



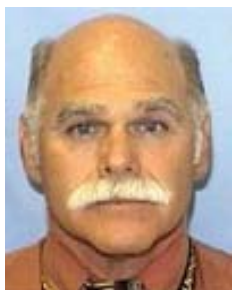
REBUILDING SHATTERED LIVES

4TH QUARTER 2008



**GREATER HOUSTON
CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS
P O BOX 73362
HOUSTON, TX 77273**

IKE claims the life of Harris County Sheriff's Detective Tommy Keen



The Harris County Sheriff's Department lost one of their best on September 15. Detective Tommy Keen succumbed to injuries obtained on September 13th while removing trees that had fallen in the road. Detective Keen was using a chainsaw to cut the trees when a branch flew into the air and then struck him in the head.

Detective Keen was a US Army veteran of the Vietnam War and had served with the Harris County Sheriff's Department for 35 years and was just a few months shy of retirement. He is survived by his wife and son.

President's Message

Every time we put together a newsletter, we want to let the chapter know what is happening and how they can get involved. Several weeks ago, I woke up during the night with a heavy heart. I couldn't get the officers that were hit by the hurricane off my mind. Yes, I know many of you were touched somehow by this monster and, by all means, I am not disregarding the damages any of us as survivors received. The officers were put on mandatory longer shifts and were not able to leave town or gather their belongings and move them to a safer location. Even after the storm was over, they still had to continue to work these long shifts and many stayed at the departments where they were employed. As they were able, they went to their homes and for some, where their homes once were, they found nothing left. I have to be honest, losing my husband was difficult enough, I can't imagine losing what photographs I have, the videos, the mementos, all those things I can put my hands on and touch that bring a memory to my heart and mind. A memory that might be tucked away deep inside that takes a tangible piece of something to touch to draw it to the surface. As I thought of this, my heart broke. I began thinking of the many times I was told "if there is anything I can do for you, just call." Granted, I have tried not to call and just do things on my own but I know that their words were not empty and they would do anything for us as survivors. I wanted us to do something for them. The gift card campaign was born. I am so overwhelmed at the response from so many and the amount received was more than I even imagined would come in. To date we have received just over \$8,800 in gift cards and clothing donations. We have made contact with several agencies that need assistance and have made arrangements with other agencies to assist other officers.

Eric Gray, a trooper from Texas Department of Public Safety has been working on a fundraiser for our chapter which will take place on October 25th. He is sponsoring a bike ride in Conroe and we are looking forward to this becoming an annual event. He is new to putting on this type of venue and would like to have someone from our chapter who is familiar with fundraising help him coordinate the next one.

The Board had a unique opportunity to present a mini training for the Port of Houston Authority Police Department several months ago and in the process we spoke to them about the ship channel cruise that the Port of Houston offers. They are

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

Chapter News:

- Greater Houston C.O.P.S. has the opportunity to take a cruise of the Port of Houston on Saturday, November 8. The time for the cruise will be from 6:00 –8:00 PM. Those interested in going should arrive by 5:30. Call **Dianne Egner GH C.O.P.S. 2nd Vice President** at **281-703-8004** for reservations and more information. There is a limited number of spaces available so please call and get your name on the list to participate in this free evening cruise and dinner sponsored by Port of Houston Authority.
- National C.O.P.S. held the annual C.O.P.S. Walk in Washington DC on October 11 & 12. All proceeds collected from the walkers went to National C.O.P.S. It is not too late for you to sponsor your favorite walker. Texas had 4 participants and they would love for you to send a check to National C.O.P.S. on behalf of them for their 25 challenging miles that they walked. Courtney & Jen Kincaid, in memory of their father, Kent D. Kincaid, Elena Wagstaff-Kelley, in memory of her husband, Wesley W. Wagstaff and Susan Webb, in memory of fallen Game Wardens.
- The annual Christmas party will be held December 7, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Don Patron's located in the Allen Center in downtown Houston. We will have our annual ornament exchange! More information to follow.
- Chapter elections will be held at the GH.C.O.P.S. annual meeting in February. Positions open for election in 2009 are President and Treasurer. Letters of intent are due by January 31st. Contact GH C.O.P.S. Advisor Jean Hill at 281-788-5002 for qualifications to hold an office on Greater Houston Board.

Governor Launches Program Blue Alert:

Governor Rick Perry launched the Blue Alert program on August 18. This program will assist law enforcement in apprehending offender's who have committed crimes against a federal, state, or local officer. Upon activation, the offender's vehicle information and offense will be displayed on TxDOT signs and media broadcasts so the public can notify authorities.

Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible. Support from individuals, law enforcement groups, and corporations is welcome. Will you remember Greater Houston when you make your charitable contributions during the holidays? Donations can be mailed to:

GH C.O.P.S
P.O.Box 73362
Houston, Texas 77273-3362

Counties in the Greater Houston Area:

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, and Wharton.

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.

President's Message Con't.

opening a special cruise up to our chapter on November 8th at the ship channel. This is going to be a great evening and I encourage you to contact Dianne Egner if you want to attend. This is an RSVP event and your name must be on the list if you plan to attend. Also on that day, we have been invited to participate in craft show where we will be selling donuts, hotdogs and brisket sandwiches as a fundraiser. Come by 1027 Spring Cypress Road in Spring from 8 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to support the chapter.

The Christmas party is just around the corner as well. December 7 at Don Patron in the Allen Center downtown Houston beginning at 2:00 p.m. Music will be provided by Music on the Move. Santa will be our special guest.

Have you purchased your square for the memory quilt yet? It isn't too late. You can clip out the order form below and mail with your payment to the chapter.

You can see we have so much going on. Take a look at the inserts and all I have mentioned and join us. Call any of us if you need to talk, we are here for you.

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

Cathy

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 GH C.O.P.S.

(Photos will not be returned)

Deadline: March 15, 2009

Complete the 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

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

Phone: 832-257-1499
Fax: 281-353-1638

We're on the web:
www.greaterhoustoncops.org

Calendar of Events

October 25: *Heroes Ride 8:00 a.m.*

November 8: *Port of Houston Boat Tour 5:30 PM*

December 4: *Deputy Barry Hill Memorial Dinner 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 19531
Creek Bend Dr. Spring, TX 77388*

December 7: *Christmas Party - Don Patron Restaurant Allen Center Downtown Houston - 2:00 PM*

January 5, 6, & 7 : *Traumas of Law Enforcement (see www.nationalcops.org for registration)*

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