

# CPO FAMILY

Autumn 2013

A Publication of The CPO Foundation

Vol. 23, No. 2

## PROJECT 2000 XXIV

Reno, Nevada

June 13-16, 2013



*HONOR GUARDS FROM ACROSS THE NATION AT  
THE PROJECT 2000 XXIV NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY*

# CPO FAMILY

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation  
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### BACK COVER:

The CPO Foundation is  
Honored by the City of New York  
Department of Correction

## THE CPO FOUNDATION WALL OF HONOR



**PROJECT 2000 XXV**  
*Thursday, June 5 - Sunday, June 8, 2014*  
*Seattle, Washington*

# PROJECT 2000 XXIV

June 13-16, 2013 ~ Reno, Nevada

We welcomed well over 700 Corrections Professionals, families, friends and guests to Project 2000 XXIV, with nearly 800 in attendance at the Friday, June 14 Memorial Ceremony held at Reno's Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. On the next six pages are the photographs of the 15 who were honored at the Ceremony, with brief descriptions of the incidents that led to their deaths in the line of duty. As is always the case at the CPOF's annual Memorial Ceremony, tears were shed and emotions ran deep, yet many of the families, close friends and colleagues of the Fallen expressed later that they also felt great pride and a renewal of strength from attending the ceremony and seeing their loved ones honored with such dignity, professionalism and caring. We give many thanks and much appreciation to the CPOF National Honor Guard and all the Honor Guards from across the nation (see our cover!) who participated for making the Ceremony so impressive and memorable an event.



*The Wall at Project 2000 XXIV of this Year's Honored Corrections Professionals*



*Mandy Donaldson sings at the Project 2000 XXIV Memorial Ceremony*



*Laying the Wreath at the Memorial Ceremony*

*The Annual National Memorial Ceremony is the highlight of every Project 2000 gathering. Here is the complete list of the events and activities of Project 2000 XXIV:*

*Thursday --*

- The Annual Welcome Buffet Dinner*

*Friday --*

- The Annual Memorial Luncheon (follows immediately after the Memorial Ceremony)*
- Kids & Teens Lunch and Pool Party*
- "Contraband Cell Phones" Seminar*
- Barbecue Dinner*

*Saturday --*

- "An Officer is Down" Seminar*
- "Women in Corrections" Seminar*
- "Time for You" Informal Session for Fallen Family members*
- Youth Counseling Session*
- The Annual Recognition Luncheon*
- Kids & Teens Lunch and Pool Party*
- "Gangs in Prisons" Seminar*
- "Financial Planning" Seminar*
- Special Session for Survivors of Assaults, and their Spouses*
- Pizza and Ice Cream Sundae Party for Kids 12 and under*
- "Teen Night Out"*

*Sunday --*

- The Annual "We are Family" Buffet Breakfast, featuring the Project Kids & Teens "Songfest"*



# The Corrections Professionals of PROJECT 2000 XXIV

*Honored on Friday, June 14, 2013 at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park*

**Correctional Corporal Barbara Ester**  
East Arkansas Regional Unit, Arkansas Department of Corrections  
EOW: January 20, 2012

Corporal Barbara Ester was stabbed multiple times by an inmate when he was told that his shoes were considered contraband and that they would be confiscated unless he had proof of purchasing them. When he was told he would be locked up, he became agitated and attacked Corporal Ester. Corporal Ester was transferred by ambulance to the hospital and a short time later died from her wounds.

Corporal Ester had served with the Arkansas Department of Corrections for 12 years. She is survived by her husband, Lathen, who was an Officer at the same facility; her daughter, Fanny; and several grandchildren.



**Correctional Officer Tracy Hardin**  
High Desert State Prison, Nevada Department of Corrections  
EOW: January 20, 2012

On December 29, 2011, Officer Tracy Hardin was attacked by an inmate in the unit office. He sustained injuries to his face and lip area, and suffered a severe fracture to his right leg.

On January 20, 2012, Officer Hardin was leaving the prison following his shift when he suddenly turned into a pulloff outside of the employee parking lot. Seeing this, other Officers immediately went to check on him and discovered he wasn't breathing. They immediately initiated CPR but were unable to revive him. Officer Hardin died from a blood clot that was caused by the attack on December 29, 2011.

Officer Hardin had served with the Nevada Department of Corrections for five and a half years. He is survived by his mother.

**Corrections Officer Britney Meux**  
Lake County Sheriff's Department, Indiana  
EOW: March 6, 2012

Corrections Officer Britney Meux was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver while she and three other Corrections Officers were participating in departmental training. They were jogging along the outer perimeter of the Lake County Jail when a vehicle struck all four Officers. Officer Meux was killed instantly. The other three Officers were transported to local hospitals.

Officer Meux was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and had served with the Lake County Sheriff's Department for three years. She is survived by her one-year-old daughter, Savannah; and her mother, father and four sisters.





**Correctional Sergeant Ruben Thomas III**  
Columbia Correctional Institution, Florida Department of Corrections  
EOW: March 18, 2012

Sergeant Ruben Thomas was stabbed to death by an inmate at the Columbia Correctional Institution Annex. At approximately 10:00 pm Sgt. Thomas was checking on an inmate in one of the prison's dorms when the inmate attacked Sgt. Thomas, stabbing him in the neck several times with a shank. The inmate then struck another Officer in the eye with a sock filled with a heavy item before being taken into custody. Sgt. Thomas was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his wounds.

Sergeant Thomas had served with the Florida Department of Corrections for six years. He is survived by his fiancée, Leeann; one-year-old daughter, Emma; and four-month-old son, Ruben (who was born after Sgt. Thomas' death).

**Correction Officer/Deputy Sheriff Ryan Tvelia**  
Norfolk County Sheriff's Office, Massachusetts  
EOW: April 10, 2012

Correction Officer Ryan Tvelia was killed in an on-duty motorcycle accident while en route to assist with an Honor Guard funeral detail. Officer Tvelia's department-issued motorcycle collided with another vehicle. He was then struck by a second vehicle, suffering severe injuries. Officer Tvelia was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Officer Tvelia had served with the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office for 11 years. He is survived by his wife, Diana; 21-year-old daughter, Brittany; 18-year-old son, Ryan; and 16-year-old son, Joshua.



**Correctional Officer William Wright**  
Mountain View Correctional Institution  
North Carolina Department of Public Safety Division of Adult Correction  
EOW: April 11, 2012

On April 9, 2012 Correctional Officer William Wright fell eight feet off of the guard tower ladder to the ground. He was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for head and leg injuries and released the following day. Two days later on April 11, Officer Wright suffered complications and died from a pulmonary embolism caused by his injuries.

Officer Wright is survived by his elderly parents, Archie and Erlene; his sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Michael; and his nieces, 11-year-old Emily and eight-year-old Sarah.

*At the Project  
2000 XXIV  
Memorial  
Ceremony,  
June 14, 2013*



*Rancho  
San Rafael  
Regional Park,  
Reno, Nevada*



Substance Abuse Counselor II Lorraine Quinn  
Gurney Unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
EOW: May 10, 2012



At approximately 7:30 am, Substance Abuse Counselor II Lorraine Quinn was hit head-on by another vehicle. Counselor Quinn was on her way from the Gurney Unit to the Michael Unit for a Substance Abuse class when the accident occurred. Counselor Quinn was taken by ambulance to the Medical Center where she was pronounced dead.

Counselor Quinn had served the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for 12 years. She is survived by her two brothers, Steve and Mike; and her two sisters, Arlene and Diane.



Probation/Parole Officer Jeffery McCoy  
Central District Community Corrections, Oklahoma Department of Corrections  
EOW: May 18, 2012

Probation/Parole Officer Jeffery McCoy was shot and killed while performing a pre-release supervision check at a home in Midwest City, Oklahoma. A male subject who lived at the home, but was not the focus of Officer McCoy's visit, answered the door and immediately pushed Officer McCoy off the front porch. Officer McCoy was attacked and during the struggle the subject was able to gain control of Officer McCoy's service weapon and shot Officer McCoy once in the head.

Probation Officer McCoy was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and the Oklahoma National Guard. He had served with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections for seven years. He is survived by his wife, Megan; seven-year-old son, Alex; four-year-old daughter, Allie; and his parents, Mary Genese and Francis Pat

McCoy. Genese is a Medical Administrator with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and Pat is retired from the Oklahoma DOC.

Correctional Officer Timothy Betts  
Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, Indiana Department of Correction  
EOW: August 26, 2012

Correctional Officer Timothy Betts was one of the responding staff members who responded to a staff call for help due to an Officer being assaulted by an inmate. Once the fight was broken up, Officer Betts and a fellow Sergeant were escorting the unruly inmate to the segregation unit when Officer Betts suddenly collapsed. Other Officers immediately began CPR and used an automated external defibrillator until an ambulance arrived. Officer Betts was transported to the hospital where he passed away a short time later.

Officer Betts had served with the Indiana Department of Correction for 15 years. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; one adult son, Timothy; two adult daughters, Amy and Ashley; and two granddaughters, nine-year-old Brylea and four-year-old Adilea.





**Correctional Sergeant Mary Ricard**  
Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility, Colorado Department of Corrections  
EOW: September 24, 2012

Sergeant Mary Ricard was killed when she was stabbed repeatedly in the neck by an inmate. The inmate attacked Sgt. Ricard in the kitchen area of the medium security prison while breakfast was being prepared.

Sergeant Ricard had served the Colorado Department of Corrections for nine years. She is survived by her husband, Tim; her adult daughter, Katie, and Katie's husband, Kelvin Smith; her sons, Joey and Jack Benson; her step-son, Ben Ricard and his wife, Andria; and nine grandchildren: Kelvin Jr., Jessica, Benjamin, Hunter, Conor, Alexandria, Cameron, Maya and Ethan.

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**Correctional Officer Larry Stell**  
Telfair State Prison, Georgia Department of Corrections  
EOW: October 11, 2012

Correctional Officer Larry Stell was fatally stabbed by an inmate at the Telfair State Prison in Helena, Georgia. The attack occurred in a dormitory area that housed 80 inmates.

Correctional Officer Stell had served with the department for 11 years. He is survived by his wife, Paula.



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**Correctional Officer Edward Pounds**  
Neuse Correctional Institution  
North Carolina Department of Public Safety Division of Adult Correction  
EOW: January 9, 2010



Correctional Officer Edward Pounds succumbed to injuries sustained two months earlier when he was assaulted by an inmate on November 17, 2009. He was struck several times in the neck and sustained serious injuries. On January 6, 2010, he returned to work but became violently ill. He was transported to a hospital and died three days later. An investigation by the state medical examiner's office determined that Officer Pounds' death was the result of the assault and ruled a homicide.

Officer Pounds had served with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety – Division of Adult Correction for three years. He is survived by his wife, Lori; 22-year old daughter, Lauren; and 19-year old son, Nathan.

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*Privatization Policy: It is the policy of the CPO Foundation that we do not recognize privatization in the field of Corrections. The CPO Foundation adheres to the policies of the Federal Government's Department of Justice. These policies recognize only law enforcement officers within the public sector.*



## The Corrections Professionals honored from the Past

**Correctional Director James Michael Francke**  
**Oregon Department of Corrections**  
**EOW: January 17, 1989**

On the morning of January 18, 1989, a security guard found Director Francke's body on the floor of the North Portico of the Dome Building in Salem. An autopsy revealed the cause of death to be a stab wound to the heart suffered the night before.



**Correctional Officer Thomas Jackson Sr.**  
**Moberly Correctional Center, Missouri Department of Corrections**  
**EOW: July 3, 1983**

On July 3, 1983 Correctional Officer Thomas Jackson, assigned to the Moberly Correctional Center, entered the B wing of Housing Unit 2 in order to remove an unruly inmate. The inmate refused to come out of the area. Officer Jackson went to the control center within the housing unit to get backup support.

As Officer Jackson attempted to make it out the door and back to the control center, the inmate grabbed him by the head and hair and pinned him against the door casing. Another inmate stabbed Officer Jackson three times in the chest, twice penetrating his heart. Officer Jackson died from the stab wounds inflicted by the inmates.

Officer Jackson is survived by his wife, Betty (married only 18 months at the time of his death); his adult sons, Thomas Jr. and Donald; his adult daughters, Darlene and Mary; Mary's husband, Gary; and great-granddaughter, 12-year-old Jayden.

**Correctional Sergeant Vincent Tatum**  
**Southern Desert Correctional Center**  
**Nevada Department of Corrections**  
**EOW: September 2, 1982**

Sergeant Vincent Tatum was abducted from the Southern Desert Correctional Center. His body was found in the desert near Las Vegas a month later. He had been beaten and shot four times in the head. His case remains unsolved.

Sergeant Tatum had served with the Nevada Department of Corrections for four years. He is survived by his wife, Vicki, and daughter, Monique (who was eight at the time of her father's murder).





Guard Archie Boutwell  
Prison Camp - Greenville, Alabama Department of Corrections  
EOW: December 10, 1957

Guard Archie Boutwell had just finished making his rounds and had gone to the camp's washroom to warm up next to the boiler. While inside the washroom he was attacked by an inmate and struck over the head with a shovel. Guard Boutwell succumbed to his injuries.

Guard Boutwell is survived by his great-great grandson, John Skipper, who is a Lieutenant with the Alabama Department of Corrections.

## Corrections Professionals' Sons honored from the Military

Army Specialist Ryan P. Jayne  
EOW: November 3, 2012  
Serving During Operation Enduring Freedom

Army Specialist Jayne, 22, of Campbell, New York was assigned to the 178<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, U.S. Army Reserve, Oswego, New York. He died November 3, 2012 of wounds caused by an improvised explosive device in Paktia province, Afghanistan.

Army Specialist Jayne is the son of Correctional Officer Paul Jayne of Southport Correctional Facility in New York.



Army Sergeant Richard A. Essex  
EOW: August 16, 2012  
Serving During Operation Enduring Freedom

Army Sergeant Essex, 23, of Kelseyville, California was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He died August 16, 2012 in a Black Hawk helicopter crash northeast of Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Army Sergeant Essex is the son of Correctional Officer Charles Essex of Pelican Bay State Prison in California.

Army Specialist Blair D. Thompson  
EOW: June 25, 2010  
Serving During Operation Enduring Freedom

Army Specialist Thompson, 19, of Rome, New York was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He died June 25, 2010 at Asadabad, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

Army Specialist Thompson is the son of Correctional Officer Vincent Thompson of Marcy Correctional Facility in New York.





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## A WORD FROM ATTICA HOSTAGE SURVIVOR AND CPOF VOLUNTEER DONALD ALMETER

My name is Donald Almeter and I'm a hostage survivor of the 1971 Attica Prison riot. That year was one of the worst for deaths in Corrections across our nation. Twenty was the number killed from California to New York.

Each year in September a gathering at Attica Correctional Facility (the scene of our country's worst prison riot) is held to remember those 11 **employees who made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of others**. Each year, this being the 42nd, the number of survivors gets smaller as those involved get older and many are unable to attend.

I remember the hostage situations in Ohio (1993), Arizona (Lois Fraley 2004), Texas (1974) and New Mexico (1980). In Corrections you hear

about all of these situations and I can honestly tell **you that I know first hand about being a hostage/ survivor. I was held hostage at Attica for five days** from September 9 through September 13, 1971.

CPOF wasn't formed until 1984 so they weren't around for us in 1971 -- but they are here now. The Foundation is always here for Correctional Staff or families in need of assistance, and I can say that I do know what these families go through or have gone through because I've been in their shoes. Also, I have been to many places, talking to people who have gone through situations similar to mine.

I am now a proud volunteer for CPOF in any capacity they need me.

*-- Retired C/O Donald Almeter*

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***THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to All of these wonderful people, facilities, groups, organizations and entities for their generous donations made at Project 2000 XXIV***

<i>AFGE - Council of Prison Locals 33</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>
<i>AFGE - Local 614, USP McCreary, KY</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>AFGE - Local 817, FMC Lexington, KY</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>City of New York Department of Correction Pipe Band</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
<i>Corrections Captains Association, Inc., NYC, NY</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>
<i>*Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton, OR</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>
<i>Mule Creek State Prison Memorial Golf Tournament, Ione, CA</i>	<i>\$12,729.03</i>
<i>*Oregon Corrections Officers Association</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>
<i>* Philadelphia Prison System</i>	<i>\$4,000.00</i>
<i>*P.B.A. Local 105, Trenton, NJ</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>
<i>**Brenda Smith and Kimberly Ferguson, Burlington, NJ</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
<i>*U.S. Deputy Wardens Association</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>

*\*New LIFETIME Facility/Organization/Corporation Sponsor of the CPOF*

*\*\*In memory of Cecil Smith, EOW 3/29/07*

# The Honored Families of Project 2000 XXIV



The Family of Correctional Corporal Barbara Ester



Warden Dwight Neven of High Desert State Prison NV, accepting the Memorial Plaques on Behalf of the Family of Correctional Officer Tracy Hardin



Accepting the Memorial Plaques on Behalf of the Family of Corrections Officer Britney Meux



The Family of Correction Officer/Deputy Sheriff Ryan Tvelia



The Family of Correctional Officer William Wright



Officer William Wright's parents, Erlene and Archie, receive their son's Memorial Plaques from CPOF Board Chairman Glenn Mueller



# The Honored Families of Project 2000 XXIV



Accepting the Memorial Plaques on Behalf of the Family of Substance Abuse Counselor II Lorraine Quinn



Accepting the Memorial Plaques on Behalf of the Family of Correctional Officer Timothy Betts



The Family of Probation/Parole Officer Jeffery McCoy



Officer Jeffery McCoy's four-year-old daughter, Allie



The Family of Correctional Sergeant Mary Ricard



The Family of Correctional Officer Larry Stell



# The Honored Families of Project 2000 XXIV



The Family of Correctional Officer Edward Pounds



OR DOC Deputy Director Mitch Morrow accepting the Memorial Plaques on Behalf of the Family of Correctional Director Michael Francke



The Family of Correctional Officer Thomas Jackson Sr.



The Family of Correctional Sergeant Vincent Tatum



The Family of Guard Archie Boutwell



The Family of Army Specialist Ryan P. Jayne



# The Honored Families of Project 2000 XXIV



The Family of Army Sergeant Richard A. Essex



Accepting the Memorial Plaques on Behalf of the Family of Army Specialist Blair D. Thomson



Each Family had a personal Honor Guard escort who was with them throughout the Project weekend



Every Family member was given a white carnation in honor of their loved one



Jennifer Donaldson Davis, one of the CPOF's first "Correctional Widows," received a bouquet in memory of the recent passing of her dad, Leroy Brice



Each Family received a mounted set of three spent shell casings from the 21-gun volley fired at the Memorial Ceremony



# Honor Guards of Project 2000 XXIV



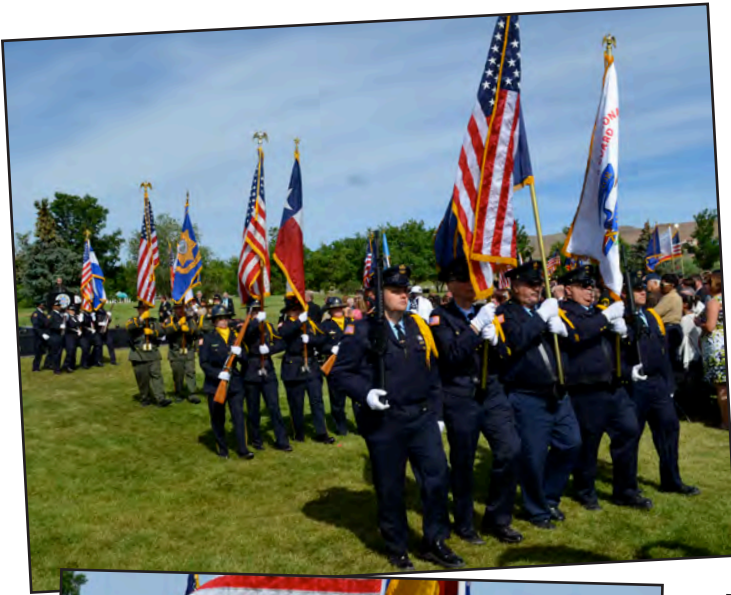


# Honor Guards of Project 2000 XXIV





# Honor Guards of Project 2000 XXIV





# Honor Guards of Project 2000 XXIV





# Honor Guards of Project 2000 XXIV





# Honor Guards of Project 2000 XXIV





# Honor Guards of Project 2000 XXIV





# Speakers of Project 2000 XXIV



Mr. Kevin Murphy

Our speakers: Mr. Kevin Murphy, VP, US Deputy Wardens Assoc.; Ms. Kathleen Dickerson, (Ret.) Deputy Director, Adult Institutions, CA DOC&R; Mr. Michael Thompson, Commissioner, OK DPS; Mr. Larry Reid, Deputy Director of Prisons, CO DOC; Mr. Peter Pepe, Acting Assistant Deputy Commissioner, MA DOC; Mr. Mitch Morrow, Deputy Director, OR DOC; Ms. Dora Schriro, Commissioner, City of New York Department of Correction; Ms. Lorie L. W. Davis, Region III Director, TX DCJ; Mr. Michael Meserve, Western Region VP, Federal BOP; Mr. Jeremy Jenkins, FCI Marianna, FL; and Mr. Bernard Warner, Secretary, WA DOC.



Ms. Kathleen Dickerson



Mr. Michael Thompson



Mr. Larry Reid



Mr. Peter Pepe



Mr. Mitch Morrow



Ms. Dora Schriro



Ms. Lorie L. W. Davis



Mr. Michael Meserve



Mr. Jeremy Jenkins



Mr. Bernard Warner



# THE PROJECT 2000 XXIV KIDS' ROOM



by *Mandy Donaldson*

Hi! That's me above, with Sarah and Emily Cramp, nieces of Fallen Officer William Wright of North Carolina who was honored at this year's Memorial Ceremony.

It is always so hard to realize that yet another year of the CPOF Kids' Room has come and gone. Throughout the year **Project** is anticipated and planned for, and then in a blink of an eye, it seems, it's over!

This year seemed to go by even more quickly. We started on Thursday with meeting and greeting our new friends. We were excited to play with the Jeffery McCoy and William Wright kids, and the grandkids of Mary Ricard. These new children came into the Kids' Room nervous and not wanting to leave their families behind, but luckily our returning kids and teens (Christian Burgert, Addy and Allenton Thorpe) were happy to turn off their video games and make the new kids feel welcome. By the time we closed the room on Thursday afternoon,

everyone had made at least one new friend. It was a great day! On Thursday night, our new kids and teens received their "bags of fun" from Mr. Kevin Murphy (pictured above), Vice President of the U.S. Deputy Wardens Association, and could hardly get through dinner before tearing into their new toys.

After the Memorial Ceremony on Friday, we headed to the beautiful swimming pool back at the Nugget. We ate a delicious meal and swam until we couldn't swim anymore. We then went back into the Kids' Room for more bonding before we "took over" the Nugget's big games arcade designed for young people's entertainment. Makayla Kelly even won the



*Photos: Left, the "kids' bags" (actually backpacks) donated every year by the U.S. Deputy Wardens Association; above, counseling session by Mr. Gary Evans.*

*Next page, top and right column: inflating pool toys, fun in the beautiful Nugget pool, "bouncing and sliding" at the Friday barbecue; bottom left, enjoying the Kids' Room.*



# THE PROJECT 2000 XXIV KIDS' ROOM



“jackpot” of 1,000 tickets off one game! Talk about luck! Pretty soon, it was time for everyone to go back to their parents to get ready for the Friday evening barbecue. The barbecue could not have been more fun, with bouncy slides, delicious food, music and dancing. As I looked around, I realized very few of the first-time kids and teens were with their families: they were busy playing with their brand-new friends, making memories they would never forget.



Saturday morning started early, with practice for Sunday's traditional kids' performance. I was so impressed by how eager everyone was to sing the old and new songs. After some arts and crafts, more video games, and another scrumptious kids-only lunch, it was back to the pool! After swimming, we were once again blessed by having Mr. Gary Evans give a youth counseling seminar where everyone had the opportunity to share things about themselves and about happy memories with their family members in Heaven. In all my years in the Kids' Room, I have never seen the children open up so much and share so much from their hearts. It was ***continued next page***





## THE PROJECT 2000 XXIV KIDS' ROOM



truly inspiring to witness the courage these children and teenagers have, that they are able to deal with such heartache and still persevere and help one another out. When it's all said and done, that is really what **CPOF Kids** is all about.

Saturday night the young children had a fun movie night/pizza party while the teenagers headed to the Circus Circus family-friendly casino. The teens had a fun, festive dinner at a Mexican restaurant and then headed to the casino's big arcade that has circus-like attractions. I think it's safe to say that everyone had a blast!

Sunday morning was bittersweet as always. The children sang their hearts out (even the

teenagers got up there and danced) and the crowd responded with a standing ovation. As the kids got in line for breakfast, the mood had changed a little bit. Everyone was so sad that the amazing experience was about to come to an end, but they knew that they would keep this weekend in their hearts forever, whether or not they return to **Project**. At **Project**, the new children are able to realize that there are other kids in this world who have felt the same heartache and cried the same tears, and who are walking the same scary, unknown road without a mom or a dad. The new children also get to meet and talk with these kids who went through the same tragedy years ago and see that, even though the returning kids may have cried once or twice during the weekend, they are able to live happy lives, always keeping their loved one's spirit in their hearts. The CPOF Kids and Teens truly make up a *family* and the bonds they form will never be broken!

*"Ain't no mountain high enough, ain't no valley low enough, ain't no river wide enough, to keep me from getting to you!" \**

*\* "Ain't no Mountain High Enough" written by Marvin Gaye.*



*Photos: Top left, practicing for Sunday's performance; above and right column, the spectacular Sunday morning "Group Sing" in full swing by the Kids and Teens. One of their projects in preparation for singing "Proud to be an American"\* was to make their own American Flags. Results were charming and creative!*

*\*Written by Lee Greenwood*





## Survivors of Assaults, Catastrophic Assistance Recipients and Bravery “Above and Beyond the Call of Duty” Recipients

At the Project 2000 Recognition Luncheon each year, we recognize Corrections Professionals who have survived savage inmate assaults; Correctional Officers and Families who have triumphed over devastating catastrophic occurrences in their lives; and Corrections Professionals who have acted “above and beyond the call of duty” on or off the job, thus bringing particular credit to themselves, their institutions and the profession as a whole. We are proud to present this year’s “Recognition Honorees” on this and the next two pages.



*Debbie Herklotz, CPOF Representative in Texas for over 17 years, explained the Catastrophic Assistance Program and introduced this year’s “Catastrophic Families.”*



*Correctional Officer Bill Neely, High Desert State Prison, CA*



*Dental Assistant Debbie Scott, Two Rivers Correctional Institution, OR*



*Employee Service Specialist Nancy Simpson, Federal Correctional Institution, Herlong, CA*



*Above: Correctional Officer Rashon Testman, Essex County Jail, NJ. Left: Sr. Correctional Officer Tim Davis, Federal Correctional Institution, El Reno, OK*



*Correctional Officer Scott Leedham, Federal Correctional Complex Lompoc, CA*



*TDCJ Region III Director Lorie Davis accepted an assistance check on behalf of Sergeant Thomas Reynolds, Darrington Unit, who underwent open heart surgery.*





# Survivors of Assaults, Catastrophic Assistance Recipients and Bravery “Above and Beyond the Call of Duty” Recipients



**Correctional Officer Nathan Beauvais, Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center, MA**



**Sr. Correctional Officer Marshall Harris, Sussex I State Prison, VA**



**Correctional Officer Jesse Remillard and Sergeant Anthony Oliveri, Worcester County Jail, MA**



**Lieutenant Jonathan Goodman, Lee Correctional Facility, SC**



**Above: Correctional Officer David Charland, Bare Hill Correctional Facility, NY.**



**At the podium, Rachel Lee, CPOF Office Administrator, introduced this year's Assault Survivors honorees. In front: the CPOF Board of Directors.**

**Right: Sergeant Lori Gann, Sergeant Lisa Orosco, Sergeant Michael Perez and Sergeant Greg Haugen, Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility, CO**



**Food Service Director II Jeffrey Gravila, Lake Correctional Institution, FL**



**Correctional Officer Forrest Simpson, Hays State Prison, GA**



# Survivors of Assaults, Catastrophic Assistance Recipients and Bravery “Above and Beyond the Call of Duty” Recipients



*Lieutenant Bradley Milgrim, Red Onion State Prison, VA*



*Sr. Correctional Officer Thomas Brister, Federal Correctional Complex Pollock, LA*



*The clock awards and medals given to the Assault Survivors, Catastrophic Families and “Above and Beyond the Call of Duty” honorees.*



*Correctional Officer III David Logan, Stiles Unit, TX*



*Corrections Officer Willie Thompson, Harrisonburg Men’s Diversion Center, VA~ Bravery Above and Beyond the Call of Duty*



*E4 Specialist Donald Zielenski III, US Army, son of Unit Manager Donald Zielenski and Counselor Cheryl Zielenski, Federal Correctional Institution Marianna, FL*



*Pvt. First Class Trevor Crewey, US Army, son of RN Malissa Contreras (also pictured), Federal Medical Center Lexington, KY*



*Correctional Officer III Dwayne Smith and Correctional Officer III Cody Waller, Estelle Unit, TX ~ Bravery Above and Beyond the Call of Duty*



## Project 2000 XXIV Mailbox

Ms. Bredeson,

I am writing this to thank you and the Foundation for your invitation to the Reno event. It was very inspiring and I enjoyed it very much. It opened my eyes to what the Foundation is all about. I am now convinced that this is the best charity for anyone working in corrections. It shows that we do "take care of our own." I am now planning to attend the one in Seattle and many more to come. Again, thank you for this experience -- you guys are great!

Sincerely,

Debra J Scott, Dental Assistant

Two Rivers Correctional Institution, OR

*Ms. Scott suffered a brain aneurysm last fall and had to be life-flighted to Oregon Health Services University for surgery, which took seven hours. She was hospitalized for two weeks. Our volunteer Representative for Eastern Oregon, Michael Seefeldt, recommended Ms. Scott for catastrophic assistance and also that she be invited to **Project 2000 XXIV** (see page 27).*



Dear Charleene,

I just wanted to drop you a line to thank you for inviting me to **Project 2000 XXIV**. It was truly a moving experience. All these years being a member of CPOF I have read about the **Projects** in the magazine, but that does not compare to experiencing it in person. The Honor Guards were the sharpest I've seen. The seminars were enlightening. The ceremonies and activities went off without a hitch. That takes a lot of work. You, your staff and your volunteers did a wonderful job. I look forward to attending many more **Project** events. Thanks again.

Eric Spierer, Juvenile Medium Security Facility, NJ  
*Mr. Spierer has been a Supporting Member for 16 years. He is also a **Lifetime Individual Sponsor** of the CPO Foundation.*

Terrasa,

Good afternoon. I wanted to thank you for taking the time for pictures at the Memorial Ceremony on June 14. The overall time you spent with all of us was commendable in my eyes. I truly appreciated every minute of it and will never forget it. Being there alone without my wife, who went through the incident by my side, was difficult for me. However, the friendship, compassion and overall camaraderie shown by all of you were deeply appreciated and made it [**Project XXIV**] a wonderful experience that I will always cherish.

You made me feel right at home in a room full of people I didn't know.

Thank you so much,

Jeff Gravila, FSD II,

Lake Correctional Institution, FL

*On September 24, 2012 Food Service Director II Gravila was severely assaulted by an inmate. He was airlifted to a trauma center in Orlando, Florida for treatment of several facial fractures. FSD II Gravila attended **Project 2000 XXIV** as a guest of the CPO Foundation, and was recognized at the Saturday luncheon (see page 28).*

Hi, CPO Family!

My wife and I would just like to thank you all for your continuous support, and for including us in a fabulous long weekend honoring those who have fallen or been hurt in the line of duty. People like you are what make America great!

Thanks so much,

Nate and Nicole Beauvais, Templeton, MA

*On June 25, 2012, Correction Officer Nate Beauvais was stabbed in the neck from behind by an inmate. The shank hit his spinal cord and went all the way through his neck. During the attack a female Officer tried to respond but was herself attacked by several other inmates who began beating her. With the shank still stuck in his neck, Nathan got up and pulled the attacking inmates off the female Officer.*

*Nathan, a Supporting Member at Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center, had to have two surgeries and was in an ICU with a feeding tube for a time. As an assault survivor, he was invited to attend **Project 2000 XXIV** (see page 27).*



## Project 2000 XXIV Mailbox

Ms. Charleene Corby  
C.P.O.F.

Re: **Project 2000 XXIV**

Dear Char:

Once again the CPOF demonstrated that actions speak louder than words. Our delegation of twelve (12) that attended this year's **Project** were honored to have six (6) of their Honor Guard participate in the Annual National Memorial Ceremony held in Reno, Nevada.

The precision that is demonstrated during this ceremony by all the Honor Guard is a true tribute to all Fallen Officers. As in years past, the camaraderie that is established by meeting and talking with Correctional Employees from all over

the United States is as much a part of **Project** as the Ceremonies.

We are now moving forward, planning more fundraisers and membership drives so CPOF can continue to "Take Care of Our Own." We are already talking about attending next year's **Project 2000 XXV** in Seattle, Washington.

We look forward to participating in the ceremonies, renewing old friendships and making new friends and memories.

Sincerely,

The Philadelphia Prison System  
CPOF Committee

*Worthy of note: The Philadelphia Prison System became a Lifetime Facility Sponsor of the CPO Foundation at the Saturday Recognition Luncheon.*

Dear Mr. Kevin\* and CPOF,

My name is Emily Cramp and I am 12 years old. My sister's name is Sarah and she is 8. We received two wonderful backpacks in June from all of you and we love them. Thank you so much for them, we call them our "gifts from heaven." We think they are from a special person who watches over us from heaven, that is our uncle, William Lee Wright. He died last year because of an accident he had at work. We called him "Knuncle" and we loved him very much. He took us places, played with us, talked with us and always, always, got us surprise gifts. He would hide these gifts all over our house, our Nenaw and Papaw's house, his truck, and in our front yard. He was the very best uncle we could ever have had and we miss him terribly.

Our favorite trip this year was to Reno, Nevada in June. We drove 6 hours to Nashville, Tennessee and spent the night there. It is such a pretty city and we had a lot of fun. We left Nashville and flew on a plane for the very first time to Reno and were met by our new uncles and aunts and another special person, "our new grandpaw," Don Dease. Our new uncle, Bill, took us to the hotel called the Nugget and we met more new aunts and uncles and of course our other new grandparent, "Ms. Judy." We went to our rooms and got ready for the night, we listened to a wonderful bagpipe band and watched a video that made my mom cry because it is her

\* "Mr. Kevin" is Kevin Murphy, VP of the U. S. Deputy Wardens' Association. He is pictured here with Emily and Sarah and their backpacks.

favorite song, "Hero" and my Knuncle was in the video. So, our hero was there with us. Me and sis cried too but we tried not to let anyone know. Then, we got the surprise of our lives. We were called up to get backpacks with our names on them and some wonderful stuff inside them. We both got gift cards and I got a DVD player and my favorite

was a nail polish set. When the dinner was over, we went back to our room and that was when we looked inside our backpacks. The very first thing I thought was, "these were our gifts Knuncle had promised for Christmas last year and were gifts from heaven." My little sister said just about the same thing out loud to my mom and dad. Of course, they both cried and so did my Nenaw and Papaw when we told them. We still use our gifts and wanted to thank you for them. We now have salon days with my mom and Nenaw and even my aunt, Paula. Thank you so much for the gifts and what joy you have brought me and my little sister. I am saving my gift card to buy my sister something for Christmas.

Sincerely,

Emily Cramp, North Carolina



*continued next page*



## Project 2000 XXIV Mailbox

Dear Mr. Kevin and CPOF,

My name is Sarah Cramp and I am 8. My sister is Emily, and she is 12. We want to thank you for our "gifts from heaven." Our backpacks that we got in Reno are our gifts from heaven from our uncle, William Lee Wright. We called him Knuncle and loved him very much. He died last April but had always promised us to look out for us and he still does. He sent us to CPOF where we met lots of new "aunts and uncles" and "a new Nenaw and Papaw." He also sent us to a new place where we can go and play with kids like us and people like Ms. Mandy, who told us it is okay to cry when you are sad.

My backpack had Lego friends in it and I love Lego's. My uncle and me played with Lego's all the time. It had a gift card, Polly pockets, and even a squirt gun. My biggest surprise was that the backpack has my name on it. The very first thing I asked my mommy was, "Is this from Knuncle 'cuz it has my name on it." She said yes. She is an only child now and me and sis didn't have any aunts or uncles because my Knuncle didn't marry and he didn't have any kids but us. We would ask him and he would tell us that we were all the kids he needed. I prayed real hard for some new aunts and uncles and Knuncle must have told God because I got a bunch now. Thank you so much for answering my prayers and for the gifts. I am going to use my gift card for Christmas to buy my family Christmas presents but do not tell them. Sis wants a new My Little Pony and I am going to get her that from me. I might get me one, too!

Sincerely,

Sarah Cramp, North Carolina



The Project 2000 XXIV Donation Table. Donors may select the thank-you gift(s) they would like; gift recipients are determined from a drawing of names on the last day of Project. Page 30 photo: CPOF Volunteers at the Sale Table offering CPOF shirts, jewelry and other items.

Dear Kim, Don, Judy, Mandy and our CPOF family,

Words cannot express the gratitude I feel in my heart for all the wonderful things CPOF has done for my family this past year and still doing now. I lost my brother, William Lee Wright, last April after an accident he had at work. As the dark gloom settled over my home and the knowledge that I had lost my only sibling, my girls and my parents and I had to carry on by ourselves. I prayed for God to help us, to deliver us from this nightmare our lives had become, and one night I found an organization called CPOF.

I contacted Ms. Kim [Blakley] and she wrote me back. She kept writing me from that point and encouraging me to keep fighting and I could hear William in her words to "keep the faith, to carry on." He also would tell me that "he was on the watch now so keep my head up high and to keep his girls happy."

In February, we met two more angels, Don and Judy Dease. They helped my parents to understand that they were not the only ones and there were people looking out for all of us. They also invited us to Reno as honored guests of CPOF. I was afraid of us going due to my families' health problems but they kept encouraging us to come. They also showed us how much CPOF cares for everyone in the Correctional field and with special emphasis on the kids affected by the loss of a loved one in Corrections.

Don and Judy also came to the NC DOC meeting to honor my brother, just to help us feel like someone we knew and trusted was there to "have our back and to hold our hand."

Then, the life-changing event all had promised took place in Reno. I found out that I had others who cared for us, truly cared, not because they could benefit from our loss. They understood us as people who had lost a loved one in the line of duty. They understood the girls needed a "special place" of their own to be kids with other kids, to cry if they needed, to just have fun, and they received a special gift "gifts from heaven as my girls call them" the four days started to close a void they felt with the loss of their only uncle. The CPOF Staff and Volunteers gave us love, compassion and friendship but most of all they gave us comfort that only people who "get it" can provide.

I thank them all for everything they do and I thank God for helping us find them. I thank William for watching over us still and for being our HERO.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Cramp, North Carolina

Sister to a Hero - WLW - EOW\* 4/11/12

(\*Eternally on Watch or, as my girls say, "got his wings.")



## Oklahoma Correctional Memorial Dedication

On July 19, 2013, the Oklahoma Correctional Employee Memorial Foundation (OCEMF) and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections unveiled a black granite monument engraved with 20 Department of Corrections employees who were killed or died in the line of duty. This monument stands in front of a reflecting pool that later will have a bench permanently placed for the families, employees and staff to be able to sit and pay their respects to their fallen loved ones.

My name is Theresa Stevens and I am the Administrative Assistant for the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation. I am also the Catastrophic Coordinator for the state of Oklahoma. Myself, along with five members of the CPOF National Honor Guard, and CPOF Representatives Richard Loud and Donnie Almeter, were honored to be a part of this dedication. CPOF Honor Guard members Dave Wedzina (New York), Brian James (Pennsylvania), Donald

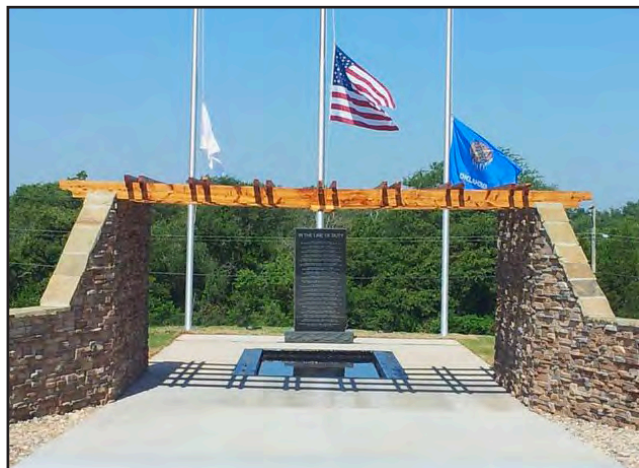
Genwright (Texas), Gerard Van Der Ham (Florida) and Bugler Gil Arizmendi (Texas), worked with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections Honor Guard under the command of Lieutenant Kevin Angel from Howard McLeod Correctional Center. Also participating in the ceremonies were two Bagpipers, Correctional Officer John Murphy of the Suffolk County Correction Officers Association/Suffolk County Emerald Pipe Band, New York; and Lieutenant Curtis Burns, Oklahoma State University Police Department.

Nine families were represented. And as the EOW (End of Watch) was read an Honor Guard member would present each family with a folded Oklahoma State flag. Among the families present were the McCoy family, the Gamble family and the Carter family. Probation/Parole Officer Jeffery McCoy was murdered on May 18, 2012; Sergeant Joe "Allen" Gamble was murdered on June 6, 2000; and Correctional Food Supervisor Gay Carter was murdered on November 13, 1998.

This memorial was built in front of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections headquarters in Oklahoma City. The dedication was a beautiful and moving ceremony immediately followed by a reception. The reception gave everyone a chance to visit and share memories and stories. I enjoyed seeing Pam Carter, daughter of Supervisor Gay Carter, and her brother and sister-in-law, Chad and (coincidentally

also named) Pam Carter. I also visited with Megan, the widow of Parole Officer Jeff McCoy, and his parents, Genese and Pat.

As always, it was good to see everyone in Oklahoma. You are all in my heart and my prayers. I would like to personally thank Ann Tandy, Contract Administrator, Division of Community Corrections and CPOF Volunteer, for a job well done in planning and organizing the dedication ceremony and reception. Finally, it is always good to see the pride of Oklahoma in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections Honor Guard!





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# Oklahoma



We assisted four Oklahoma Correctional Staff and their families who suffered devastating, if not total, losses of their homes and possessions from the huge tornado that almost completely obliterated the towns of Moore and Shawnee, Oklahoma in May 2013. RN Tobi Bricker and CSO IV Eric Laytham, both of Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in McLeod, Oklahoma, were two of these. RN Bricker's totally destroyed former home is pictured at left; Officer Laytham's home is pictured at right.



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Our two other tornado-assistance recipients were CSO IV Robert Lackey and Case Manager I Melanie Baxter from Lexington Assessment and Reception Center. On Sergeant Lackey's behalf, we received this letter from Lesia Miser, Administrator, Classification and Population Unit:

**Dear Theresa Stevens,**

*I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the generosity and compassion shown by yourself and the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation for assisting Sergeant Robert Lackey and his family during a very devastating time.*

*As you know, Sgt. Lackey and his family lost their home and most of their assets in a tornado that caused widespread destruction to our area. Sgt. Lackey and his family were left homeless after the storm and also incurred many expenses in moving, cleanup and meals.*

*Your generous gift helped ease the suffering that this family has endured, and on behalf of the Central Transportation Unit, Classification and Population Unit and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, I would like to say thank you for helping us to help one of ours.*

*Sincerely,  
Lesia Miser*

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Case Manager I Melanie Baxter sent us these photos (lower left and top of next page) of the exterior and interior of her home after the tornado. Again, Administrator Miser wrote us a letter on Ms. Baxter's behalf:



**Dear Ms. Stevens,**

*As you are aware, Lexington Assessment and Reception Center Case Manager Melanie Baxter and her husband, Timothy, were greatly affected by the recent devastation caused by the May tornado in our area. They lost their home and are without most of their belongings.*

*The generosity shown by you and the CPO Foundation has assisted Melanie and Timothy with accepting the changes this event has required, as well as to move forward with the next step in their lives. They are still dealing with the*



# Oklahoma



expenses involved in moving and cleaning up, and buying food.

On behalf of the Classification and Population Unit and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, I would like to extend our gratitude for helping us to help Melanie and Timothy.

Sincerely,  
Lesia Miser

Right: We also assisted CSO III Justin Mobley, a Supporting Member at Oklahoma State Reformatory, when his baby daughter, Kristabel, was born on May 9, 2013 in a very dehydrated state. Kristabel had to spend a week in Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City. This photo shows (left to right) OSR Warden Tracy McCullom, a Supporting Member; Officer Mobley (with a CPOF Lucy Lion toy for Kristabel); and Mrs. Catrina Mobley, holding Kristabel.



Left: John Lilley Correctional Center Warden Kameron Harvanek presented a CPOF assistance check to Case Manager Corrine O'Laughlin to help with funeral expenses when her son died unexpectedly in August 2013.

Right: CMA III Walter McConnell received a CPOF assistance check from David Parker, Deputy Director of Institutions - Division III, after CMA III McConnell and his wife, Rhonda, lost everything in a house fire. The McConnells have custody of their two grandchildren, Madison, 15, and Isaac, 10.





# California



Left: Pictured are Correctional Officer Anthony "AJ" Manjarrez (center) and his family: son, Anthony (left); wife, Theresa; and daughter, Payton. Officer Manjarrez, a Supporting Member at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP), was killed in a rollover ATV accident on May 18, 2013. The CPO Foundation assisted the family with funeral expenses, and we continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks to CVSP Associate Warden Gale McKinney for the photo.



Right: Correctional Officer Glenn Wheeler, another Supporting Member at CVSP, was seriously injured in an auto accident in March 2013. He had to be cut from his car, and suffered injuries to his chest and arm. Connie Summers, the CPOF's California Representative for many years, recommended assistance for Officer Wheeler with extra expenses during his recovery period.



## To the CPO Foundation,

We greatly appreciate your generosity and heartfelt condolences during our time of grief over our son, Patricio Mendoza.

At the tender age of six he was a special little soul who won over anyone's heart. He always expressed that when he got older he was going to work just like his Daddy.

He enjoyed his Kung Fu practices because he was going to earn his color belts just like his older sister Isabel. Patricio was always a little gentleman, giving his Mom and Nana compliments. We will continue to be a strong family and pray for many blessings to our extended family that includes all of you with the CPO Foundation and your families.

Jose, Carolina, Isabel and Margarita Mendoza, Imperial, CA

*Little Patricio passed away from a severe asthma attack on February 10, 2013. His father, Jose, is a Correctional Officer at Calipatria State Prison. We were all deeply saddened to hear of Patricio's passing at such a young age.*



Left: Kayla Robles is pictured here with her brother, Nathan. Kayla is the daughter of Correctional Officer Jeff Robles of California Medical Facility. She was diagnosed with kidney cancer on February 14, 2013 and is undergoing chemotherapy.

***The CPO Foundation started in California and quickly spread throughout the United States. If you know of someone at your prison, jail or parole or probation office needing assistance owing to a recent catastrophic event, email [char@cpof.org](mailto:char@cpof.org).***



# California

Right: Correctional Officer Arthur Lara, a Supporting Member at Pleasant Valley State Prison, was killed in an auto accident in March 2013. His three-year-old son, Isaiah, was with him and suffered a head injury that required (successful) surgery. Thanks to Michelle Rapozo for recommending assistance with funeral expenses for Officer Lara's family. Officer Lara is pictured here holding Isaiah; with him are his girlfriend, Dionicia; 16-year-old stepdaughter, Cypress Flores; and 13-year-old stepdaughter, Devenae Flores.



## Dear Christina,

I wanted to make sure that you understand how truly grateful I am to you and the CPO Foundation. My family will forever remember all the support, both financially and emotionally, that we have received.

Thank you,

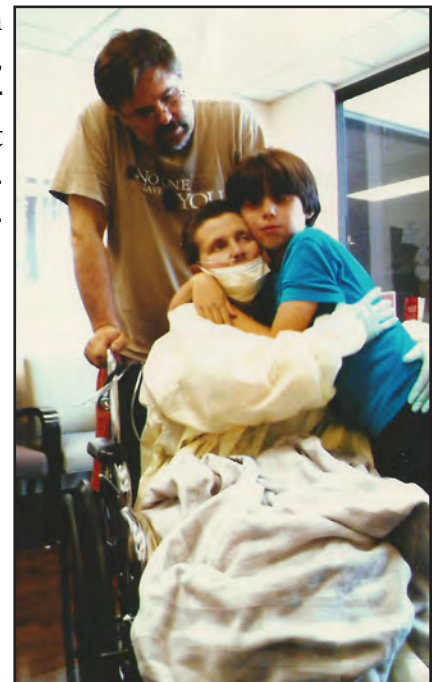
David Costa and the Costa family, Hanford, CA

*David's brother, Correctional Officer and Supporting Member Frank Costa of Avenal State Prison, died of brain cancer on April 16, 2013. Frank had waged a long battle, having first been diagnosed with a brain tumor in March of 2010. (He had previously suffered from stomach cancer that required surgical removal of his stomach.) Frank is pictured here with his wife, Stacie; and children, Keavin and Kylee.*

*C/O David Costa is also a Supporting Member at Avenal State Prison.*



Right: Correctional Officer Paul Pepaj, a Supporting Member at California Correctional Institution, with his wife, Carol, and son, Jack, on June 14, 2013, Carol's 51st birthday. Carol was diagnosed with leukemia and later developed a fungal infection in her lungs. We are extremely sad to report that Carol passed away a month after this very touching photo was taken. Our condolences continue for Paul, Jack and other family members.



Left: Correctional Officer Ronald Hockett, another Supporting Member at CCI, is pictured here with his wife, Brenda; and their two daughters, Tonya and Chanda. We are very sad to report that Brenda passed away on February 26, 2013 from a massive heart attack.



# NEW YORK

CPOF Representative in New York Jay West has been as busy as ever, personally delivering catastrophic assistance checks whenever and wherever he possibly can. And, when Jay cannot, he is grateful for his CPOF contacts at New York facilities who gladly make check presentations in person themselves. *Note: This is true for ALL states!*



New York Representative Jay West (far right) presented a CPOF assistance check to Corrections Officer Jim Burch of Washington Correctional Facility after Jim's wife, Nicole, was diagnosed with cancer. Also pictured with Jim and Nicole is their beautiful daughter, Chloe, who sadly has also been diagnosed with cancer. Jay says, "Sometimes life seems so unfair. To the Burch family, please stay strong, positive and think only happy thoughts. You all will remain in our thoughts and prayers."



Corrections Officer Blasina Bolanos received a CPOF assistance check from Corrections Officer Joe Spina, CPOF contact at Marcy Correctional Facility. It will be used to help with medical expenses incurred during Officer Bolanos' ongoing illness.

Corrections Officer Vincent Thompson (center), also of Marcy Correctional Facility, accepted CPOF memorial items honoring C/O Thompson's son, Blair, who died during combat operations in Afghanistan. Also in the photo, left to right, are Marcy CF Superintendent Charles Kelly, CPOF Representative Jay West, CPOF Representative Dave Wedzina and C/O Joe Spina, CPOF contact at Marcy CF. Says Jay, "We honor and will never forget Blair for his ultimate sacrifice in service to his country."



Jay West presented a CPOF assistance check to C/O Charlene Supina of Hudson CF to help with expenses associated with her recently diagnosed medical issues. Also pictured is her husband, Mark, a newly retired Lieutenant from Greene CF. The CPOF wishes Charlene a quick healing and she will remain in our thoughts and prayers.



# NEW YORK



Jay West presented a bereavement check to Corrections Officer David Unser (center), a Supporting Member at Greene Correctional Facility, who tragically lost his grandson, Alexander, in a water accident in North Carolina earlier this year. Also pictured is C/O Brinsley Arthurnton, CPOF contact at Greene CF.



CPOF Representative Jay West presented a check to C/O Jason Ploss, Greene CF, whose home suffered extensive damage during flash flooding in the Herkimer, NY area in late June. At left is C/O Brinsley Arthurnton, CPOF contact at Greene CF. We wish C/O Ploss a speedy rebuilding process.

Hello, this is Dave Wedzina.

I want to thank ALL my brothers and sisters here in New York for ALL your emails and phone calls when someone at your jail needs financial assistance due to a recent catastrophic event in their life. Jay West and I have been very busy and I can NOT tell you how awesome it is to present a check to a fellow Correctional Officer or Correctional Employee needing a "hand up." What a wonderful experience to see the smiles of appreciation on their faces. I would also

# THANK YOU, NYSCOPBA!



## GOLF DONATION:

Many thanks to NYSCOPBA\* for once again donating over \$5,000 to the CPO Foundation, proceeds from their annual golf tournament held in Saratoga Springs on August 19, 2013. Congratulations to Clinton CF team (E. Caron, T. Ryan, R. Duprey and P. Bijeau) for their 1st place score of 59! Pictured here from left to right: Colleen Cox, Office Administrator; John Telisky, Treasurer; Chris Hickey, Vice President; Dave Wedzina, CPOF Representative; Jay West, CPOF Representative; and Mary Gulina, Office Administrator.

\*New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association  
(a Lifetime Organization Sponsor)

personally like to thank NYSCOPBA for their recent \$5,000 donation – wow!!

I can be reached at [cpofdave@earthlink.net](mailto:cpofdave@earthlink.net) and Jay can be reached at [jwestk@charter.net](mailto:jwestk@charter.net). Or you can email Christina in the main Sacramento office to submit a fellow Officer for assistance. Christina's email address is [christina@cpof.org](mailto:christina@cpof.org). Take care, and have Happy and Safe Holidays.



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# TEXAS

To the CPO Foundation,

Thank you for the check I received. This has surely helped with the expenses I acquired during my recent illness. I was unable to work for six months. I am proud to be a member of your organization. You have helped so many people in very difficult situations.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Patricia Dobyanski, Navasota, TX

*Records Clerk Dobyanski, a Supporting Member at Luther Unit, was diagnosed in February 2013 with chronic lymphedema (swelling in one or more extremities that results in impaired flow within the lymphatic system).*

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Dear Stephanie,

On behalf of the O. B. Ellis Unit and Officer R. Stephan Robert, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the support provided by the CPO Foundation to Officer Robert. Mr. Robert works in the Ellis Unit Kennel and was injured in a horse-related accident that required hospitalization and treatment of injuries. The assistance that you provided will greatly help him and his family with the medical and personal expenses that resulted from the accident.

It is a great encouragement to all of us to know that there is an organization in place whose primary mission is to assist Correctional Employees in times of need. Again, I cannot say enough about how much the help you have provided, both now and in the past, is appreciated. You really make a difference in the lives of many people at a time when it is needed most.

The O. B. Ellis Unit will continue to support and promote the mission of the CPOF at every opportunity.

Sincerely,

Richard Morris, Sr. Warden, O. B. Ellis Unit, Huntsville, TX

*We thank Sr. Warden Morris very much for his kind letter. C/O V Robert is a Supporting Member, and received a CPOF check to assist with out-of-pocket expenses incurred during his hospital stay and recovery.*

Photo: Officer Robert (left) receives his CPOF check from Sr. Warden Morris.



*Stephanie received a similar thank-you letter from Sr. Warden Morris when we assisted another Ellis Unit Staff member, C/O III Christina Tisdale, after she was in an auto accident and was off work for several months recovering from her injuries. This photo shows C/O III Tisdale receiving her CPOF assistance check from Sr. Warden Morris.*

Dear Ms. Barone,

I am deeply appreciative of the monetary gift that the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation has granted to me. I feel very privileged to be a Supporting Member of the Foundation and am humbled by your gift. Though this time is very emotionally and physically draining, the gifts and thoughts of others make this time so much easier to endure. I am blessed to be a part of such a supportive brotherhood/sisterhood.

There are so many incidentals that our insurance companies never consider, and this money will go a long way to help with these costs. The CPO Foundation truly lives up to our motto, "Taking Care of Our Own."

Again, thank you and I look forward to actively returning to work in the very near future.





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# TEXAS

Respectfully,

Mary D. Levesque, El Paso, TX

*Correctional Officer V Levesque is, as she notes, a Supporting Member at Sanchez State Jail in El Paso. She had to go off work in February 2013 when she was diagnosed with End Stage Renal Disease and had to undergo daily dialysis treatments. We are glad to report that three months later she was doing better and, again as she notes above, looking forward to returning to work as soon as possible. We thank her for sending us this nice photo of herself (page 40, lower right).*

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Ms. Stephanie Barone:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation for your generous donation to Officer Christina Erickson. I know Officer Erickson is deeply grateful for this assistance.

I have enclosed a photograph, as you requested. From left to right are Denise Erickson, Officer Erickson's daughter; Assistant Warden Tovi Butcher; Senior Warden Melodye Nelson; and, seated in front, Officer Erickson.

The Hilltop Unit is pleased to be associated with the CPO Foundation as you assist fellow Correctional Staff in their times of need.

Sincerely,

Tovi Butcher, Assistant Warden, Hilltop Unit, Gatesville, TX

*We thank Assistant Warden Butcher very much for her kind letter and this photograph. Correctional Officer Christina Erickson, a Supporting Member at Hilltop Unit, was diagnosed with a form of Lupus and also has a number of other health problems.*



Ms. Barone,

I would like to thank the CPOF for the assistance check provided to Mr. Douglas Oster, Food Service Manager II, of the Alfred D. Hughes Unit. His wife had been ill for some time and recently [April 26, 2013] passed away. Mr. Oster was very appreciative for the assistance; it will be very helpful in paying for the funeral expenses.

CPOF has always been available during our times of need, and as a long-time Supporting Member I take pride in being associated with the help you give our employees.

Thank you very much from the Hughes Unit, Mr. Oster and his family.

Edward W. Smith, Warden, Alfred D. Hughes Unit, Gatesville, TX

*Thank you, Warden Smith, for your letter – and for your Gold Club Supporting Membership.*

---

Dear Ms. Barone,

On behalf of Officer Scott Stuart and the Powledge Unit, I want to thank you and the CPO Foundation for the financial assistance you have provided his family during their time of need. Mr. Stuart's wife recently had a vehicle accident that has left her paralyzed. Your assistance will help with some of the family's expenses and is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin Wheat, Senior Warden, Powledge Unit, Palestine, TX

*Thank you, Warden Wheat. We appreciate your letter and, like Warden Edward Smith above, your Gold Club Supporting Membership.*

---

Dear Stephanie Barone,

On behalf of the Ruben M. Torres Unit and Correctional Officer Juan Morin, I would like to thank the CPO Foundation for the support provided to Officer Morin during his time of need. Officer Morin had his home damaged during a freak automobile accident. A vehicle plowed through his yard and wrecked into the side of his home in the middle of the night of April 16, 2013. Officer Morin and his family were fortunate to be unharmed. The monetary donation received from the CPOF on June 18 helped with expenses not covered by homeowners insurance. Officer Morin when presented with the

*continued next page*



# TEXAS



assistance check expressed his appreciation.

Pictured: Assistant Warden Juan Garcia presenting the check to Officer Morin.

Once again, I would like to thank the CPOF Foundation for assisting our staff as well as the staff and families of other facilities in times of need.

Sincerely,

Joseph Wilson, Warden, Ruben M. Torres Unit, Hondo, TX

*Thank you, Warden Wilson, for your kind letter and for your Supporting Membership.*

*Editor's note: We are proud of the large number of Texas Wardens who are Supporting Members. Indeed, we have many Wardens and other Administrators, including Directors, Commissioners and Secretaries, who are Supporting Members in other states as well. Heartfelt thanks to all!*

## From Joe Ponder, Texas Field Representative, on CPOF Scholarship Presentations:

On behalf of Warden Judy Scott, the Lane Murray Unit staff and the family of Stephanie Stanley, I want to thank CPOF, Charleene Corby and the CPOF Board of Directors for the scholarship check that Stephanie Stanley received. It was an honor to present this check to this young lady. Again, the Foundation has taken a great role in helping a Correctional Officer family by assisting this young lady with her future in college.

Pictured left to right: Joe Ponder, Tanja Stanley (mother), Stephanie Stanley and Warden Scott.

*Congratulations to Stephanie, and thanks to Tania for her Supporting Membership of 12 years.*



On behalf of the Crain Unit Administration and staff, I want to thank the Foundation for the scholarship check John King received. It was an honor to present this young man with a check that will assist him in going to college to secure his future in life. Again, CPOF has proven they will take care of a Correctional family.

Pictured left to right: Warden Patricia E. Walker, Officer Reyna King (mother), John King, Warden Donna Kazmierczak and Joe Ponder.



On behalf of Maci White, I want to thank CPOF, Charleene Corby and the Board of Directors for the scholarship check that I presented to Maci White. Maci is the granddaughter of C/O V Brenda Graham who had 20 years of service. Brenda dedicated her life to her grandchildren and her co-workers at the Clements Unit in Amarillo, TX. She was adamant that her grand kids should go to college. Brenda had planned to retire in June 2013 and watch her grandchildren excel in life; however, she passed away in her sleep at home on November 29, 2012. Brenda is missed by all. On a positive note, thanks to CPOF, the dream of college has been kept alive for Maci. It was a great honor to present this check to Maci, especially considering that I knew her grandmother for almost 20 years. Maci, go and live your life in honor of your grandmother.

Pictured left to right: Joe Ponder, Maci White, and parents Leslie and Bret White.



# Georgia

Hello, my name is Rose Williams and I am the CPOF Representative for the great State of Georgia. Below are just four Correctional Personnel that we have assisted. This *CPO Family* magazine is mostly dedicated to those that lost their lives in the line of duty in the previous year. But you will see me, and sometimes Gary Evans, at

your prisons doing what we do best: presenting CPOF checks to Staff who need assistance in times of need. Their stories, not only on this Georgia page but also throughout this publication, will touch your heart.

If you are a Supporting Member of CPOF you will be receiving this magazine around Thanksgiving. On that note, do be thankful for what you have and reach out to others that may need a little "Thanksgiving assistance."

I can be reached at [rosewcpof@windstream.net](mailto:rosewcpof@windstream.net).

In July and August the CPO Foundation assisted two Correctional Staff at Phillips State Prison. First was Lieutenant Jan Jacobs, who needed help with funeral expenses after her elderly mother was stabbed to death by another resident at the mother's senior housing facility. CPOF Georgia Representative Rose Williams recommended Lt. Jacobs for the assistance, and sent us this photograph of the check presentation at Phillips SP. Pictured are: Captain J. Polite, Warden Eric Sellers, Lt. Jacobs and Deputy Warden Security Mark Pilgrim. Our condolences continue for Lt. Jacobs on her tragic loss.



Ms. Diane Secrist of Financial Operations at Phillips SP received an assistance check to help with expenses when she had to have surgery for an aneurysm. She is pictured here second from left with Warden Sellers, Business Manager Eunicia Pop (who recommended Ms. Secrist for the assistance), and Deputy Warden Administration Allen Dills.

In this photo, Officer Josh White, a Supporting Member at Ware State Prison, is being presented his check from the CPOF by Warden Glen Johnson. Officer White's house was destroyed in a fire in March 2013.



Emanuel Probation Detention Center Superintendent Robert B. Humes presented a CPOF assistance check to Correctional Officer Jonathan Henry after the tragic death of Officer Henry's daughter, Hannah.





**Dear Kim,**

I want to thank you and CPOF for the financial support, thoughts and prayers. I have been employed with the Bureau of Prisons for almost 28 years, which means my wife, Thomasine, was employed with the BOP that long. We were married for 31 years, and she never complained during my nine job relocations to various correctional institutions throughout the United States.

When you do what we do, the circle is small, and we are all family. That has been shown to me a great deal from all the cards and letters I received since my wife's passing on December 25, 2012.

I just want to thank you and all who have shown support for my family during this time.

Sincerely,

Jack Jenkins, Chief SERS, Central Office,  
Federal Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D.C.

**Kim and Shanna,**

Thank you so much for all of your help with our assistance request. We received the check, and I just wanted to send you a quick email to let you know how much I appreciate you both, and the Board.

Here is a picture of our family from our beach trip this past summer. Again, we are all very thankful for your help!

Karen D. Hays, Chief Pharmacist, FCC Yazoo City, MS  
*The Hays family's home sustained extensive damage from contaminated flood water in April 2013. The CPOF gave Pharmacist Hays, a Supporting Member, a check to help with expenses not covered by homeowner's insurance.*



Left: Cook Foreman Michael Clark, a Supporting Member at FCC Victorville in California, was badly injured in a motorcycle accident

while riding home from work on May 2, 2013. He received an assistance check to help with extra medically-related expenses incurred during his lengthy recovery. With Cook Foreman Clark in this photo are his wife, Kinisha, and daughter, Rajena.



Left: Sr. Correctional Officer Frank Leif, a Supporting Member at FCI Dublin in California, was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer in late 2012. He had been undergoing a lengthy chemotherapy treatment program for many months, and the CPOF assisted him with his many medically-related expenses. We are very sad to report that Officer Leif passed away on September 13, 2013.

Pictured: Officer Leif; his wife, Saliene; and children, Aidyn and Khrystina.

# Federal News

Right: Sr. Officer Specialist James McNeil, a longtime Gold Club Supporting Member at FCI El Reno in Oklahoma, was diagnosed with advanced mantle cell Lymphoma in May 2013. As a result, Specialist McNeil had to take a medical retirement. He has been undergoing treatments at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. The CPOF assisted Specialist McNeil with his many medically-related extra expenses, and also when his home and vehicle were severely damaged in the tornadoes that struck the region in June. With Specialist McNeil in this photo are his children, Mindy (23), Jesse (19), and Jackson (15); and Annie, the McNeil family dog.



Left: Dwayne Pettit, CPOF Volunteer Liaison at FMC Lexington in Kentucky, presented an assistance check to RN Tamra Yates, a Supporting Member at FMC Lexington, to help with the expenses RN Yates incurred after her daughter was born with major complications. The baby had to be transferred to a NICU at the University of Kentucky's Children's Hospital.

Right: Chaplain Alex Chartier, a Supporting Member at FCI Edgefield in South Carolina, received a bereavement assistance check after the death of his 14-year-old daughter, Audrey. Vince Phillips, CPOF Volunteer Liaison at FCI Edgefield\*, presented the check. Audrey suffered a stroke when she was only five days old, resulting in her developing epilepsy, cerebral palsy and cortical-visual impairment. She had various treatments and surgeries over the years before, sadly, passing away on February 3, 2013.



*\*Vince's wife, Laura, was also a Volunteer Liaison at FCI Edgefield for many years. She has recently retired and is now a full time Field Representative for the CPO Foundation.*



Left: Correctional Officer Frederick Varin (center), a Supporting Member at FCI Ray Brook in New York, received an assistance check after his wife, Pamela, injured her back. Also pictured are Warden Hudson (left) and Steven Bartlemus, Local 3882 Union President and CPOF Liaison at FCI Ray Brook.

***As of October 2013, there are over 9,100 Federal Correctional Officers and Staff who are Supporting Members of the CPO Foundation.***



# Arizona



My name is Kelly Eno and I would like to thank the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation from the bottom of my heart for reaching out to my family and me in our time of need.

My husband, Michael Eno, worked for other Law Enforcement Agencies, then for the Arizona Department of Corrections. While he was with the Arizona DOC, he became a Firefighter and a Firearms instructor. After eight years with the Department he decided to go into the medical field and started working for Southwest Ambulance. He worked for them for 10 years. He passed away from a tragic motorcycle accident on a group ride with his beloved club called the Roughneck that consists of Law Enforcement, Military



and Medical personnel. I had never heard of the CPOF before this, but now that I am aware of this organization I will be a strong supporter of this AWESOME organization. God Bless and thank you to everyone involved. Special thanks to C/O II Chris Kriebel at ASPC-Florence Eyman.

Kelly Eno

*Note: C/O II Chris Kriebel is also the Eyman Chapter President for the Arizona Corrections Association.*



Office Assistant Nona Collopy-Lee of the 4th Avenue Jail in Maricopa County lost her husband, Michael, to heart complications. Nona herself has heart and other health problems. She received a CPOF assistance check to help with funeral expenses.



**Dear Ms. Stevens,**

Please accept my sincere thank you for the CPOF assistance check that you provided to me following my hospitalization. This money was truly appreciated and came at a time when I did not have the extra funds for co-pays or other medical expenses.

Again, thank you and CPOF for being there for me.

Sherry Beckley, Lieutenant, Detention Division, Maricopa County, AZ

*Lt. Beckley was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer throughout several organs. As of September 2013, sadly, her prognosis was not good. Her doctors had stopped all chemo and radiation therapies, and Lt. Beckley was seeking alternative treatment possibilities. We will keep Sherry and her family in our prayers.*

# Pennsylvania

Jamie Ardrey of SCI-Smithfield provided these photos of CPOF assistance check presentations made to two Smithfield Corrections Officers earlier this year.

First (right) is C/O I David Stake, whose 11-year-old son, Tanner, was diagnosed with bone cancer. Captain Andrew Grove presented Officer Stake with a CPOF check to help with expenses incurred from travels back and forth to Hershey, PA for tests and consultations with a bone cancer specialist.



Next is C/O I Dennis Woomer. Jamie wrote, "The first photo is myself and Officer Woomer receiving his CPOF check on 5-29-13.

"The second is the ramp that the SCI-Smithfield Maintenance Department built for Dennis. Smithfield employees collected some money to donate to the project.



"Thanks again, Wendy, \* and to the CPOF for helping our own."



## Dear Wendy,

Here is the photo of C/O James Delbo accepting his check from the CPOF. It was an honor along with Superintendent Collins to give C/O Delbo this assistance. I can't thank CPOF enough for this. James is such an inspiration to all C/O's here at Frackville. It is still so hard to believe he lost his leg over five months ago, and that he has been back to work already a month! This is pure determination on his part!

Again, thank you, CPOF, for helping C/O Delbo..."Taking Care of our Own!"

Respectfully,

Captain David S. Clemson, SCI-Frackville

*\*Wendy Baur, CPOF Representative in Western Pennsylvania.*



# Florida



On behalf of the Correctional Peace Officers (CPO) Foundation and Terassa Wood, CPO Foundation Representative in Florida, I, Warden Ed Rivero of Polk Correctional Institution, was proud to deliver a \$500 scholarship check to Ms. Lizelis Maldonado, daughter of Officer Elda Rivera. Ms. Maldonado will be attending college and this will certainly assist her with her education.

Eduardo Rivero, Warden, Polk C.I.



**Hello, Ms. Stephanie,**

My family and I would like to say **THANKS A MILLION** to you and the CPOF for everything that y'all have done.

Kendra Bush, Corrections Deputy, Putnam County Sheriff's Office Correctional Facility, Palatka, FL  
*C/D Bush is a Supporting Member. Her daughter, Mishella, was in an auto accident that left her paralyzed from the waist down. Florida Representative John Williams presented C/D Bush with a CPOF assistance check to help with her many medically-related expenses.*

# COLORADO



Captain Nicole Allen, a Supporting Member at Limon Correctional Facility, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in January 2013. With her are her husband, Justin, and CPO Foundation Colorado Representative Bob Kahanic.

While other floods over the years in Colorado may have been more intense, the Flood of 2013 occurred over a much larger area and was significantly longer lasting than most.

Flash floods in Colorado are uncommon, but not rare. The rugged terrain combined with access to moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and the tropical Pacific tends to stack the deck.

The key weather players during the September 2013 flooding event were a large swath of tropical moisture over the Rockies (referred to as the Monsoon by locals), a large area of high pressure over the Midwest and a storm in the upper atmosphere over the Great Basin.

The moisture over the Rockies was literally being squeezed from both sides by the high to the east and the dry air rotating in from the Great Basin around the upper-level storm. This squeezing resulted in a much more vertical profile of moisture than would have occurred without either system present. The high over the Midwest also drove additional air thousands of feet uphill from the Plains to the foothills and Rockies. This action released extra moisture and further enhanced the rainfall.

The high over the Midwest acted like a giant roadblock and turned what would have been a several-hour event into a week-long ordeal.

The result was a plume of heavy rain that re-fired on an almost daily basis from New Mexico to Colorado and southern Wyoming.

The Flood of 2013 lasted nearly a week and covered hundreds of square miles in multiple states. Rainfall exceeded 12 inches at a number of locations.

The Colorado Department of Corrections has identified seven DOC Staff that were impacted by their homes being flooded. CPOF is currently in the process of applying assistance to the affected Staff. Said Staff are amazing in how positive and strong they are and in their will to carry on.

-- Bob Kahanic

# Letters and Photos from States "All Over"

## Arkansas:

Dear Shanna,

Thank you so much for your kind letter and the assistance at this very difficult time! My son, Donnie, is improving every day and is attending school a few hours a week. We are continuing therapy and trying to focus on 100% recovery. Enclosed is his ninth grade picture.

Again, thank you.

Robin Mccloud, Tuckerman, AR

*Ms. Mccloud works in the Business Office at Grimes Unit. In January of this year Donnie was very seriously injured in an accident that occurred while he was riding in a truck with two other boys. Donnie was airlifted to Children's Hospital in Little Rock, where he spent over a week in the ICU.*



## Illinois



**Ms. Bredeson,**

Today [mid February 2013], Warden Marc Hodge (right) of Lawrence Correctional Center presented Matthew (Scott) Hartrich with the CPOF assistance packet.

Thank you and the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation for the support. Scott and his family were very grateful.

Kelly Richardson, Administrative Assistant, Lawrence Correctional Center, IL

*Officer Matthew Hartrich was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer in late December 2012. He was expected to be off work*

*for about six months to undergo treatment. We are very sad to report that Officer Hartrich passed away on April 2, 2013. Warden Hodge requested assistance for the Hartrich family with funeral expenses, which we were gratified to provide. Here is the note we received from Joyce Hartich, Matthew's widow:*

Just a note to say thank you for all the support you have given my family and me after the passing of my husband, Matthew Scott Hartich. We deeply appreciate the monetary gift and the beautiful poem.

Thanks again,

Joyce, Megan (daughter) and John (son) Hartrich, Newton, IL

## Kentucky:

**Stephanie Barone,**

We have received your donation for Sergeant Joshua Jarvis from the CPOF. I want to tell you how very grateful Sgt. Jarvis, Warden Meko, and the rest of the staff at the Little Sandy Correctional Complex are for your generous donation! I have attached a picture of Warden Meko presenting the check to Sgt. Jarvis.

Once again, thank you very much!

Jason Joseph, Payroll Officer, Little Sandy Correctional Complex, KY  
*Sergeant Joshua Jarvis lost his entire home and all possessions in a house fire on May 7, 2013. Sgt. Jarvis is married with three small children, all of whom thankfully were able to escape the house unharmed.*



*continued next page*



## Letters and Photos from States "All Over"



**Ms. Barone,**

The Kentucky State Penitentiary would like to extend its gratitude for the assistance check from the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Inc. to Officer George Powers in his time of need. Officer Powers is extremely appreciative of the monetary donations and would like to thank the CPO Foundation for both the check and the encouragement during this difficult time.

I have attached a picture of Warden Randy White presenting the CPO Foundation check to Officer Powers. Again, the Kentucky State Penitentiary and Officer Powers thank you and the Foundation for the generosity.

Respectfully,

Shea Holliman, Procedures Office, Kentucky State Penitentiary, KY

*Officer Powers, a Supporting Member at KSP, injured his neck and shoulder and underwent two surgeries in the first part of 2013. He has six children ranging in age from three to 14 years old.*

### Maryland

Right: Left to right in this photo are Western Correctional Institution Assistant Warden R. Graham, co-worker of Officer Donald Jenkins C/O II B. Gulick, myself (Jeff Grabenstein), WCI Warden F. Bishop and Mrs. Jenkins (Christine). Christine is the widow of Correctional Officer II Donald Jenkins Jr. of Western Correctional Institution. Officer Jenkins died on February 4, 2013 from a massive heart attack



### Mississippi:



On April 16, 2008 I received a call that no parent ever wants to receive. My oldest son, Ja'Brarious K. Brown, was killed in an automobile accident about two and a half miles from our home. After years of being broken-hearted living without my son, I finally began to pick up the pieces of my life and learn to enjoy life again.

Then, on January 23, 2013, I received another unexpected call. My husband, Curtis, of 18 years had died. Once again my life was shattered with many tears, hurt and disbelief!

But I want to thank the CPOF once again for the prayers and for assisting me financially with some of the expenses. A special thank-you goes to Shanna Bredeson for assisting my surviving son,

Curdarius, and me during our time of bereavement. May God continue to bless the CPOF for assisting families who have faced death, sicknesses and tragedy in their lives.

Tracy L. Alsup, Pace, MS

*Correctional Officer Alsup is a Supporting Member at Mississippi State Penitentiary. The CPO Foundation assisted Officer Pace with funeral expenses after Ja'Brarious was killed five years ago. We were gratified, although deeply saddened, to assist again when Curtis died a few days after being discharged from the hospital where he had gone for treatment for an ulcer and a bacterial infection. Pictured: Curdarius, Tracy and Curtis.*

## Letters and Photos from States "All Over"

### Missouri

**Stephanie,**

Enclosed please find a photo of Jefferson City Correctional Center Warden Jeff Norman and Deputy Warden Donna Cayer presenting employee Amanda Maggard with the CPOF Assistance Check.

Tina Fry, Administrative Office Support Assistant,  
Warden's Office

Jefferson City Correctional Center, Jefferson City, MO

*On May 23, 2013 Office Support Assistant (OSA) Amanda*

*Maggard's seven-month-old son, Ashton, was found unresponsive.*

*He was taken to an ER where he was transferred to a Women's and*

*Children's hospital in Columbia, MO. Ashton was diagnosed with anoxic brain injury and was hospitalized until June 2, 2013 owing to having seizures. Ashton will require close follow up with a pediatric neurologist in Kansas City.*



### Virginia



**Dear Ms. Bredeson,**

Words cannot express how thankful I am for your gift. It will be of great help with the extra expenses of medical bills and traveling back and forth to the University of Virginia. I have worked for the Department of Corrections for more than 34 years and I have always appreciated your organization and the thoughtful things you do.

After a battle with the flu and pneumonia that began on Christmas Day 2012, I was diagnosed on May 20, 2013 with Stage IV Metastatic Malignant Melanoma originating in my lung. I was sent for diagnostic testing and staging, to find out that the cancer had spread to my spleen, adrenal gland and brain. Although these results were devastating, I believe God led my physicians to refer me to the University of Virginia ...

The doctors and staff at UVA have been outstanding in helping me through the most difficult time of my life. ...

Enclosed is a picture of my family taken at my son's graduation ceremony as a State Trooper for the Tennessee Highway Patrol. I am so thankful I was able to attend the ceremony one week after I had had Gamma Knife® surgery to treat the brain lesion.

I am most grateful for God's guidance and protection throughout this journey I am on ... His blessings are evident in the support and encouragement of our friends and family.

Sincerely,

James T. Hall, Atkins, VA

*Mr. Hall is a Captain at Marion Correctional Treatment Center in Marion, VA. We wish him all the best with his ongoing treatments and procedures to control and, it is hoped, prevent further spreading of his cancer.*

*Photo: Left to right are Alex Hall, 13; Mrs. Hall (Melissa); Trooper Michael Hall, 29; and Captain James Hall.*

\* "The Gamma Knife® isn't really a knife at all, but radiosurgery - a non-invasive neurosurgical procedure that uses powerful doses of radiation to target and treat diseased brain tissue while leaving surrounding tissue intact." (Source: Internet)

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# Letters and Photos from States "All Over"

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## West Virginia



Ray Wagoner, CPOF Representative in West Virginia, sent these photos of two West Virginia recipients of CPO Foundation scholarships.



Left photo: CPOF Representative at Lakin Correctional Center Stephen Roush; Lakin CC Warden Lori Nohe; Chase Nicholson, Valorie Roberts' son and the recipient of the scholarship; Valorie Roberts; and Ray Wagoner.

Right photo: Ray Wagoner; Tyson Currence, who was awarded the scholarship; and Tyson's father, Mathew Currence. Mathew works in the Parole Office in Elkins, West Virginia.

---

**Dear Shanna,**

Thank you so much for the wonderful monetary gift. If you only knew how much we needed and are grateful for this!

The CPO Foundation really is a great blessing. Thanks to you all.

Respectfully and with deep gratitude,

Katy Pratt, Friendly, WV

*Supervisor I Katy Pratt is a Supporting Member at St. Mary's Correctional Center. Her husband, Darrell, was hospitalized on March 31, 2013 with an inflamed pancreas. Office Assistant II Katy Malone, CPOF Volunteer Representative at SMCC, recommended assistance for Mrs. Pratt with expenses incurred from traveling to visit Darrell during his hospital stay.*

---

**Dear Shanna,**

My wife and I want to thank you and the CPO Foundation for the check, and the thoughts and prayers that you sent to us. The check will help with our expenses and, yes, it did bring a smile to our faces.

My son's ATV accident was a scary situation. He had a skull fracture and was bleeding from the brain. He broke his shoulder blade and his collarbone, which had to be pinned so it could heal. He is going to have some short-term memory loss and he might lose some hearing in his right ear. But I am thankful he is still with us. I know this is due to all the prayers that were sent out for him and of course because of the wonderful doctors he had. The doctors think that he should have a full recovery, but they said it would take some time.

In closing, I want to again thank you. This is the true meaning of "Taking Care of Our Own!"

God bless you and the Foundation.

Sincerely,

David and Audist Pancake, Sistersville, WV

*David Pancake is a Water Treatment Plant Operator at St. Mary's Correctional Center. As with Mrs. Pratt (above), OA II Katy Malone recommended assistance with travel-related expenses for the Pancakes during their son's hospitalization.*

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# **LIFETIME SPONSORS**

## **of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation**

*We proudly present our Lifetime Sponsors and thank them all very much for their belief in the mission and goals of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation.*

### Lifetime Corporate/Organization Sponsors

- AFGE - Council of Prison Locals - 33
- AFGE - Local 720, FCC Terre Haute, IN
- AFGE - Local 817, FMC Lexington, KY
  - AFGE - Local 1405, USP Lee, VA
- AFGE - Local 3979, FCI Sheridan, OR
- American Correctional Association
  - ARAMARK
- Arizona Corrections Association
  - CenturyLink
- Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency
  - FDGlobal
- Fraternal Order of Police Labor Committee, Department of Correction, Washington, D.C.
  - Global Tel\*Link
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- New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA)
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- Heman G. Stark School (YTS), Chino, CA
- Central California Womens' Facility, Chowchilla, CA
- California Medical Facility, Vacaville, CA
- California Rehabilitation Center, Norco, CA
  - Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA
  - High Desert State Prison, Susanville, CA
- Valley State Prison for Women, Chowchilla, CA
- California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, Corcoran, CA
  - California State Prison, Corcoran, CA
- Sumter Correctional Institution, Bushnell, FL
- Central Florida Reception Center, Orlando, FL
- Baker Correctional Institution, Sanderson, FL
- Hamilton Correctional Institution, Jasper, FL
- Columbia Correctional Institution, Lake City, FL
  - Mississippi State Penitentiary, MS
  - Attica Correctional Facility, NY
  - Livingston Correctional Facility, NY
  - Chillicothe Correctional Institution, OH
- Snake River Correctional Institution, Ontario, OR
  - Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, OR
  - Oregon State Penitentiary, OR
  - Two Rivers Correctional Institution, OR
- Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, OR
  - Philadelphia Prison System, PA

### Lifetime Individual Sponsors

- Mrs. Lucile G. Plane
  - The Autobee Family and Ms. Yolanda Floyd
    - David & Ruthie Reeves
- In honor of SSG Jason A. Reeves*
- Mr. Eric Spierer



# LIFETIME SPONSORS of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation

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- Beta I Unit
- Boyd Unit
- Briscoe Unit
- Byrd Unit
- Choice Moore Transfer Facility
  - Clemens Unit
  - Clements Unit
  - Coffield Unit
  - Cole State Jail
  - Connally Unit
  - Dalhart Unit
  - Daniel Unit
  - Darrington Unit
- Dominguez State Jail
  - Duncan Unit
  - Eastham Unit
  - Ellis I Unit
  - Estelle Unit
  - Ferguson Unit
  - Formby State Jail
- Garza East Transfer Facility
- Garza West Transfer Facility
  - Gist State Jail
  - Glossbrenner SAFPF
- Goodman Transfer Facility
  - Goree Unit
- Gurney Transfer Facility
  - Halbert Unit
  - Havins Unit
  - Hightower Unit
  - Hilltop Unit
  - Hobby Unit
- Holliday Transfer Facility
  - Hughes Unit
  - Huntsville IPO
- Huntsville Pardon & Parole Office
  - Huntsville Unit
  - Hutchins State Jail
  - Jester I SAFPF
  - Jester III Unit
  - Johnston SAFPF
- Laundry & Food Service Division
  - Lewis Unit
  - Lopez State Jail
  - Luther Unit
  - Lychner State Jail
  - McConnell Unit
  - Michael Unit
- Middleton Transfer Facility
- Montford Psychiatric Unit
- Mountain View Unit
  - Murray Unit
  - Pack Unit
- Plane State Jail
- Polunsky Unit
- Powledge Unit
- Ramsey Unit
- Region I Director's Office
- Region II Director's Office
  - Roach Unit
  - Robertson Unit
- Rudd Transfer Facility
  - Sanchez State Jail
  - Sayle SAFPF
  - Smith Unit
  - Stevenson Unit
  - Stiles Unit
  - Stringfellow Unit
- TDCJ Correctional Training Staff Development
  - Telford Unit
  - Terrell Unit
  - Torres Unit
  - Vance Unit
  - Wallace Unit
  - Ware Unit
  - Wheeler SAFPF
- Woodman State Jail
  - Wynne Unit

**To find out how to become a Lifetime Sponsor, visit our website: [cpof.org](http://cpof.org)**

### 'TIS THE SEASON

You will be receiving this issue of the *CPO Family* by the Christmas Holidays and maybe even by Thanksgiving. " 'Tis the Season" to be thankful and give assistance to those Correctional employees needing a "hand up."

As you read this publication, possibly you know of some of the Officers the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation has assisted. Although we all have busy, busy schedules, especially around this time of year, please take the time to give them a call and let them know you are thinking of them. If you know they are still having a difficult time, you might even consider buying a bag of groceries. As said by many of the CPOF's representatives, nothing is better than seeing smiles on faces.

Christmas is for Kids: The same goes here. If you know of a fellow C/O having a difficult time due to a recent catastrophic event in their life, remember "IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS." Taking a wrapped present and placing it under the tree for Christmas morning – the smile you receive will be ALL the thanks you need.

From all of us with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation we wish you a healthy, safe and fun Holiday Season and all the best in 2014. -- Char



# Washington

My name is Bridgett Bolinger and I am a C/O II at Airway Heights Corrections Center. I learned, first hand, about the CPO Foundation when my husband, Randy, needed a liver transplant over five years ago. At that time he was a Sergeant and the liaison for CPOF at AHCC. Actually we both were Supporting Members for many years, signing up when Jean Smith was our CPOF Representative. You all (or most) remember Jean sharing CPOF, and how could anyone say “no” to Jean? Her passion was CPOF and Randy and I eagerly embraced that passion. CPOF is an amazing organization and I love reading “the stories” of how they help so many Correctional Families across the country, never – ever -- thinking that we would one day need assistance ourselves.

Many of the stories in this magazine are sad, with very sad outcomes; but also some are very sad with great outcomes, as it was with my husband and me. As I said, Randy was the liaison here at AHCC until he became very sick and handed the responsibility over to me. Now he is two and a half years out from his liver transplant and he has been back to work for two years. He is doing GREAT!! Now we work together as a team (see our picture, above) and, yes, we could use some supplies so we can spread the word about the CPOF.



As I also said above, CPOF is an amazing organization and has assisted many of my Correctional brothers and sisters here in Washington State. In fact, sadly, in January of 2011 we lost one of our own, C/O Jayme Biendl of Washington State Reformatory (photo at left). The CPOF was there immediately for Jim and Jackie, Jayme’s dad and mother, and her five siblings. They were also there for *us*, C/O Biendl’s Correctional Family. Also proudly in attendance at Jayme’s service was the outstanding CPOF National Honor Guard Team under the command of Commander Steve Dizmon.

Although Retired Lieutenant Dee Dee Wernet is now battling cancer, she was strong and active, and a tremendous help, after C/O Biendl’s murder, to the Washington Department of Corrections and CPOF. Dee Dee has assisted many of us in need of “ a hand up.”

In closing, I am now the official Representative for the eastern side of Washington. I can be reached at [bridgettbo@comcast.net](mailto:bridgettbo@comcast.net). Your contact in the main office to submit a fellow Washington Correctional employee for assistance is Shanna Bredeson whose email address is [shanna@cpof.org](mailto:shanna@cpof.org). It is always important to remember to “Pay it Forward,” and that is exactly what Randy and I intend to do.

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## PROJECT 2000 XXV

Thursday, June 5 - Sunday, June 8, 2014

Seattle, Washington

**Plan now to attend! This unique four-day event features the CPO Foundation Annual National Memorial Ceremony for Correctional Personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2013. Project 2000 XXV also includes four hosted meal functions, seminars, activities for kids and teens, and the opportunity to meet and talk with Correctional Officers and Staff from across the nation. Entry Form available NOW on our website [cpof.org](http://cpof.org)**



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## *CPOF Honored by the City of New York Department of Correction*

-- by Kim Blakley

On October 29, 2012 all of us here in California at the CPOF Headquarters were pinned to the TV watching the coverage of what was called one of the strongest Atlantic Ocean hurricanes in recent memory, and truly the worst storm that New York City or the Jersey Shore had faced in many decades. Although many states, cities and towns were hit hard by Hurricane Sandy, including Rhode Island, the worst hit was New York City and the surrounding area.

Our hearts hurt for those families affected and especially for our Correctional families in the City, State and Federal Systems. Here in the office we braced ourselves for the calls of help that indeed came in and worked diligently to get the assistance packets out within hours. Knowing that every penny would be needed – and fast.

Eighty-two City and State Correctional families needed help, as did 62 Federal Bureau of Prisons families. CPOF answered all of those calls and we were able to send out over \$64,000 in aid to our Correctional Brothers and Sisters.

This is not the first time CPOF has jumped in to help immediately following a natural disaster. Katrina certainly comes to mind and most recently the tornadoes that swept through the Oklahoma town of Moore.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, I had the true honor and privilege, along with New York Field Representative Dave Wedzina, to accept a Special Recognition Award from the New York City Department of Correction. Not only did we receive the award but we also had the privilege of hearing about the heroic acts that many of the NYCDC staff had performed, either in accordance with their jobs or in taking action above and beyond the call of duty. I have to say that the NYCDC has some of the finest working for them and I look forward to making my way back to Riker's Island for a visit in the near future.



***Kim Blakley; Dora Schriro, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction; The Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York; and Dave Wedzina***