy Brandy Winfield, EOW 10/14/2004.

Three New Graduates for the Woods Family!

Hallie Woods (pictured at left) graduated from Ohio Northern University on May 9, 2021, with a BA in Criminal Justice. She will head to Missouri Western State University in August for her Masters of Applied Science Forensic Investigation.

Collin Woods (Pictured at right) graduated a year early from Northwest High School on May 17, 2021. He will head to the University of Cincinnati to major in Mechanical Engineering.

Trinity Woods (Pictured at center) graduated from Miami University on May 19, 2019, (just four months after losing her dad) with a BA in Health Communications. She currently works at the UC Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

All three are surviving children of Colerain Township (OH) Police Officer Dale Woods, EOW 1/7/2019.
Patrick Deleon graduated from Fulshear High School on May 23rd, 2021. Patrick is pictured here surrounded by his Houston Police Department “family”. Patrick will be headed to the University of Texas to continue his education.

Patrick is the surviving son of Houston (TX) Police Officer Reuben B. Deleon, Jr., EOW 10/26/2005.

Jennifer Mayhle graduated from Apollo-Ridge this year. Her next step is to attend the University of Pittsburgh.


Abby Chisum graduated from Canton High School on May 14, 2021. Abby is the daughter of Fulton County Sheriff’s Deputy Troy Chisum EOW 6/25/2019 and Amanda Chisum.

Abby is headed to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in the fall to study to be a Clinical Psychologist. She loves spending time with her friends & family and her golden retriever Ollie.

Moriah Edwards graduated from Gibraltar Carlson High School in Gibraltar, Michigan. She plans to attend Oakland University to study Radiological Technologies, specializing in Sonography.

Moriah is the surviving daughter of Taylor (MI) Police Officer Matthew Edwards, EOW 7/23/2010.
JD Harvey graduated from Frenship High School in Lubbock County (TX). Also in attendance were deputies from the Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office, there to support the surviving son of their brother in blue Corporal D. Robert. M. Harvey, EOW 4/26/2009.

JD plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in Education Adminstration to be a High School Principal.

Jewell Grace Gammill graduated with honors from Cairo High School in Cairo, Georgia. She will attend the University of Mississippi in the fall to major in Forensic Nursing. She is also well known for her time dancing with the South Georgia Ballet since she was three years old.

Jewell is the daughter of Brande Strickland and the surviving daughter of Douglas County (GA) Deputy Haven Blake Gammill, EOW 2/24/2005.

Aaron Gomez graduated from Louise High School on May 21, 2021. Wharton County Sheriff Deputies and local officers attended in memory of his father, Deputy Raul “Roy” Gomez, who died in the line of duty after contracting COVID-19 on October 26, 2020.

Aaron’s mother Karla says, “Aaron, we know your dad is looking down with pride and joy. We’re extremely proud of you and can’t wait to see what your future holds. Congratulations class of 2021!”

To submit your news of note, please email Sara Slone, Communications Director, at sara_slone@nationalcops.org.
Congratulations to **Brenna Durkin** on her marriage to **Silas Lewis IV** on December 19, 2020. Brenna is the surviving daughter of Youngstown (OH) Police Officer Paul J. Durkin, EOW 9/22/1987. Silas is a detective with the Pima County (AZ) Sheriffs Department.

More exciting news is Brenna and Silas are expecting a baby girl and cannot wait to bring her into the thin blue line family.

Jim Deckert, Sr., is a proud grandfather as he poses with his grandson, **Jim Deckert, III**. The youngest Deckert recently graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY.

Jim (Sr.) is the surviving son of Teaneck (NJ) Police Sergeant Eugene Deckert, EOW 2/11/1957.

On May 14, 2021, **Liam Anakin Wilson** graduated magna cum laude from Young Americans Christian School. Liam is the surviving son of Doraville (GA) Police Detective Robert Shane Wilson, EOW 11/14/2011.

Since his father was not able to attend his graduation, members of the Doraville Police Department attended and were all very proud to see the man he has become. Liam plans to continue his education studying Health Science. His father would be so proud.

Congratulations to **Dennis and Joyce Kramer**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 22, 2021. Joyce said “We made the 50 year mark! 50 years is a journey but we are feeling blessed.”

Dennis and Joyce are the surviving parents of West Yellowstone (MT) Police Officer Patrick Kramer, EOW 10/22/2006. Joyce currently serves on the C.O.P.S. National Board as Northwest Region Trustee.
Legal Update - On November 19, 2020 a wrongful death suit for the murder of Wayne State University Police Officer Collin Rose, EOW 11/23/2016, was resolved at Wayne County Circuit Court. Randy Rose, father and personal representative for the Estate of Officer Rose, sued Raymond Durham for the wrongful death of his son. After discovery, case evaluation and settlement conferences, the parties reached a settlement agreement. Judge David Allen accepted the agreement and ruled in favor of Plaintiff Rose against Defendant Durham in the amount of $5.5 million dollars for the wrongful death of Officer Rose.

Durham remains at the Center for Forensic Psychiatry under a continuing mental health treatment order from the probate court. Durham has remained there since the summer of 2017 when he was referred there for evaluation by 36th District Court Judge Kenneth King.

Durham could not be restored to competency within the statutory requirement and criminal charges were dismissed in January 2019. State psychiatrists contend Durham is unable to understand his need for treatment and still presents a likelihood of injury to others. Nonetheless Durham challenges his custodial status at the county probate court every six months.

Rose’s survivors hope and pray that Durham’s mental status improves and that criminal charges can be re-issued against Durham for the murder of Officer Rose and attempted murders of Detroit Police Officers James Kisselburg and Benjamin Atkinson, who were injured by gunfire trying to arrest Durham in March 2017.

Congratulations to **Terry Roderick** who has retired as Deputy Sheriff from the Sangamon County (IL) Sheriff’s Office after 24 years of service. We look forward to Terry’s continued involvement through the Illinois C.O.P.S. chapter and thank him for his years of being a mentor at C.O.P.S. Kids Camp.

Terry is the surviving co-worker of Pontiac (IL) Police Officer Casey Kohlmeier, EOW 10/30/2013.

Congratulations to **James (Jim) Warriner** who has retired as Lieutenant from the Arizona Department of Public Safety after 31 years. He also spent 10 years with the Department’s Office of Inspector General. As a long time member and volunteer of the C.O.P.S. Arizona Chapter, Jim currently serves as the Chapter President.

Jim is the surviving co-worker of Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer Edward Rebel, EOW 6/28/1988.

Enjoy Retirement!
Amy Kathryn Bonneau died on March 15, 2021. She was the surviving mother of Jackson Police Officer James David Bonneau. EOW 3/9/2010.

Margaret F. Kaelin, 93, died July 26, 2020. She was the surviving mother of Bellafontaine Neighbors (MO) Police Sergeant Peggy Kaelin Vassallo, EOW 8/24/2015.


Wilma Plummer, age 92, died on May 21, 2021. Wilma is the mother of Linda Hennie, National Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary President and long-time friend of C.O.P.S.


Georgia Burgan Spilly died on June 10, 2021, on her 100th birthday. Georgia’s daughter-in-law is long-time C.O.P.S. Counselor Angie McCown. Our thoughts are with Angie and her husband, Rick.
Congratulations to **Lynn Kuse**, C.O.P.S. Administrative Director, on her retirement after 25 years of service. Lynn started at C.O.P.S. as Programs Coordinator and quickly rose to the position of Financial Manager. For 25 years, Lynn has been loved by both survivors and her fellow staff members. Her flawless attention to detail and financial knowledge has kept C.O.P.S. financially sound for her entire tenure, and she has taught her successor the ropes to keep us moving forward.

Thank you, Lynn, for your dedicated and unwavering service to America’s law enforcement survivors. You will be missed by all.

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**Ribbon Cutting for Special Agent De’Greaun Reshun Frazier TBI Crime Lab**

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Tennessee Highway Patrol officially opened the **Special Agent De’Greaun Reshun Frazier Crime Lab and Regional Headquarters** and the Tennessee Highway Patrol District Eight Headquarters in Jackson on April 23rd, completing a five-year process that will create “a quicker path to justice,” according to TBI Director David Rausch.

The name of the Crime Lab honors Special Agent De’Greaun Frazier, who was killed in the line of duty on August 9, 2016 during an undercover TBI drug operation in Jackson (TN).

Much of Frazier’s family, including his wife Shannon, and their two children, Kamryn and Kendrix, were in attendance.

“We are making new memories here that will hopefully last a lifetime,” Shannon said. “One of my bereaved prayers to God, and my impassioned requests to TBI Command after (Frazier’s) untimely and tragic death, was that his ultimate sacrifice would never be forgotten, and that his heroism and bravery would always be remembered.”

Nearly five years after he was killed, this new facility will make sure his legacy lives on.

*Article originally printed in the Jackson Sun.*

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**C.O.P.S. would like to thank Tonithia Mabon, cousin of TBI Special Agent De’Greaun ReShun Frazier, for submitting this article and images.**
A Family’s Journey…

What will become of our family? How do I get through today, tomorrow and the next day? Am I making all the right decisions? Am I doing okay for my kids?

Shannon Edwards, surviving spouse of Taylor (MI) Police Officer Matthew Edwards, EOW 7/23/2010, had been asking herself all these questions and more. She was preparing herself and her two children, Luke and Moriah, for their first C.O.P.S. Kids Camp in 2013.

Moriah said, “At first I did not want to go and then we got there and I ended up absolutely loving it. A lot of C.O.P.S. programs teach you to focus on breathing. This can be for all kinds of disorders or problems.

Each year I felt like I learned something new or just got refocused on one I knew already. Breathing techniques became my favorite thing and is still something I use almost daily for my anxiety.” At Kids Camp, Shannon and Moriah worked really hard on Moriah’s separation anxiety from her mom. Moriah could not be away from Shannon for more than 20 minutes without severe anxiety. The counselor that helped them start working through this is still a huge part of their life.

“Kids don’t always know how to express their feelings or share when they are overwhelmed. Sometimes I would just start screaming. Breathing techniques that are taught at C.O.P.S. programs is so important to me because of that reason.” She was able to continue this with Shannon’s help at home.

Moriah has grown so much since 2013 and continues to learn and grow through her experiences. Recently, Moriah was asked to share her story at the McDavid Golf Tournament in Florida in which all proceeds and donations benefit C.O.P.S.

“My first thought was, literally, only because it is for C.O.P.S. The anxiety didn’t really set in until a few days after. I never changed my mind though because not a lot of people get to hear kids’ stories. We are taught from a young age to talk about everything. It really does help us a lot to get the chance to talk about our story and what we have gone through but a lot of people are worried about kids being in the forefront. With C.O.P.S. help, we really are okay to talk about it so I wanted to be sure I took the chance.”
Moriah had a great time and looking back on that experience is so proud of herself as is her brother Luke who unfortunately couldn't be there with her as he is in the Marines and is deployed. Luke also attended Kids Camp and Young Adults Camp. He also rode in the Police Unity Tour in 2019 with others from his dad's department. He had done all of this before going into the Marines after graduating high school.

Shannon said, "Luke had been in JROTC in school and had ranked up as high as possible. He sat me down when he was a sophomore and said that he felt God was calling him into the military. I felt that he had truly found his spark since his dad died and was proud of him that he found that through serving. I was supportive and would be worried, no matter what he was doing or where he was going in life, but of course this worried me a little more. He was sworn in on his 18th birthday and thrives doing what he was called to do. I am so proud of him and all he has accomplished. He is driven and determined but I miss him so much."

Moriah said when she first found out that he was making this decision, she struggled because her mind immediately went to thinking he was going to die also. She was able to take the time to work through her feelings and by the time he went to boot camp, she was doing great. She misses Luke but found it almost harder when they had to help Luke's wife, Madison, move to California.

"Who am I supposed to talk to over here?" she asked Madison as they were saying goodbye. They have kept in touch with visits and technology, of course and remain a huge part of each other's lives.

As Luke graduated from boot camp, Madison fell to her knees when she saw him and Moriah had to catch her. She then pushed a Marine out of the way to get into Luke's arms. She didn't want to leave his side and barely did the rest of the visit. Madi has become a part of the family and is patiently awaiting Luke's return from deployment.

Shannon wants others to know that "You may be questioning every single thing right now, but I want you to know you don't have to do hard things alone. I have zero regrets at this point in my life. I made the best decisions that I possibly could, in those moments, in the frame of mind I was in. You are doing an amazing job. You are doing the best that you can AT THIS MOMENT. Take it one day at a time or even one moment at a time. You CAN get through this and you WILL with C.O.P.S."

Shannon said she was so worried about how it was all affecting her kids at the time. She looks back now and doesn't re-
gret a thing. They are amazing, strong, selfless children. She wants them to be able to be there for others and share their story so that others know they are not alone.

When Moriah said she wanted to tell other survivors of all ages that “You don’t get over the grief, you just learn how to cope with it. People may have the expectation that you will get over it in the beginning, but that is not true at all and that’s absolutely okay. It is who you are and you will grow from it” Shannon’s voiced cracked as she agreed.

C.O.P.S. is also excited to congratulate Shannon Edwards on her engagement on September 27th, 2020 to Chris Kowalske. They are waiting to set a date for their wedding until Luke is back and able to attend. “It was amazing how it all fell into place so perfectly. I couldn’t ask for a more loving and supportive person to bring into this family that has helped me through such rough times.”

They attended the first Spouses for Couples Retreat in March and look forward to returning in 2022.

Over the years Shannon had paid out of pocket for counseling for Moriah. At a Spouses Retreat that she was attending, a friend mentioned that C.O.P.S. has a Kids Counseling Program which included reimbursement. Shannon immediately picked up the brochure explaining it and applied for the reimbursement. She was so grateful and wished she had known about it sooner. She tells everyone that she can now!
Congratulations to the recipients of the 2020 National Police Week Awards

Suzie Sawyer Distinguished Service Award

Retired Sergeant Mike Barnes of the Burr Ridge (IL) Police Department, became a survivor in 2004 when he learned that Jonathan Walsh, an officer he had trained, died in the line of duty.

Mike served as a leader in the Illinois C.O.P.S. Chapter as one of the original members of the Illinois C.O.P.S. Critical Incident Memorial Team and as a committee member for Cycle Across Illinois. He also worked to bring a Traumas of Law Enforcement Training to his area in 2017 and helped to plan and coordinate the 2018/2019 C.O.P.S. National Conference on Law Enforcement Wellness and Trauma in Chicago.

C.O.P.S. wishes Mike the best in his retirement and is proud to award him with the 2020 Suzie Sawyer Distinguished Service Award.

Charles Shinhoiser Award for Volunteerism

Hector Dittamo is surviving father of Metropolitan (DC) Police Officer Paul Dittamo, EOW 10/30/2010. Since his son’s death, Hector has found it healing to devote time to C.O.P.S. and other survivors in his area. He served as D.C. C.O.P.S. Chapter President from 2012 to 2016, and currently serves as Chapter Secretary. He was appointed to the C.O.P.S. National Board as Atlantic Region Trustee in 2016. His professional knowledge has brought key changes and updates to procedures of National C.O.P.S. and chapters across the nation.

Hector is a mentor to many and an example to all. For his service, he is the recipient of the 2020 Charles Shinhoiser Award for Volunteerism.

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

Central Florida C.O.P.S. has been announced as 2020 Chapter of the Year. Their fundraising efforts, combined with their relationships with local departments and community connections, have made it possible to provide unwavering support to survivors in their area.

Survivors in Central Florida have grown to look forward to events such as the annual Blue Light Retreat, Blue Light Gala, charity hockey games, ice skating parties, and holiday gatherings. It has been said their goal is not to just be a chapter, but to be a family. A family where all are welcome, all voices are heard, and healing TOGETHER is at the forefront of all conversations.
STREAMLIGHT VIRTUAL 5K FOR CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

VIRTUAL RACE DATES:
AUGUST 14–28, 2021

Please join us for Streamlight’s Seventh Annual Virtual 5K / 1 Mile Fun Walk benefiting the Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) Organization.

Complete your run or walk anytime between August 14–28, 2021. Location, course and time is up to you!

REGISTER AT RUNTHEDAY.COM
KEYWORD: STREAMLIGHT

We are always amazed at some of the ways people are able to come together and raise money to support survivors. Barrels 4 Badges was able to raise over $9,000 through their barrel racing competition on May 21, 2021, in Cloverdale (IN). Bronson and Penny Barth, event organizers, reported there were 299 participants in the Open Class and approximately 1,300 for the entire weekend.

Pictured at right is Bronson Barth with the surviving family members of Putnam County (IN) Sheriff’s Captain James Baugh, EOW 1/2/2004. The family spoke at the event on behalf of survivors.
2021 Ornament Design Contest!

We want YOU to send in your ideas for the 2021 Holiday Ornament! Every piece of art begins with a bright idea and sharing it with others. If you have an idea that shares the holiday spirit with survivors and the law enforcement community, send it in! You can sketch it on paper and mail it to the National Office, email a photo of your design, or work your magic in a computer program.

Designs do not need to be in a final format. We will adjust the winning design to be transformed into the ornament. The only rules are you must be a survivor (no age limit), the design must have a law enforcement or hopeful theme, and you must submit your design by August 20, 2021.

Winner receives a gift certificate to the COPS SHOP!

2020 Ornament Design:

Honor at Last

The family of Patrol Deputy Thomas Edward Felton, Jr., held a memorial service to honor and remember Patrol Deputy Felton at the Sussex County Sheriff’s Office on April 29, 2021. Patrol Deputy Felton was the husband of Past National C.O.P.S. President and Virginia C.O.P.S. Chapter founding board member, Sharon Story.

For many years, Sharon along with Tom’s family, advocated for a memorial service to honor and remember Tom’s service and sacrifice. Sadly, Sharon passed away in November 2019, without ever seeing her lobbying efforts rewarded.

Several members of Virginia C.O.P.S. were in attendance to uphold their promise to Sharon of never forgetting Patrol Deputy Felton. Besides her decades of work for C.O.P.S, this memorial was something that meant a great deal to Sharon and her late husband’s family, friends, agency and community.

Patrol Deputy Thomas Felton was on his way to backup another Deputy at a burglary in progress when his patrol car was struck by a CSX Railroad freight train on April 29, 1989.

Above: Elaine Felton (Tom’s mother), Jessie Story (Sharon’s daughter), and Michael Felton (Tom’s Brother).

Right: Tom and Sharon early in their marriage in 1988.
Events for National Police Weekend are happening October 12-17, 2021, in Washington, D.C.

Please register if you plan to attend so hotel accommodations, transportation, and event seating is accurate. You can register now even if you don’t have your travel plans confirmed. Travel information is not due until October 1st. If you are NOT attending, please email us at cops@nationalcops.org to let us know.

If your officer was to be honored in May of 2020 or May of 2021, then they will be honored at National Police Weekend.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Registration must be completed at: www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/npwregistration

Deadline to register is AUGUST 27, 2021.

GENERAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS OF THE WEEK

**Tuesday, October 12**
Early arrival day at Reagan National Airport (DCA)

**Wednesday, October 13**
Official Arrival day at Reagan National Airport (DCA)

C.O.P.S. hosts the Annual Blue Honor Gala formal event in the evening. Tickets must be purchased in advance at concernsofpolicesurvivors.org.

**Thursday, October 14**
C.O.P.S. hosts the Blue Family Brunch - C.O.P.S. will host a brunch from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for those attendees who registered through C.O.P.S.

Candlelight Vigil hosted by the National Law Enforcement Officers’ Memorial Fund

**Friday, October 15**
C.O.P.S. hosts the National Police Survivors’ Conference

C.O.P.S. hosts the Kids/Teens Program/Daycare Program

**Saturday, October 16**
National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service (NPOMS) hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police and its Auxiliary (FOP)

**Sunday, October 17**
Official Departure Day
Family Grief: Five Keys to Grieving Well Together

*When whole families grieve, things can get messy. These guidelines can help.*

When a family grieves a loss, a barrage of different emotions, reactions, and coping mechanisms will emerge, likely at different paces. The process of grief may include shutting down, crying, sleeping, struggling to sleep, overeating, struggling with appetite, angry outbursts, irritability, moments of levity, numbness, depression, and denial. Some family members will want to discuss the loss while others withdraw into silence. Some will want to surround themselves with loved ones while others need more time alone. Some may find themselves in a state of denial (the mind’s way of protecting itself against overwhelming pain) while others move more quickly toward acceptance.

Grief shows up in families in different ways—including conflict, discomfort, and frustration. The various iterations of grief experienced by a family can lead to feelings of frustration at different styles of grieving, fears that they are not “doing grief” correctly, and feeling overwhelmed at the sheer amount of emotional need. While grief will never be easy or tidy, these five principles can help a family orient itself:

1. **Respect different forms of grief.**

First things first. There is no perfect grief process. But in a home full of people processing a loss, family members might wonder if their individual mourning style or feeling is “correct.” Individuals may compare their grief response to their family members’, and feel either guilt for or judgment of others’ responses.

Give yourself space to grieve in your way and your family members space to grieve in theirs. Respect the family member that seems wrapped up in the practical details of the aftermath; that may be their form of self-care. Respect the stoic family member, the silent family member, and the laughing family member. We cannot know each other’s internal world, and there are many ways to heal. If somebody’s form of grieving brings up discomfort for you, notice it and perhaps leave the room. Avoid making a person feel bad about their chosen way of grieving, as long as it does not hurt others.

2. **Respect different paces of grief.**

For some, grief overtakes the mourner immediately following a loss. For others, the enormity of what occurred may not sink in for weeks or even months. In the event of a death after a protracted illness, as in the case of many Alzheimer’s patients, family members may begin grieving before the death occurs, while others only absorb the news when the individual dies. People’s brains process grief differently and at different paces. Keep that principle in mind when you notice your family members’ response to loss.
3. Make room for feelings.

Part of respecting different forms of grief is making room for each other’s feelings. If you’re a parent, remind your children that it’s OK to feel sad and it’s OK not to understand and it’s OK if they feel OK. Be the family member that makes room for different experiences. Grief is confusing, and nobody knows exactly how it should look. If you’re in a mental space to check in with others, do so. Permission to feel complicated, messy feelings is vital to the healing process.

4. Set boundaries.

Know what you can give, and be OK if you can’t give right now: It is vitally important to remember that family members may not be able to meet all of each other’s needs at all times. While family support can provide solace, some may feel incapable of helping others through their pain. That is OK. We must care for ourselves before caring for others, and we do nobody any favors if we deplete ourselves. If approached by a family member seeking support, it is OK to tell that person, “I can see how deeply you’re hurting. I’m hurting too. I want to be here for you, but I don’t have the emotional capacity right now.” (In my next article, I’ll talk about how to determine whose job it is to comfort who in a house of grief.)

5. Seek outside help.

A therapist is equipped to help a person work through grief at that person’s pace. Seeking professional help is a normal and healthy way to work through a loss. Grief is messy and uneven, cascading through families in unpredictable ways. But when families make room for grief in all of its forms, they create an environment that honors the process.

Sarah Epstein, LMFT, is a marriage and family therapist working in Philadelphia, PA. Sarah has contributed and been featured in a variety of publications, including Family Therapy Magazine, Business Insider, Physician Family Magazine, Brit + Co, KevinMD, BestLife, and Thriveworks, among others. Sarah is the Amazon bestselling author of the book Love in the Time of Medical School: Build a Happy, Healthy Relationship with a Medical Student, a book about overcoming the challenges of dating somebody in medicine.

Survivor Success:

C.O.P.S. is proud to share the published book Through Hell And High Water: A Police Widow’s Story Of Tragic Loss And Redeeming Love authored by April Katherman-Redgrave, surviving spouse of San Jose (CA) Police Officer Michael Katherman, EOW 6/14/2016.

April says, “My hope is to bring some encouragement to other survivors through sharing my story.” This book is now available at amazon.com.
Congratulations to **Stacy Ellis** who was chosen at random as the winner of the beach vacation to Destin, Florida. This trip was donated by **John Day** to the **Golf for COPS** tournament (organized by **The McDavid Group Charities**) in December 2020, with the stipulation that it went to a survivor.

The **C.O.P.S. National Office** decided to ask survivors to share their stories with us for future promotional usage and each submission would be entered as a chance to win. The “Wheel of Winners” was spun and landed on Stacy!

Stacy is the surviving spouse of Illinois State Police Trooper Gerald W. Ellis, EOW 3/30/2019. Together, they had two young daughters; Kaylee (9) and Zoe (7). Stacy said, “C.O.P.S. helped throughout the whole process, providing comfort and support through the worst time of our lives. Knowing I was not alone and had people to lean on was crucial in my grieving process. I have made forever friends. Now I want to give back and be there for other families.”

The family took their vacation mid-July, right after this publication went to print. We look forward to sharing their photos in the next HOPE issue.

Stacy and her girls are beyond excited for this trip and to make new memories together. She said, “The trip is a reminder I’m still alive, that I am able to make new memories, and that Jerry’s love still lives on.”

When Stacy received the call she had won the trip, she said she had just had an extremely hard weekend and her grief was a “hot mess.” It’s hard for Stacy not to believe that her “Jerry” had something to do with winning the trip. She said, “Two weeks before Jerry’s death, we went on vacation to Houston (TX). We didn’t go on too many vacations between work, kids and money, we always found an excuse. One of our good friends convinced us to go to the rodeo. We had a blast and fully enjoyed our time together. We made a pact that we would go on more vacations, so now the pact lives on.”

Stacy wants to thank C.O.P.S. and John Day for this opportunity. She plans to use this vacation as a beautiful reminder to take/be in pictures, go on vacations, create new memories and make every moment count.
NEW
Collections

www.copsshop.com

Get your official 2020 AND 2021 Roll Call of Names shirts (will have separate designs) and commemorative NPW coin, patch, lapel pin, and more! All items are available online and will also be featured in the COPS SHOP at the National Police Weekend in October!
Hands-On Programs Recap

Here are a few pictures from the Hands-On Programs that have been held so far in 2021!

Spouses for Couples Retreat

Co-Workers for Couples Retreat

Adult Children’s Retreat

Extended Family Retreat

Remaining Hands-On Programs in 2021:
Fiances & Significant Others Retreat // August 13-16
Siblings Retreat // September 10-13
Spouses Retreat // September 24-27
Co-Workers Retreat // October 1-4
Parents Retreat // October 22-25
Eligibility

Applicants must be:

• The surviving spouse or surviving child of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.
• Have a high school transcript or equivalent (GED).
• Be available to begin coursework within 90 days of the date of the award.
• Be capable of maintaining a 2.0 undergraduate GPA or 3.0 graduate GPA.
• Remain in good standing with CSU throughout a degree program.
• Maintain continuous enrollment in a degree program.
• Current CSU students must already meet these requirements to be considered.

Columbia Southern University is proud to award one scholarship to a surviving spouse or surviving child of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.

The C.O.P.S. scholarship covers up to 60 credit hours toward one online degree program and will be applied directly to the recipient’s tuition for up to three years or until the completion of the selected online degree program, whichever comes first.

Application

This scholarship application period is open from May 12, 2021 – November 30, 2021. The Columbia Southern University scholarship committee will select and announce the winner in December 2021. The winner will receive a phone call and all non-winners will receive an email notifying them of the decision. For any questions or concerns, please email the scholarship liaison at scholarships@columbiasouthern.edu or call 888-785-3006.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is approaching on January 9th, 2022!
Do you have your plans in place yet?

There are a number of ways to show your support:

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

We can help you with that!

Once again for 2022, C.O.P.S. will be partnering with the American Red Cross and other community blood collection agencies for “Blue Blood Drives” where people are encouraged to donate blood in honor of law enforcement. A location map will be available in December under the Special Events tab at concernsofpolicesurvivors.org.
February 10, 2021, marked five years since Harford County Sheriff’s Office Senior Deputy Patrick Dailey and Deputy First Class Mark Logsdon were killed in the line of duty in Abingdon, although it has not felt like five years to the family members and fellow law enforcement officers who remember them every day.

Multiple tributes to the fallen deputies have happened since then, including the state’s dedication in their name a section of Route 924 going past the shopping center. A number of events in the deputies’ honor were scheduled for Wednesday, including a morning flag raising and evening flag lowering at the traffic circle in the shopping center, a moment of silence at the Harford County Government administration building in the afternoon and a blood drive at the American Legion post in Edgewood.

This article and pictures were submitted by Debbie Logsdon. All content was originally published in the Baltimore Sun.

Despite COVID restrictions, the Alabama Chapter of C.O.P.S. using Zoom, stayed busy thus far in 2021. In January we held our general meeting, and had a Blue Blood Drive in Birmingham. In February our President spoke, in Montgomery, for the Legal Professional’s Conference and again in Mobile with the regional chapter, raising money for our C.O.P.S. chapter.

In early March, we held our election meeting via Zoom. This meeting was followed by a Past Board Members meeting. Late March, we held our Spouses, Siblings, Adult Children’s, Extended Family, and Parents Zoom meetings.

In April, we began the last minute plans for our Chapter Candlelight Vigil as we saw mask mandates and social distancing being removed. With the help of the Alabama Fraternal Order of Police, the State Attorney General’s Office, and the Montgomery Police Department, we were able to have a successful Candlelight Vigil honoring 2019 and 2020 fallen officers in May. During all this, the board met monthly and sometimes two times a month, on Zoom of course! An additional Zoom meeting was held with members to discuss National Police Week for 2019 and 2020 families.

In June our chapter met in person for our Blue Balloon Release and Picnic in Pelham AL at the Oak Mountain State Park.

In September we are hosting the TLE in Birmingham. Our September meeting is waived due to Police Weekend and Hands-On Programs scheduled so close together.

On December 4, 2021 our Christmas Party will be in Summerdale (AL) from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Christmas shopping at the Tanger Outlet Mall is available, as well as visiting the beaches which are just 15 minutes away.
A balloon release was held on May 15th at the Nueces County (TX) Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall in honor of National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

This event was organized by Annie Saavedra, surviving daughter of Corpus Christi Port Police Officer James Saavedra, EOW 12/19/2007, along with her mother, Rachel, and son, James Jr.

Other surviving families in attendance were Michelle and Lilli McCollum, the surviving spouse and daughter of Corpus Christi Police Officer Alan McCollum, EOW 1/31/2020, and Priscilla and Hailie Salazar, surviving spouse and daughter of Nueces County Sergeant Raul Salazar, Jr., EOW 8/23/2020.

The Greater Houston Texas Chapter of C.O.P.S. has been busy while attending several memorial events in May. The following images were submitted:
On April 24, 2021, Molly’s Miles held their 5th Annual 5K race where they raise money to support Missouri C.O.P.S. This event is held in honor of Columbia (MO) Police Officer Molly Thomas-Bowden, EOW 2/10/2005, as well as all Missouri heroes who have died in the line of duty. The tremendous support that this organization gives to our survivors is so incredible.

We are already looking forward to this event next year, which is scheduled for April 30, 2022! Thank you, Molly’s Miles!

Kim and Mike Weigand from the Pennsylvania C.O.P.S. Chapter made sure to meet up with the Pennsylvania Riders of Law Enforcement United on May 11th in Hershey (PA).

Kim said, “Thank you to the PA team and all the other LEU teams for your support. As always, you go above and beyond for us, the survivors.”

### REMAINING TRAUMAS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT 2021 LOCATIONS

- **Greenville, SC** August 9-11  
  Registration Deadline: August 1, 2021

- **Providence, RI** August 30-Sept. 1  
  Registration Deadline: July 30, 2021

- **Albuquerque, NM** September 13-15  
  Registration Deadline: August 15, 2021

- **Birmingham, AL** September 27-29  
  Registration Deadline: August 15, 2021

### Who Should Attend?

- Law Enforcement Administrators, Officers and Deputies, Peer Support and Employee Assistance Personnel, Planning and Research, Chaplains, Survivors, and Law Enforcement Spouses

### Curriculum

- LODD Preparation, PSOB Benefits, Injured Officer & Disability Issues, Law Enforcement Research Findings, General Orders, Implementing Agency Liaisons, Peer Support, Surviving the Law Enforcement Career, Stress & Trauma issues, Survivor Support, Police Suicide, Funeral Planning & Protocol, C.O.P.S. Programs & Resources, and Personal Triumphs

Register at [www.concernsofpolicersurvivors.org](http://www.concernsofpolicersurvivors.org)
Kansas C.O.P.S. Hosts Welcome Ceremony for “Kansas Law Enforcement Ride for the Fallen”

On Thursday, May 6, 2021, Kansas C.O.P.S. hosted a welcoming ceremony at the Kansas State House located in Topeka, Kansas, for survivor families, and riders from “Kansas Law Enforcement Ride for the Fallen”. Riders, who are law enforcement professionals from all over the State of Kansas, rode their bicycles approximately 80 miles starting at the “Sanders Station” of the Overland Park Police Department, where 2020 Kansas Fallen Hero, Officer Mike Mosher, was stationed, and ended in Topeka, Kansas at the Law Enforcement Memorial in honor of all Kansas fallen. Riders stopped in several towns along the way for periods of remembrance before starting the next leg of their journey.

At the Kansas State Law Enforcement Memorial, like in no other place in the State of Kansas, survivors come face to face with the service, honor, integrity and professionalism that each one of our Kansas Law Enforcement Officers have embodied. It is at this place, that the words “to protect and serve” become reality. Our flags, whether national, state, local government or departmental, flap in the wind, because of the very sacrifice each and every one of the men and women emblazoned on the memorial represent. Society can never repay the sacrifice each officer made, and each surviving family must daily endure.

“We want the families to know that their sacrifice has never been, and is not, forgotten,” Leawood Police Captain Kirt Yoder said.

On Saturday, May 22, 2021, the Central Florida C.O.P.S. Chapter was finally able to host our first in-person event in over a year. Lockdowns, continuing mandates, and restrictions hindered our ability to meet with the whole chapter. We wanted to make the event extra special. Over 100 chapter members, both old and new, attended the event which was held at the Fraternal Order of Police Chapter 93 Lodge.

The Orange County Sheriff’s Office Cycling Team, who had teamed up with Law Enforcement United (LEU), was unable to fully participate in Road to Hope Tour in Virginia due to COVID cancellations. The team would have normally ended their ride in Washington, D.C., with a large reception and thousands of survivors who they rode for. Instead, our chapter teamed up with the Orange County Sheriff’s Office Cycling Team who were part of LEU, to honor the families of fallen officers in the Central Florida Chapter. They were able to ride fifty miles on the day of the event, and several even rode over 250 miles in three days, and over 100 miles in Virginia during National Police Week.

They arrived locally to all of our members cheering them on, just as they would have had in Washington, D.C.

We are so grateful for the members of the cycling team for adjusting their plans on short notice and riding for our fallen heroes. It was such a huge success for all involved, we are looking forward to the possibility of making it an annual event.
C.O.P.S. Granted $24,349.92 in Scholarships for the
2021 Summer Semester.

Several benefactors help C.O.P.S. provide these scholarships. This year’s funding came from ICMA. The scholarship fund has provided over $1.6 million in scholarships to survivors since 1993.

Recipients of the 2021 Summer C.O.P.S. scholarships are:

**Erika Brentar** is a student at DePaul University, completing her degree in Human-Computer Interaction. Erika is the daughter of Officer George Brentar, EOW 10/10/2007.

**Gabryella Clardy** is a student at Framingham State University, completing her degree in Early Childhood Studies. Gabryella is the daughter of Trooper Thomas Clardy, EOW 3/16/2016.

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

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

**Madison Draper** is a student at Ameritech College of Healthcare, completing her degree in Nursing. Madison is the daughter of Wildlife Officer Jon Draper, EOW 1/24/2004.

**Emilee Fleshner** is a student at Valencia College, completing her degree in Psychology. Emilee is the daughter of Deputy Adam Fleshner, EOW 1/13/2003.

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

**Marissa Hofsteter** is a student at Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine, completing her degree in Veterinary Medicine. Marissa is the daughter of Detective William Hofsteter, EOW 1/22/2008.

**Brandi Koprowski** is a student at University of North Carolina Greensboro, completing her degree in Public Health. Brandi is the daughter of Deputy Sheriff Keith Bellar, EOW 6/7/2011.

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

**Maverick McClendon** is a student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, completing his degree in Educational Leadership. Maverick is the son of Trooper William McClendon, EOW 10/1/2006.

**Shannon Owen** is a student at University of Antelope Valley, completing her degree in Criminal Justice. Shannon is the daughter of Sergeant Steven Owen, EOW 10/5/2016.

**Amy Patrick** is a student at Century College, completing her degree in Business. Amy is the daughter of Officer Scott Patrick, EOW 7/30/2014.

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

**Amanda Stuart** is a student at Stony Brook University, completing her degree in Women’s Studies and Sociology. Amanda is the daughter of Officer Walwyn Stuart, EOW 9/11/2001.

**Savannah Uhl** is a student at University of Arizona, completing her degree in Nursing. Savannah is the daughter of Rotary Wing Pilot Matthew Uhl, EOW 9/20/2011.

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

Testimonial: I want to thank you all so much. I’m the daughter of Robert Bernard McMaster from the Warrenton Police Department who died while on duty on March 9th, 1996. I’m a 2020 graduate with a Bachelor’s of Science in Dental Hygiene at Augusta University. I also have three associate degrees in general studies, science, and art as well as a nursing assistant license from Mt. Hood Community College, class of 2017. I’m so very grateful to have the support I did with the C.O.P.S. Scholarship while pursuing my education and into my career I have today. - **Alannah Rudduck**

Deadline Dates for Scholarship Applications are as follows:

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

APPLY ONLINE at concernsofpolicesusvivors.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.
Thank you to all who came out to the Suzie Sawyer Golf Classic on June 9, 2021. This tournament sold out! Tournament games, combined with the Lucky Ladder Drop, raised over $17,000 for survivors!

A huge thank you goes out to ReLentless Defender for being the leading sponsor of the tournament. Aaron Slater, CEO, even brought his family up from Texas to spend the day with the teams!
COPS WhyInJuly has been a huge success in its inaugural year! Thank you to everyone who participated individually or with their team. For 491 minutes in July, 491 heroes were honored by so many people across the nation through hard work, determination, and good old fashioned physical activity.

Some walked and ran, some swam and biked. Some event jumped rope and lifted weights! The most important thing is that we all did it to not only honor those 491 heroes, but we did it to support their surviving families.

At the time this magazine went to print the first week in July, the total raised is just over $30,000. Be sure to follow us on social media for the final total raised and top fundraisers!
Join Us for the Pre-Conference Event

OKLAHOMA CITY
NATIONAL MEMORIAL MUSEUM
Thursday, November 11th, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The events of April 19, 1995, changed Oklahoma City and our nation forever. But by looking back to the example set in those decisive days, we can think forward to a better future for the generations that follow.

This private, pre-conference event is included with registration to the first 200 people that choose the pre-event option during registration.

Light hors d’oeuvres and drinks will be provided.

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

This conference focuses on trauma and wellness, proactively addresses the cumulative stressors that can occur throughout an officer’s career.

$300 PER PERSON
$125 FOR SPOUSES/SIGNIFICANT OTHER

To be held at the stunning new Oklahoma City Convention Center, which is a 288 million dollar venue that features glass walls, making use of natural light with breathtaking views of Scissortail Park.
LEU Riders Remember... Always.

The postponement of National Police Week didn’t stop the men and women of Law Enforcement United (LEU) from riding for the fallen in May. Dianne Bernhard and Lauren Crisman visited several of the rides to thank the riders for their dedication to the mission of remembering surviving families. As the ride came to an end, LEU board members Wallace Chadwick and Steve Callow presented C.O.P.S. (via Zoom) with a check for $300,000!

Thank you to all participants who rode in 2021. We look forward to welcoming you at the finish line in person soon!
Upcoming Events

**December 6, 2021**

**Jupiter, Florida**

**Upcoming Events**

Back by popular demand is the 2021 **Krawl’n for the Fallen**, an off-road event for all off-road enthusiasts to raise awareness, show support and to honor, remember, and pay our respect to fallen heroes.

Come out to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, food, vendors, trail riding, camping, entertainment, kid’s zone, demonstrations, raffles, prizes, as well as some specialty classes.

**November 12-14, 2021**

At The FIRM (Florida International Rally Motorsports)

For details on the event, camping/lodging, and a custom Jeep raffle, visit facebook.com/krawlnforthefallen.

Book your team at

www.themcdavidgroupcharities.com
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<td>$8,710.81</td>
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Join us for this 2-Day, 25-Mile Journey October 8-10, 2021

Honoring the Fallen

COPS Walk Harpers Ferry brings together survivors, friends, and law enforcement officers to walk 25 miles in two days to honor fallen officers. All proceeds from this event help fund operations that allow C.O.P.S. to continue to rebuild the shattered lives of America’s law enforcement survivors.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Blair Sien at (573) 346-4911 or blair_sien@nationalcops.org

Can’t make it in person? Ask about a virtual walk!
Concerns of Police Survivors
P.O. Box 3199 846 Old South Highway 5
Camdenton, MO 65020

Change Service Requested

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