Holiday Fun for All Survivors:  
NorCal C.O.P.S. Annual Christmas Party

Survivors of all ages are warmly invited to celebrate the season at our Annual Christmas Party. This year’s festivities will be held on Saturday, December 8 at the California Highway Patrol Academy in West Sacramento, beginning at 11am.

This free family event offers something for everyone. There will be arts and crafts, appetizers, a delicious catered luncheon, and a special visit from Santa Claus himself! Most importantly, it will give all of us a chance to relax for a few hours during the busy holiday season, catching up with old friends and making new ones...who understand just how difficult the holiday season can sometimes be.

RSVPs are needed to ensure accurate counts for food (and Santa’s bag!), so please contact Vice President Stephanie Miller by December 1st at johnny31803@sbcglobal.net or by calling (209)747-4492.

Project Blue Light: Let Your Blue Lights Shine for Law Enforcement During the Holidays

The idea began in 1989 when survivor Mrs. Dolly Craig wrote to C.O.P.S. that she would be putting two blue candles in her living room window that holiday season, one in memory of her son-in-law Daniel Gleason (Philadelphia PD/ EOW 6/5/86), the other in memory of her daughter and his wife who had been killed in a car accident in August 1989. Danny and Pam had 6 children. Mrs. Craig is now deceased as well, but her idea is her legacy. Project Blue Light now burns bright in the hearts of nearly 30,000 law enforcement survivors during the holiday season.

C.O.P.S. adopted this idea as a way that everyone could honor the officers who serve and protect us while also remembering those who have been killed in the line of duty. The concept is simple: place a single blue light in your window in memory of fallen officers. The color blue is also a symbol of peace, so when you display blue lights, you’ll be sending a message of support to our peacekeepers and a message of hope that the coming year will be a time of peace.

You can use any ornamental light fixture, or National C.O.P.S. offers a limited edition C.O.P.S. Legacy Logo Blue Light through their website, www.nationalcops.org.

(Source: National C.O.P.S. website)
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EOW: January 7, 2006

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EOW: December 31, 2005

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Wife of: Lieutenant Mike Walker  
California Highway Patrol  
EOW: December 31, 2005

**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. C.O.P.S. is a non-profit tax exempt organization.

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**
We want to hear from you! If you have something to share with your C.O.P.S. family (a photo, an event honoring your fallen hero, a special way of remembering your officer, thoughts about how C.O.P.S. has helped your family, etc.) please submit it to be published in a future newsletter. We welcome contributions for the Kids/Teens Page too!

Please e-mail your item to the Newsletter Editor, Michelle Walker at mnmjava@aol.com.

**MAILING LISTS/ADDRESS CORRECTION**
If you have an e-mail address and do not already receive e-mails from NorCal C.O.P.S., please join our e-mail list by sending a request to norcalcops_email.update@yahoo.com.

If you have a change or correction to your mailing address or would like to have your name, department, or POA added to our mailing list to receive future issues of this newsletter, please contact our Chapter Secretary at susanmoody6@sbcglobal.net.

*If you are one of the many C.O.P.S. Facebook users, be sure to “like” our page, Northern California Concerns of Police Survivors. The page administrator, Greg Fontana, will post events, last-minute updates, and photos for all to enjoy.*

Page 2 - NorCal C.O.P.S. Newsletter/Fall 2012
President’s Message

As we enter the end of 2012, the state of California mourns the loss of two heroes, Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Deputy Robert Paris (EOW 4/12/12) and California Highway Patrol Officer Kenyon Youngstrom (EOW 9/5/12). We are constantly reminded of the dangers our loved ones endure every day. The loss of any officer is one too many; but we are grateful that this year has been one of the lowest in losses in California history.

We draw our strength from each other. The C.O.P.S. family is strong and we support each other in every way possible. By now, all 2012 Hands-On Programs have come to a close. Thank you to Mariah and the staff of National C.O.P.S. for making these retreats possible. Over fifteen families from Northern California have benefitted from these events. In the words of Chapter Vice President Stephanie Miller, “C.O.P.S. Kids Camp is an amazing experience for both the kids and myself. The week long event allows us to make new friendships and build on the relationships we already have with other families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty. This camp has been the single best thing I have done for Chandler and Reese, and I am so very grateful that it is in existence.” If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of the hands-on programs, please ask a board member for more information.

It is with complete sadness that I explain the cancellation of this year’s walk-a-thon. It has been a major fundraiser for us in the past, helping provide assistance to families for the hands-on programs that C.O.P.S. offers. This year, for whatever reason, only one family along with board members raised money and registered for this event. We are indebted to Chief Greg Bowman of Rio Vista Police Department who, along with his family, raised $1,500. We thank Chief Bowman for his continued support. Next fall will be the fifth annual walk-a-thon. We want to make it the most successful yet, and our goal is to raise $10,000. Please put it on your calendar now: Saturday, October 12, 2013. We need your help. The families and co-workers of fallen officers need your help. Registration forms and details will be sent out in the summer of 2013, but please go ahead and start planning your team now.

For some more C.O.P.S. fun, please save Saturday, December 8, 2012 on your holiday social calendar for the Annual Christmas Party. This wonderful, family-oriented event has become a highly anticipated event that brings together survivors, co-workers, and friends of the NorCal Chapter. Santa will be joining us for a rare visit to the CHP Academy, so please bring the kids so they can get a ride in Santa’s “CHP Helicopter” Sleigh. Look for more event information in this newsletter and at www.norcalcops.org. RSVPs are needed by December 1 to Vice President Stephanie Miller at johnny31803@sbcglobal.net or (209)747-4492.

To all the first responders, please be safe during the holiday season. To all of our C.O.P.S. families, be strong and hold your loved ones close.

Sincerely,

Tami McMillan
President, NorCal C.O.P.S.

Thank You For Supporting NorCal C.O.P.S.!

As a non-profit, NorCal C.O.P.S. relies on donations of cash, goods, and services from individuals, POAs, and other organizations.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous cash and/or in-kind contributions made by the following donors:

Abel Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick
Robert Bard
Gregory & Valli Bowman
California Peace Officers’ Assn.
Molly Coito
Hector & Stefanie De La Rosa
The Gym at Rio Vista
Neil & Elaine Hamilton
Richard & Melinda Hennes
Kingsburg Police Dept.
Gary & Prudence Lazdowski
James McPherson
PORAC - Bay Area Chapter
Norman Richardson
Rio Vista Dodge Chrysler Jeep, Inc.
Rio Vista Rotary
Rock 4 Cops
San Francisco Deputy Sheriff’s Assn.
Carlton A. Smirni
Solano Business Group
Woodward Drilling Company, Inc.
CHAPTER CALENDAR

December 8: Christmas Party
CHP Academy, 3500 Reed Ave. West Sacramento, CA 95605
Day-of-Event Contact: Tami McMillan (650)255-5721
(Details on Page 1)

Looking Ahead to 2013

February 2: General Meeting
Location TBD

February 7: “Heroes Behind the Badge”
Screening & Silent Auction
** A NorCal C.O.P.S. Benefit **
Jupiter Networks Aspiration Dome
5th Ave. @ North Mathilda Ave., Sunnyvale, 94089
(Details & Ticket Purchase Info on Page 5)

April 13: General Meeting
Location TBD

May 5-6: California Peace Officers Memorial Events
Sacramento, CA

May 11: CPOA Memorial Run/Walk & BBQ
Pleasanton, CA

May 12-18: National Police Week
Washington, DC

June 22: Summer Picnic &
Chapter Elections**
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Santa Cruz, CA
**Detailed information about elections and open positions
will be included in the Winter 2013 Newsletter

October 12: NorCal C.O.P.S. Walk-a-Thon
San Ramon, CA

Hands-On Programs

National C.O.P.S. offers a series of annual “Hands-On” programs for all categories of survivors:
• Spouses Retreat
• Parents Retreat
• Siblings Retreat
• Kids Camp
• Outward Bound for Teens
• Adult Children’s Retreat
• Fiancées/Significant Others Retreat
• In-Laws Retreat
• Affected Co-Workers Retreat

These programs offer support and encouragement from peers and trained counselors. Most importantly, they help survivors develop relationships with other survivors that can help them rebuild their shattered lives.

Most retreats are four days long, held over a weekend; Kids Camp and Outward Bound for Teens are week-long programs. There is no fee to attend these retreats; the only expense is transportation to/from the designated airport.

Financial assistance for expenses incurred in traveling to Hands-On Programs is available to NorCal survivors through the Chapter. Please contact a Board member for more information about obtaining financial assistance.

When 2013 dates are set, they will be listed in this section of the newsletter.

For further information or to check for 2013 dates, please visit www.nationalcops.org or call the National C.O.P.S. Office at (573)346-4911.
“Heroes Behind The Badge” Screening & Silent Auction
** A NorCal C.O.P.S. Benefit **

All survivors, law enforcement professionals, first responders, family and friends are invited to a special screening of the documentary film “Heroes Behind the Badge” on Thursday, February 7 at the Juniper Networks Aspiration Dome in Sunnyvale. This evening begins at 6pm with a silent auction and social, followed at 8pm by the screening of this important documentary.

Tickets are $20 each, and NorCal Concerns of Police Survivors will receive thirty percent of net proceeds and one hundred percent of silent auction proceeds.

To purchase tickets, or for further details, including the venue address, please visit the organizer's website, www.smile-conference.com/hbtb.

We thank the host agency, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, Chief Frank Grgurina, and the event organizer, LAwS Communications, for supporting NorCal C.O.P.S.!

From the film’s webpage: “Heroes Behind The Badge” is a documentary film featuring some of the brave men and women of law enforcement who put their lives on the line and survived, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. This inspiring documentary will change the way we look at the men and women of law enforcement and highlight the unselfish acts of bravery they commit each day in the line of duty. Its stories will be powerful, emotional, insightful, and educational.”

Volunteers Needed

The 5th Annual NorCal C.O.P.S. Walk-a-Thon has been scheduled for October 12, 2013. This family-friendly event is a major fundraiser for our chapter, enabling us to assist many NorCal C.O.P.S. families through chapter activities, workshops, travel assistance to Police Week and Hands-On Programs, etc.

Although it is several months away, a successful event requires advance planning and the effort of a dedicated volunteer or group of volunteers.

We have an excellent event location in Pleasanton, but we need help publicizing the walk to survivors and agencies, planning the food, gathering registrations, ordering t-shirts, setting up, cleaning up, etc.

If you would be willing to chair this event, or if you wish to get more information about what is involved, please contact President Tami McMillan by emailing mcmtam@yahoo.com or calling (650)255-5721.

On behalf of your NorCal C.O.P.S. Board and all Chapter survivors, thank you for helping to support this important event.

Join survivors, friends, and the law enforcement community to support C.O.P.S. Hands-On Programs. For registration and detailed information, visit www.nationalcops.org and click on the COPS WALK SOUTHWEST logo.

2nd Annual COPS WALK SOUTHWEST
2 days - 25 miles
February 23-24, 2013
Phoenix, AZ

“Heroes Behind The Badge” Screening & Silent Auction
** A NorCal C.O.P.S. Benefit **

Upcoming Events

Volunteers Needed

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Join survivors, friends, and the law enforcement community to support C.O.P.S. Hands-On Programs. For registration and detailed information, visit www.nationalcops.org and click on the COPS WALK SOUTHWEST logo.
Event Recaps/Board Activities

Another Successful Kinder’s Fundraiser

On September 5th, about 220 friends and family members of Richmond PD Officer Bradley Moody (EOW 10/7/08) and Vallejo PD Jim Capoot (EOW 11/17/11) gathered to support NorCal C.O.P.S. with a fundraiser dinner at Kinder’s BBQ in Fairfield. The great turn out and delicious food helped make good memories, keep two heroes’ memories alive, and support survivors. There was a 50/50 raffle and several raffle items.

Thank you once again to the Solano Business Group for organizing this annual event. It is greatly appreciated by the Moody family, the Capoot family, and all the survivors of NorCal C.O.P.S.

Fenton’s Ice Cream Social

About 35 NorCal survivors met on August 26 in Vacaville for our end-of-summer meeting and ice cream social. Fueled by delicious, all-you-can-eat Fenton’s sundaes, business was taken care of, and then everyone was free to socialize. We thank those who attended this event.

All-California Chapter Retreat

To ensure that efforts are coordinated among the three California C.O.P.S. chapters (Northern, Central, and Southern), representatives from each chapter met for the annual “all-chapter retreat” on November 3 in Kingsburg.

The meeting began with a National C.O.P.S. representative leading a training session on procedures, then the three chapters discussed upcoming events related to the CPOMF, May memorials in Sacramento, and Police Week. The NorCal members in attendance also met at the end of the day to discuss chapter business and planning matters.

The outcome of the meeting was very positive, with all three chapters committed to working together to serve California’s survivors well.

Spreading the Word About C.O.P.S.

- On September 11, President Tami McMillan and LE Liaison Tony Aguerre attended the Bay Area PORAC Meeting, hosted by the San Francisco Deputy Sheriff’s Association. They distributed newsletters and blue ribbons, then spoke about our organization and its events. At the conclusion of the meeting, NorCal C.O.P.S. received donations from both Bay Area PORAC and the San Francisco Deputy Sheriff’s Association. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to speak about C.O.P.S. and its mission, and are very grateful to both of these organizations for their generous donations.

- President Tami McMillan attended COPSWEST (the annual California Peace Officers Association conference) on October 16-17. While there, she was presented with a donation of $8,000, representing the proceeds from May’s CPOA Memorial Run/Walk & BBQ. We are very grateful to CPOA for their continued support of NorCal C.O.P.S.

If your agency, association, or group wishes to set up an informational presentation about C.O.P.S., please contact Chapter President Tami McMillan by calling (650)255-5721 or sending an email to her at mcmtam@yahoo.com.
To further honor fallen heroes, we include remembrances for past-year officers of NorCal survivors. Photos of signs, parks, benches, gardens, quilts, or any other memorial item are welcome.

If you have a photo of a memorial item to share in a future issue, please e-mail it to Michelle Walker at mnmjava@aol.com.

If applicable, please include its location (city, highway, park, etc.), dedication date (if available) and comments you wish to share about it.

We Will Never Forget...

Officer James Guelff
San Francisco Police Dept.
End of Watch Nov. 14, 1994

“It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived.”

Vivian Eney Cross, survivor

Memorials are for Remembering

Deputy Remembered by Community, Family

Fallen hero Yolo Sheriff Dept. Deputy Jose Antonio “Tony” Diaz (EOW 6/15/08) has been memorialized by both the community he protected and his family.

In recognition of Deputy Diaz’s service and sacrifice, the main access road to the Yolo Sheriff’s Department campus was renamed “Tony Diaz Drive” in August. Additionally, several building addresses will reflect his badge number, 140. Photos on the far left show the new sign, with Deputy Diaz’s family gathered around it on the day of the dedication.

Two memorial markers were also created by family members. Deputy Diaz’s brother Juan and niece Yalina Prado made a cross (near left, top); Yalina Prado also made a plaque (near left, bottom). Both are placed on County Road 5 in Dunnigan, CA. Says his niece, “I made the commemorative plaque as a gift for my Tio Tony (from me personally) to honor him and his life. I wrote “tio” instead of “uncle” because that’s what I called him and what he will always be, my Tio.”

C.O.P.S. thanks the Diaz family for sharing these photos with us. We will never forget Deputy Tony Diaz.

On September 6, this sign on Hwy. 101 in Piercy (Mendocino County) was dedicated in memory of Garberville Area CHP Officer Thomas Adams (EOW 2/15/11). Shown above are Officer Adams’ parents Bruce and Karen Adams.
CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

Northern California C.O.P.S. Chapter
P.O. Box 4133, Mountain View, CA 94043

DEPARTMENTS: Please Post