



Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors



Volume 1

January 2011

GHC.O.P.S.
Annual Meeting
 February 13
 2:00 PM
 H.P.O.U. Building
 1600 State Street
 Houston, TX
 77007
 832-200-3455

Remembering the Fallen



Police Officer Ann O'Donnell, University of Houston Police Department, was killed in an automobile accident December 24, 2010, while responding to an assault in progress. Her patrol car left the road and struck a tree. Officer O'Donnell succumbed to her injuries while being transported to the hospital.



Officer O'Donnell is survived by her parents, Nonette and James O'Donnell of Galveston; sister Kathleen Sullivan; grandparents Dr. & Mrs. Brodace Elkins, and other loving family members.



Deputy Sheriff John Norsworthy, of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, was in an automobile accident on December 27, 2010, and succumbed of injuries sustained on January 4, 2011. He was on his way to backup another officer on a traffic stop when his patrol car left the road and struck a tree. Deputy Norsworthy was trapped in his vehicle for almost an hour before rescue crews could free him. He is survived by his wife Melissa, son Jacob, daughter Katlyn, parents Donna & John Norsworthy, sister Bridget Norsworthy and other family members.



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Rebuilding Shattered Lives

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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.

Law Enforcement deaths jumped in 2010 * There were 162 men and women killed in 2010 * This is a 37% increase over the 117 officers killed in 2009 * Texas lost 19 officers in the line of duty in 2010.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



In beginning the new year, I am truly moving in a forward motion with the help of my C.O.P.S. family. It has been a year and a half since my son, Deputy Shane Detwiler, was shot and killed. At that time, I did not think I would be able to live, let alone do anything to help others. I have been blessed with being able to serve as President of the GHCOPS. Truly this has been the best thing for me, as I have been able to be there for other survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Just as GHC.O.P.S. was there to pull me up on July 13, 2009, I am there to lend my helping hand to pull up those who have been brought to our family by the loss of their loved one. As it is always said, "this is the family you never wanted to be a part of, but now they are your new family".

It takes a village to build a person back up after such a loss, so we ask that you let us be part of your village. We would like to start the new year with seeing more survivors at the support meetings, events, barbecues, picnics, retreats, etc. We need to stick close together so that we can continue to all move in a positive way. It seems as though there are always roadblocks of some sort trying to get in our way of recovery. That is where the GHC.O.P.S. family comes in. I, as well as the entire board, are here to lend you a helping hand. Please feel free to call, or email any of us at anytime, day or night, weekend or holiday. We are here to help lift you up when you are feeling down. Thanks to each and everyone of you.

Cheryl Railsback

Walter Whitt, longtime friend of Greater Houston C.O.P.S., passed away on October 25, 2010 after a lengthy illness. Walter was not only a supporter with his time to GHCOPS but was faithful with his support through the Harris County Payroll Deduction plan. He also served on the GHCOPS Board for a short period of time. Walter is truly missed and he will always be considered a friend of this organization.

Game Warden Susan Webb presented GHC.O.P.S. with a beautiful quilt that she created. The quilt has been a work in progress for many years and depicts the Greater Houston C.O.P.S. logo surrounded with the names of the thirty-eight counties represented. It is truly a work of love and will be on display at the Greater Houston C.O.P.S. office and other chapter functions.



Introducing Nancy Kincaid

My name is Nancy Kincaid and I am the surviving spouse of Sergeant Kent Kincaid. Kent had worked for the Houston Police Department for fourteen years when he was killed in the line of duty on May 23, 1998. We would have been married sixteen years in November of that year. We have two daughters, Jena and Courtney. They were ten and six at the time of his death. I was devastated and I had no idea how to deal with my grief or how to help my children deal with their grief. His death changed everything and how I viewed the future for my family. It wasn't until I was introduced to *Concerns of Police Survivors* when my children and I began to heal. First we attended National Police Week in May of 1999 where we learned so much more about *C.O.P.S.* The following August we attended Kid's Camp and became friends with other survivors. I was so amazed at how many survivors understood exactly what we were going through. *C.O.P.S.* had given me hope that we were going to be OK. Through the years we have stayed in touch with other *C.O.P.S.* families. I finally attended the Spouse's Retreat for the first time in 2007 and I'm so glad I did! I had no idea what I was missing. Jena and Courtney are 22 and 19 now and still continue to attend the hands-on-programs.

Last August my youngest daughter, Courtney, went away to college and I became an "empty nester". Being a stay-at-home mom for several years, I had no idea what I was going to do now. It was in September of 2010 that I was appointed Vice President of Greater Houston C.O.P.S. I am still in the learning stage but I am having fun! It is a pleasure to be working with such wonderful people. I am excited to share my experiences with other survivors so that you will know that *Concerns of Police Survivors* is here to help you with your healing.



3rd Annual Commons of Lake Houston BBQ Cook-Off and Benefit

February 5, 2011 (Starts at 10:00 AM)

The Commons Pavilion

331 Commons Vista

Huffman, TX 77336

Proceeds to benefit Greater Houston C.O.P.S. and the Shane Detwiler Foundation

Our Sincere Thanks ...

- * Harris County Employees through payroll deductions
- * Harris County Deputies' Organization for monthly support
- * Susan & Lee Card for donating profits from candle sells to GHC.O.P.S.(royal essence candles.com)
- * Gary Blankenship for his generous donation and use of HPOU bldg. for the Christmas party
- * Sheriff Adrian Garcia for the food donation and attending the party
- * Joe Pyland for making arrangements for Christmas gifts
- * PACE Moms for serving the food at the Christmas party
- * Susan Webb for creating the GHC.O.P.S. quilt
- * Lee Card for helping to have Santa come to the party
- * Terry Smith, Music On the Move, DJ at the party
- * The Gernale Family in memory of Conrad Gernale (9/6/2002) Beaumont PD
- * Virginia Lane and Carol Lane in memory of Mike Lane (9/16/2004) Beaumont PD
- * Susan Webb in memory of Walter Whitt
- * V. Murray, E. Johnson, and Jane Alley for donations

Christmas Party

Once again, the annual Christmas party was a great success. Approximately 130 people were in attendance with half of them children. A beautiful quilt, made by Game Warden Susan Webb, was displayed and presented to the Chapter. The quilt depicts the counties covered by Greater Houston. After lunch, Santa made a special visit, passing out gifts to all the children. The Greater Houston Board worked hard to provide a delightful time for kids and adults. The food was abundant and wonderful. The traditional ornament exchange, dancing to Christmas tunes, signing the "Memory Tablecloth" and placing ornaments on the Christmas tree will be remembered by all.

Mark your Calendars....

- * February 5 - BBQ- 10:00 AM- The Commons Pavilion - 331 Common Vista - Huffman, TX
- * February 13 - GHC.O.P.S general meeting...1600 State Street ... 2:00 PM...
- * May 1 - Texas's C.O.P.S. Chapter's Luncheon for 2009-2010 Survivors- Austin, Texas
- * May 2 - Texas Peace Officers' Memorial - 12:00 Noon—Austin, TX
- * May 12 - Early arrival day for National Police Week—Washington DC
- * May 13 - Official arrival day for Police Week activities
- * May 13 - Candlelight Vigil - National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
- * May 14 - First day for conferences, Kid/Teens activities, "Roast of Suzie Sawyer"
- * May 15 - National Peace Officers' Memorial at the West Front of the United States Capitol
- * May 16 - Survivors' Conferences, C.O.P.S. Kid/Teens activities, and a Hoedown at the Hilton
- * May 17- Official departure day



**SERVING THE HOUSTON AREA
FOR OVER 16 YEARS**

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Don't miss out on upcoming events. Join our e-mail distribution list. E-mail Cheryl at cherylrailsback@yahoo.com. We want to keep you informed.

Visit G.H.C.O.P.S. website @
www.greaterhoustoncops.org
Look for us on Facebook
Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors

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We are tremendously grateful for the generous financial donations of supporters, friends, and organizations. To make a donation to G.H.C.O.P.S., please send your tax deductible donation to:

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