



GREATER HOUSTON CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

May 2010

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It's not how they died that made them heroes; it's how they lived their lives. **Vivian Eney**

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.



Lieutenant Stuart Jay Alexander
Corpus Christi Police Dept.
e.o.w. 3/11/09



Officer Henry Canales
Houston Police Dept.
e.o.w. 6/23/09



Deputy Shane Thomas Detwiler
Chambers County Sheriff's Dept.
e.o.w. 7/13/09



Officer Jesse Thomas Hamilton
Pasadena Police Dept.
e.o.w. 8/21/09



Sergeant Timothy Gerard Olsovsky
Victoria County Sheriff's Office
e.o.w. 10/7/09



Dentention Officer Dionicio M Camacho
Harris County Sheriff's Office
e.o.w. 10/23/09

President's Message

This is my favorite time of year. The flowers are in bloom and there are signs of new life all around us. Early signs of Spring in our area are the bluebonnets that spread across the land and cover the area with a beautiful array of blue that takes your breath away as you drive along the interstates and country roads. The families taking advantage of picture perfect opportunities for memories to hold for years to come.

In the midst of all the new flowers and colors of Spring, it is time for honoring our law enforcement officers that have given all. As many make the first trip to our nation's capitol, take heart in knowing that you will have a support system awaiting you like none you have ever experienced since your loss. This week spent with other survivors will give you an opportunity to be with others who are just like you, others who have experienced loss just like you. When we are in our "real world" back at home, there doesn't seem to be anyone who comprehends law enforcement line of duty death, but when you get to Police Week you will find that as you are surrounded by other survivors, everyone "gets it". You are encouraged to attend the seminars designed specifically for you and your relationship to your loved one. It will be helpful to you in your grief process. There will be grief support team members available for you throughout the week as well.

This will be my 10th year to Police Week and I grow stronger each time I attend. I gain strength from my other survivor friends and hope that I am giving them strength in return. No matter where you are in your grief process, I hope you are getting stronger day by day.

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

Cathy

Lt Stuart Alexander's murderer given death

On March 12, 2010, Daniel Lee Lopez was sentenced to death for the murder of Corpus Christi Police Officer, Lt. Stuart Alexander (EOW 3/11/2009). Lopez deliberately ran over Lt. Alexander in a high speed chase one year ago. Besides the death penalty, Lopez was also given four 10-year prison terms, which will run concurrently, for other crimes committed.

Death penalty rendered in Officer Abernethy's death

A Houston jury convicted Mabry Joseph Landor to death on April 12, 2010 in the killing of Houston Police Officer Tim Abernethy (EOW 12/7/2008). Witnesses testified that Landor hid behind a wall and shot Officer Abernethy as he ran by and then walk up to Abernethy and shot him in the head at close range.

Chapter News:

- *Brad & Amanda Bennett* became the proud parents of a son, *Shane Issac Bennett*. Shane was born on April 8, 2010 and weighed in at a whopping 8 lbs. 8 oz. Brad is the brother of *Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Shane Bennett* (e.o.w. 6/12/2002). Proud Grandparents are *Annette and Ron Bennett*. Big sis *Laney* is thrilled to have a new baby brother.
- *Ben Lane*, son of *Renee and Sgt. Mike Lane* of the Beaumont Police Department (e.o.w. 9/16/2004) will be graduating from Nederland High School this June. Ben has attended C.O.P.S. Kids Camp and Outward Bound.
- Surviving Parents met at La Madeline for dinner in April. If you are a surviving parent and would like to join in, call Ron Bennett at 713-408-6833. The next dinner will be May 23 at La Hacienda on Telge Rd. at 6:00 p.m.
- For a second year, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund is teaming up with Officer.com to offer a live Internet webcast of the Candlelight Vigil for fallen officers, beginning at 8 PM (EDT) on Thursday, May 13. To register in advance for this free online event, visit www.LawMemorial.org/webcast.
- It was a beautiful day for the 50+ bike riders who participated in the *Fahrradreisen Ride for the Fallen* held in Tomball on March 28 in Tomball. This annual event supports Greater Houston C.O.P.S. and Texas Wheels of Justice.
- Election of GHC.O.P.S. Board Members was held in February. *Dianne Egner* and *Carol Lane* were re-elected to serve as Vice President and Secretary for another term.
- GHC.O.P.S. is now on Facebook. Become a friend and join in honoring our Officers every day.

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

- **Harris County Employees** through payroll deductions to help GHC.O.P.S.
- **Cheryl & Mike Railsback and Brandi & Jimmy McKnight** for their generous donation to GHC.O.P.S. in memory of Shane Detwiler (e.o.w. 7/13/09)

Mark Your Calendars



- May 10** Beaumont Police Department Memorial– 10:00 a.m.– 255 College Street, Beaumont
- May 11** Tomball PD Memorial 9:00 a.m.
- May 11** Harris County Peace Officers’ Memorial– 7:00 p.m. Downtown Houston
- May 13** Official Arrival Day for Survivors & Candlelight Vigil @ NLEOMF– 8:00 p.m.
- May 14** Opening Session-National Police Survivor’s Conferences –C.O.P.S. Kids/Teen Activities
- May 14** The National Bag Pipe Memorial March & Service– 4:30 p.m.-New Jersey Ave.-Washington DC
- May 15** National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service– US Capitol Building– 12:00 p.m.
- May 16** National Police Survivor’s Conferences– C.O.P.S. Kids/Teen Activities—Hoedown in the Hotel
- May 17** Official Departure Day
- May 23** Surviving Parents Dinner-La Hacienda on Telge Rd– Houston
- June 25-28** C.O.P.S. Adults Children’s Retreat– Potosi, MO
- June 26** *GHC.O.P.S. Picnic*
- July 26-Aug 1** C.O.P.S. Kids Camp
- July 26-Aug 1** Outward Bound
- Aug. 8** National C.O.P.S. Golf Tournament– Camdenton, MO
- Sept .5** *GHCOPS Support Meeting*
- Sept. 10-13** C.O.P.S. Siblings Retreat– Potosi, MO
- Sept. 17-20** C.O.P.S. Spouses Retreat– Potosi, MO
- Oct. 1-4** C.O.P.S. Affected Co-Workers, Retreat– Potosi, MO
- Oct. 8-11** C.O.P.S. Walk
- Oct. 15-18** C.O.P.S. In-Laws Retreat– Potosi, MO
- Oct. 29-Nov.1** C.O.P.S. Parents Retreat– Potosi, MO
- Dec. 4** Deputy Barry Hill Celebration
- Dec. 12** *GHC.O.P.S. Christmas Party*

**For the latest dates and news,
visit us on the web:
www.greaterhoustoncops.org**



On Saturday, February 6, 2010, The Commons of Lake Houston neighborhood women's club (The Common Threads), held a barbeque cook-off, craft sale, and rides for the kids. Cheryl & Mike Railsback, (mother and stepfather of Chambers County Sheriff’s Office Fallen Officer, Deputy Shane Detwiler, e.o.w. 7-13-2009) were honored to be able to be a part of the cook-off. They went before the ladies club and asked permission to set up a booth to sell barbeque for \$8.00 a plate with all proceeds going to The Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors in Shane's honor. In recruiting all of their friends and neighbors, Mike &

Cheryl along with Shane's only sister, Brandi & her husband, Jimmy McKnight, went to several area businesses for donations to be given for a silent auction to be held that day. It was a long day as we started early in the morning preparing the meat and setting up the booth, but after all was said and done we collected just over \$4,300.00. Mike & Cheryl could not have done it without the help of each and every cook-off team that day as they all donated meat to be sold as well. It was a total success and the community has decided to involve a charity in the barbeque cook-off every year.

Thanks to the Common Threads for all their help and providing the forum for us to do such a wonderful thing.

Cheryl & Mike Railsback
Brandi & Jimmy McKnight

- GHC.O.P.S.
Service Area by
County...**
- Aransas, Austin,
 - Brazoria, Brazos,
 - Burleson, Calhoun,
 - Chambers, Colorado,
 - Fayette, Fort Bend,
 - Galveston, Grimes,
 - Hardin, Harris,
 - Houston, Jackson,
 - Jasper, Jefferson,
 - Lavaca, Leon,
 - Liberty,
 - Madison, Matagorda,
 - Montgomery,
 - Newton, Nueces,
 - Orange, Polk,
 - Refugio, San Jacinto,
 - San Patricio, Trinity,
 - Tyler, Victoria,
 - Walker, Waller,
 - Washington,
 - & Wharton

**Greater Houston
Concerns of Police Survivors**

**P O Box 73362
Houston, Texas 77273**

**Phone: 832-257-1499
E-mail: cathy@ghcops.org**

**Rebuilding
Shattered
Lives**



Greater Houston Board

Cathy Hill
President
cathy@ghcops.org
281-300-4131

Dianne Egner
Vice President
kd.egner@att.net
713-408-6833

Carol Lane
Secretary
calane1888@att.net
713-410-9068

Amanda Wass
Treasurer
awass4218@yahoo.com
713-204-5737

Jean Hill
Immediate Past President
bjeanhill@sbcglobal.net
281-788-5002

Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors
P O Box 73362
Houston, TX 77273