

# Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors

3rd Quarter 2008



*Rebuilding Shattered Lives*



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## Houston Says Goodbye to Another Hero HPD Police Officer Killed On Duty

On the morning of Sunday, June 29, Officer Gary Gryder and fellow officers were working a job directing traffic at the Katy Freeway construction site. Suddenly their world changed forever when a suspected drunk driver ran into the men killing Officer Gryder and critically wounding another officer.

Gary Allen Gryder was 47 years old and had served as a police officer for twenty-four years. During this time he met and married his wife, Debbie. Gary and Debbie had a son, Austin who shared the love of baseball with his dad. Gary had many good friends who described him as the type of guy always ready to have a good time. Gary is survived by his parents, Bill and Shirley Gryder; wife, Debra Gryder; son, Austin; stepdaughter and husband, Jennifer and Chris Streeter; sisters, Teresa Pickering and Pam Landry; and grandmother, Lois Gryder plus numerous other family members and co-workers that love him dearly.



## Chapter President's Note

Summer Greetings everyone. As I write this letter to you, I have been going through photos of my summer trips. I have been on my summer mission trip and two summer camps with youth from church. I don't know if I am crazy, exhausted or exhilarated, but, none the less, I am glad to be home. I had a wonderful time at the July 4th picnic with all that attended and spending the time with you really was uplifting and a great encouragement. After the high of Police Week and not getting to attend Kid's Camp this year, since Whit is now too old for it, I felt a little down so it was good to spend a holiday with other survivors. I was able to get my "fix" in, my renewal, and my dose of help from each that gives a helping hand, rather any of you realize you are doing it or not. It is that smile or hug that you extend each time I see you. I look forward to our get togethers and I hope you do as well. Concerns of Police Survivors offers so many avenues for you to experience the helping hands and it is just a simple paper and pen away. I hope you will take out the paperwork you received for the Hands-On Program, fill it out and send it in. Attend the program designed for you. I am eager to catch a plane and attend Spouses' Retreat. Whitney attended Outward Bound for the first time this year and I can't wait to hear all about it when she returns next week. I am also anxious to hear about Kid's Camp for the Wass' and others who might attend. Please consider the programs.

We have activities planned throughout the year for you as well here in the chapter. Our next big event is the President's Potluck at my home. Bring your swimsuit and favorite dish. This is my favorite event and it is a relaxing day by the pool and great food. Mark your calendar for September 13th and join us. Everyone should be home from vacations, school will have started back up, and schedules will be back to normal. I am looking forward to the smiles and hugs!

Remember that if you ever need anything, I am only a phone call away. Walking through this journey together, remember you are never alone,

Cathy

**Police Officers  
give more than  
speeding  
tickets, they give  
their lives  
24—7—365**

**GHC.O.P.S.  
Service Area by  
Country:**  
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  
Patricio, Trinity,  
Tyler, Victoria,  
Walker, Waller,  
Washington, and  
Wharton

## Chapter News .....

- Congratulations to the family of **Lora and Jerry Daniel** who welcomed a beautiful granddaughter, **Kinsley Dawsyn Clamon** on April 21, 2008. She was 7 pounds 9 ounces and measured 19.5 inches. Proud parents are **Destiny and Forrest Clamon**.
  - Cheers and good wishes to **Patricia Garcia**, a recent graduate of Magnolia High School. Patricia is the daughter of Deputy John David Garcia (e.o.w. 7-17-03).
  - Love to scrapbook? Bring your pictures and enjoy a great time. For more information, call **Dianne Egner** at 281-703-8004 or e-mail [kd.egner@att.net](mailto:kd.egner@att.net)
  - The next "Parents Dinner" will take place in August. If you would like to join other parent survivors, call **Ron Bennett** at 713-408-6833.
  - **B.J. Foster**, former treasurer for GHC.O.P.S., resigned her position in May. B.J. decided to move to Utah to be closer to her family. We thank B.J. for her valued presence and for being a caring and responsible member of our group. We will miss her laughter and smiling face.
  - As of June, **Amanda Wass** took over the responsibilities of treasurer of GHC.O.P.S.
- Thank you B.J.! And welcome aboard Amanda!*
- Speaking of "aboard", watch for an Alaskan Cruise details will be coming.



## Special Thanks to Our Donors .....

- **Virginia Lane:** In Memory of Sgt. Mike Lane
- **Al and Susan Kelley:** In Memory of Deputy Barry Hill
- **Annabelle Furrh:** In Memory of Sgt. David Furrh
- **Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce**
- **Harris County Employees** through payroll deductions
- **Jim, Susie, Mandi, and Jolie Wass** for hosting the annual picnic on July 4th. Everyone attending enjoyed the delicious food, feeding the cows and horses, and each other's company.
- **Airborne Law Enforcement Association:** for their support to GHC.O.P.S. during the ALEA conference in Houston
- **The BEC Group of Louisiana**

Check us out on the web.....  
[www.greaterhoustoncops.org](http://www.greaterhoustoncops.org)

### Mission Statement

**Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.** provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families 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.



Kyle Wagstaff is engaged! Allison Newton is the lucky young lady to join the Wagstaff family in September.

Kyle's parents are Elena Wagstaff Kelley and Wesley Wagstaff (e.o.w. 8/5/03 Texas Parks and Wildlife). Kyle graduated from Kountze High School in 2004 and Allison graduated from Lumberton High School in 2002. Both attend LIT where Kyle is completing a degree in welding and Allison is majoring in Business Administration. Kyle currently works for Conex in Beaumont and Allison works for the City of Beaumont Water Production. Congratulations Kyle and Allison!



Teresa and Alyssa Bennett stepped into a new life in June when they married Jeremy! They have moved off to live happily ever after in their new life. The entire family was there to celebrate the joining of this family as many new memories were made. We wish them many years of love and new beginnings. Congratulations.



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

Be a part of GH C.O.P.S. history by ordering a square of the quilt. Squares are \$100 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 to GHC.O.P.S. **(photos will not be returned)**

Complete the order form and return:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

E.O.W. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your payment and photo to:  
 Greater Houston C.O.P.S.  
 P O Box 73362  
 Houston, TX 77273-3362

For your news items to be submitted to the newsletter, contact Carol Lane.

calane1888@att.net  
We want to hear from you.

Check out the website at  
[www.greaterhoustoncops.org](http://www.greaterhoustoncops.org)

832-257-1499  
281-353-1638 Fax

#### Your Current Board

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

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

**Ron Bennett**  
1st Vice President  
rbennett9580@sbcglobal.net  
713-408-6833

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

**Dianne Egner**  
2nd Vice President  
kd.egner@att.net  
281-703-8004

**Jean Hill**  
Advisor  
bjeanhill@sbcglobal.net  
281-788-5002

#### *Calendar of Events*

**August 10:** GHC.O.P.S. Support Meeting (2:00 PM) Mickey Leland Courthouse

**August 22-25:** C.O.P.S. Fiancées/Significant Other Retreat [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)

**September 13:** GHC.O.P.S. President's Pot Luck Dinner 19531 Creek Bend Drive Spring TX 77388

**September 19-22:** C.O.P.S. Siblings Retreat [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)

**September 26-29:** C.O.P.S. Spouses Retreat [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)

**September 29:** Deputy Micheal Eakin Memorial Celebration

**October 11:** GHC.O.P.S. Fall Festival - Watch for details

**October 17-20:** C.O.P.S. In-Law's Retreat [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)

**October 31-Nov 3:** C.O.P.S. Parent's Retreat [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org)

Greater Houston C.O.P.S.  
P O Box 73362  
Houston, TX 77273-3362