



Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors

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www.greaterhoustoncops.org
First Quarter Newsletter 2009



A tribute to our Heroes Absolutely, never forgotten

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Trinity County Sheriff, **Brent Lee**, was killed in an automobile accident at 4:15 am on Thursday, November 27. Sheriff Lee was in pursuit of a vehicle when his car struck a utility pole and a tree. The roads were wet and foggy conditions may have contributed to the accident.

Sheriff Lee had won the recent election for sheriff. He had retired as a lieutenant from the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission. Lee is survived by his wife and two daughters, one son, six grandchildren and two brothers.

Sergeant **Barbara Jean Shumate** was on duty for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice when she was involved in a collision with a dump truck. Sgt Shumate was killed June 13. Sgt. Shumate is survived by her mother.



Houston Police Officer **Timothy Abernethy** lost his life on December 7 after he chased a suspect through a northwest Houston apartment complex. The suspect has recently been paroled from a felony driving while intoxicated sentence. The suspect shot Officer Abernethy three times, fled, then returned to fire a fourth time. Officer Abernethy served with the Houston Police Department for 11 years and is survived by his wife, a son and daughter, parents and siblings.

Lieutenant **Stuart Alexander** was intentionally struck and killed by a suspect while attempting to deploy stop sticks on March 11. The suspect had just assaulted another officer at a disturbance call and was fleeing the area at the time. The suspect was shot and wounded a short time later. Lt. Alexander is survived by his wife and son.



GH C.O.P.S. Meeting

Location Change

The new location for support meetings will be at the Harris County Sheriff's Office

249 Storefront
7614 Fallbrook Dr.
Houston, Texas 77086

Concerns of Police Survivors Mission Statement

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families and affected co-workers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty as determined by Federal criteria. Furthermore, C.O.P.S. provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors.

Presidents Message

As we prepare for Spring, many are getting in the yard and pulling weeds and planting new flowers to bring forth new color and new life. Greater Houston C.O.P.S. wants to give you a little jump start on your spring time by inviting you to a picnic. We have been invited to Ralph Conner's again this year to spend the day fishing and playing. Of course we will eat (what is a get together with all of us without food?) Pack up your car with your favorite dish, bring a lawn chair and come over to Beasley (Ft. Bend County) and join us. Ron Bennett is bringing plenty of fishing poles and bait but, if you have a lucky pole and would prefer to use it, bring it along. The meat and drinks are provided. We are also proving a few more surprises, so come on out and join the fun.

**1325 Hamlink Rd
Beasley, TX 77471
Saturday, April 4th
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Police Week is coming soon as is the registration deadline. Don't forget to get your registration in on time. This year is C.O.P.S. 25th year as an organization of Rebuilding Shattered Lives. We will be celebrating with a Gala Event and tickets are still available. You can order your ticket when you register online or with the packet you received in the mail.

We have an urgent need on the local level to have the memorial ribbons made. If you can be of assistance and help us make these ribbons, please give me a call. Many of you have asked how you can get involved and this is an immediate need. We have the supplies and can show you how to put them together, we just need YOU.

Walking through this journey together, remember you are never alone,
Cathy

Chapter News

- **Cathy Hill and Amanda Wass will continue to lead and represent Greater Houston C.O.P.S. as President and Treasurer. Election of officers took place at the General Meeting on February 8, 2009.**
- **Don Patron's Mexican Restaurant in downtown Houston was the location for this year's Christmas Party. Everyone enjoyed singing songs, visiting with old and new friends, eating, and watching the kids with Santa.**
- **Executive Director of C.O.P.S. for 25 years, Suzie Sawyer, was in Houston January 4- 7 to attend the sessions for Traumas In Law Enforcement. Houston area Survivors met with Suzie at Casa Restaurant for an enjoyable time.**
- **The jury in the shooting of Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden Justin Hurst, eow 3-17-07, returned a sentence of death. Parents Pat & Allen Hurst request prayers for the family of James Freeman and to thank those who have supported their family.**
- **Laney Marie Bennett made her grand entrance into the world on 10-28-08. She is the daughter of Brad and Amanda Bennett. That makes Annette and Ron Bennett grandparents again. Laney weighted in at 8 lbs. 2 ounces and was 21 3/4 inches long. Laney made her debut at the Christmas Party and was wowed by all. Laney is the niece of Deputy Shane Bennett, e.o.w. 6/12/02, Harris County S.O.**
- **The family of Sergeant Mike Lane of Beaumont PD, e.o.w. 9-16-04, celebrated the birth of Zechariah Michael Carl on 12-25-08. Mike's niece and husband, Drs. Jenny & Leighton Carl, and big sis Miriam, are proud to welcome baby Zeke.**
- **Artist Whitney Hill has been recognized for her talents at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. A piece of her artwork was selected to be viewed by all during the rodeo. Look for her work if you visit the rodeo. Whitney is the daughter of Deputy Barry Hill, e.o.w. 12/4/00, Harris County S.O.**

Sincere Thanks

to all who support Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors.....

- **Port of Houston Authority** for hosting a tour of the Houston Ship Channel
- **John Rivera** for his generous donation at the Christmas Party for the children
- **Don Patron's** in downtown Houston for allowing us to have our Christmas party there
- **Ralph Oler, Lee and Susan Card and of course always Santa** for donations to the Christmas Party
- **DJ Terry Smith from A+ Music On the Move** for providing the tunes at the party
- **Harris County Employees** through payroll deductions to help GHC.O.P.S.
- **Annabelle Furrh** in memory of David Furrh
- **Shannon Garcia and Sherry Batt's** for the delicious desserts at the Christmas Party

Mark Your Calendars

March 28: Germanfest Bike Ride, Tomball (see www.greaterhoustoncops.org)

April 4: GHC.O.P.S. Annual Picnic (See President's Message)

April 18: GHC.O.P.S. Board Meeting

April 25: Saluda to Law Enforcement, Gulfgate Center

May 2: Salute to Law Enforcement, Willowbrook Mall, Houston

May 2: Ride for the Fallen, Austin, Texas

May 3: TXPOM Candlelight Vigil, Austin, Texas

May 4: Texas Peace Officers' Memorial, Austin, Texas

May 7: Harris County Peace Officers' Memorial, Downtown Houston

May 8: Houston PD Peace Officers' Memorial, Downtown Houston

May 12: National Police Week Official Arrival Day & Conference, Washington, DC

May 13: Candlelight Vigil at National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial, Washington, DC

May 14: Concerns of Police Survivors Conferences and 25th Anniversary Gala, Washington, DC

May 15: National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, Washington, DC

May 16: National Police Survivors' Conferences and Picnic in the Park, Washington, DC

May 17: Official Departure Day



Greater Houston C.O.P.S. Quilt Fundraiser

Be a part of GHC.O.P.S. history by ordering a square of the quilt. Squares are \$100.00 and your officer's photo will be part of the quilt forever. The quilt will be part of chapter history for generations. Mail photograph of officer and check to GHC.O.P.S. (Photos will not be returned)

Complete the form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

Phone: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Officer: _____ Agency _____ EOW _____

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Are you on our email distribution list? Email Cathy at cathy@ghcops.org to receive important updates and information from Greater Houston C.O.P.S. We want to keep you updated between newsletters.

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