
CPO FAMILY

Spring 2018

A Publication of The CPO Foundation

Vol. 28, No. 1



October 12, 2017: The deadliest -- and failed -- prison escape attempt in the history of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

April 26, 2017: The first Officer Down of a total of *five* Corrections Professionals in 2017 from the NCDPS.

See Cover Story inside.

CPO FAMILY

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- 4 **COVER STORY:**
Five North Carolina Department
of Public Safety Officers Down in 2017
- 8 CPOF assists California Staff affected
by the Wildfires of October 2017
- 9 **Federal News**
- 26 Christmas Thank-Yous
- 28 We Hear from a Rikers Island Officer
- 29 **To be Honored at the Project 2000 XXIX
Memorial Ceremony**
- 51 *Lifetime Sponsors of the CPO Foundation*

STATES' NEWS

- 12 California
- 14 Connecticut
- 15 North Carolina
- 18 New York
- 22 Texas
- 30 Georgia
- 31 Virginia
- 32 Florida
- 33 Mississippi
- 34 Colorado
- 36 Pennsylvania
- 38 Illinois
- 39 Tennessee: Shelby
County Sheriff's Office
- 40 Rhode Island
- 41 Nebraska
- 41 Ohio
- 42 South Carolina
- 43 Oklahoma
- 44 Arizona
- 45 Washington
- 45 Oregon
- 45 Virginia
- 46 Missouri
- 47 West Virginia
- 48 Alabama
- 48 Nevada
- 49 Utah
- 49 Puerto Rico

53 Paying Last Respects
to Sergeant Mark Baserman
~ SCI Somerset, PA
EOW February 26, 2018

Story and Photographs
provided by
Ms. Shirley Moore Smeal
Executive Deputy
Director, Pennsylvania
Department of
Corrections



Get ready for
PROJECT 2000 XXIX

Houston, Texas

Thursday, June 14 - Sunday, June 17, 2018

Registration Form and Hotel Reservation information
available NOW on our website: cpof.org

Photo:
The Project 2000 XXIX
Host Hotel: The Hyatt
Regency Houston

COVER STORY



Some dates on the calendar stick with us long after days, months, and even years have passed. Special days like the births of children or grandchildren, or heartbreaking days after the loss of a loved one, or, as Alan Jackson sang, “Where were you when the world stopped turnin’ that September day?”



***Correction Enterprises
Manager Veronica Darden***

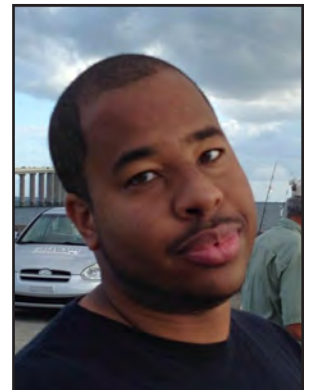
They become, as President Franklin Roosevelt said of December 7, 1941 after Pearl Harbor was bombed, dates that live in infamy and acquire the notorious kind of fame forever connected with wicked acts of terror.

For the staff at Pasquotank Correctional Institution and all those who work for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety – Division of Prisons, October 12, 2017 is the day of infamy that will be marked on their calendars forever. That is the day of the deadliest failed prison escape attempt in the history of North Carolina.

On that day several inmates attempting to escape through the Sewing Plant brutally attacked several Staff. Heartbreakingly, once the inmates were cuffed and secured, the reality sank in of the tragic loss of lives and multiple staff injured that would forever alter a small,

tight-knit community.

Sewing Plant Manager Veronica Darden was the first attacked and killed in the line of duty. She had served the Department for over 10 years, first as a Correctional Officer and later promoted to Sewing Plant Manager. During Veronica’s services family, friends and coworkers all said the same thing, “She simply loved her job. She



***Correctional Officer
Justin Smith***

believed that she could make a difference and that everyone deserved a second chance.”

Correctional Officer Justin Smith, 35 years old, young and eager to make a difference and serve his community, had been with the department for five years. He was the Officer assigned to that area and once he secured nearly 30 inmates he went looking for Veronica, only to be ambushed and brutally killed. During his services, the most common memory was of his smile and how he could “light up a room.” He was confident and professional. He had





compassion for all and had goals to move up the ranks.

Sadly, both Veronica and Justin never returned home: They were murdered behind the walls.

I wish this were the point where the tragedy ended. However, Correctional Officer Wendy Shannon, one of the first responding Officers to the incident, was also ambushed and critically wounded. In addition, Prison Maintenance Mechanic Geoffrey Howe came upon the escape attempt

as he was leaving his shift and was savagely attacked as well. Both Officer Shannon and Mechanic Howe, along with another responding Officer who was seriously assaulted and wounded during the recapturing of the inmates, were air-lifted to a trauma hospital an hour's drive away.

With their families by their sides both Wendy and Geoffrey faced many medical crises and surgeries. Both were placed on life support. It was, again, heartbreaking for their families, friends, co-workers and the community when both were unable to survive their injuries. Correctional Officer Wendy Shannon was taken off life support on October 30 and Geoffrey Howe on November 2.



***Maintenance Mechanic IV
Geoffrey Howe***

During Correctional Officer Wendy Shannon's funeral services, many remembered her for her sense of humor and tremendous love for her family, her three children and her love of her country. Wendy had served the Department for four years, after serving her country for two decades in the United States Army.

Prison Maintenance Mechanic Geoffrey Howe, age 31, had served the Department for one year. During his services, the common sentiment was how much he loved his daughter Griffin, his family, his friends and anything "soccer related." He was fondly remembered as someone who loved building and fixing things, and working

with his hands. Often he would jump in and help people in the community with household repairs for free, simply because he loved to help others and never wanted to pass up a chance to fix something.

We are pleased to report that the assaulted Officer after multiple surgeries was able to be discharged several days later but continues to face additional surgeries and a long healing process.



***Correctional Officer
Wendy Shannon***



Scott Bauer, North Carolina Critical Incident Administrator, gives comfort and strength to C/O Justin Smith's mother, Melanie Mathewson

As I started this article I stated that this incident shook this small community greatly. I have been with CPOF for 15 years and have had the honor and heartbreaking job of attending many line-of-duty funerals or being among those first responding and trying to help in any small way. Hands down, this has to be the worst. In the town of Elizabeth City, I do believe just about every resident either knew someone who was

COVER STORY cont. next page





assaulted or killed in this incident.

Three of the four funeral services were held at the Burnim Fine Arts Center at Elizabeth City State University, and each began the same way: in silence. The only sound to be heard was the rhythmic clip-clop of horses pulling the caisson and flag-draped coffin up the long drive, flanked by Honor Guard teams from across the country on both sides of the road, standing at attention.

Among the Honor Guards attending the Memorial Services were units from Oklahoma, Georgia, Minnesota, Delaware, Vermont, Connecticut, Alabama, Oregon, Texas, Michigan, Washington, Maryland, Rhode Island, Nevada, Virginia, Virginia Beach (VA), Alamance County (NC), and Correctional Officers from multiple states representing the CPO Foundation.

Especially brave and strong were the parents of Correctional Sergeant Meggan Callahan (see next page), who tragically had been murdered at the hands of an inmate just six months prior at Bertie Correctional Institution, less than one hour away. They said they just had to be there to show the same respect and love shown to them after the tragic loss of Meggan.

The men and women who work behind the walls of a prison, whether it be in North Carolina, California, Oklahoma, Washington, Rhode Island and every state in-between, State, Federal and/or County all share one thing: **BRAVERY**. They walk behind the walls and face the worst of the worst. They do it for their families, they do it to keep everyday citizens safe and they do it with little recognition. But one thing is for sure: Corrections is a family, brothers and sisters in uniform, and that is never more apparent than during a tragedy like this. Uniformed Staff from all over traveled to the little town of Elizabeth City to show their respect and support for the fallen, their families and the Staff left standing.

As a cousin of Officer Wendy Shannon said during her services, “This attempted prison escape has scarred us, but it will NOT define us.” Our hearts and prayers continue to go out to all the families of our fallen, both current and in the past. We will never forget the sacrifices made.

-- Kim Blakley, Research Analyst and Catastrophic Coordinator



Georgia, Texas and Connecticut Honor Guards



CPO Foundation National Honor Guard Members



Washington State DOC Honor Guard, with CPOF Honor Guard Member Tony Ruvalcaba at far right

The first NCDPS Corrections Professional of 2017 to Fall in the Line of Duty



Sergeant Meggan Callahan was killed after being assaulted at the Bertie Correctional Institution at approximately 5:30 pm on April 26, 2017.

An inmate serving a life sentence for murder initially set a fire inside the prison. Sergeant Callahan responded with two other Officers. She was using a fire extinguisher to put out the fire when she was attacked by the inmate who had set the fire. He gained control of the fire extinguisher and struck Sergeant Callahan in the head with it, seriously injuring her.

Medical staff at the prison and other first responders provided medical aid but Sergeant Callahan succumbed to her injuries approximately one hour after the attack.

Sergeant Callahan had served with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety for five years.

***Correctional Sergeant
Meggan Callahan
EOW 4/26/17***

Information source: Officer Down Memorial Page website.



***Laura Matthews, CPOF Representative in North Carolina, with
the North Carolina Honor Guard Team***



***Oklahoma Honor Guard Members Toby
Thompson and Benjamin Williams***



***Randy Denton, RIBCO Honor
Guard Member, and Manny
Leander, CPOF Representative
in Rhode Island***

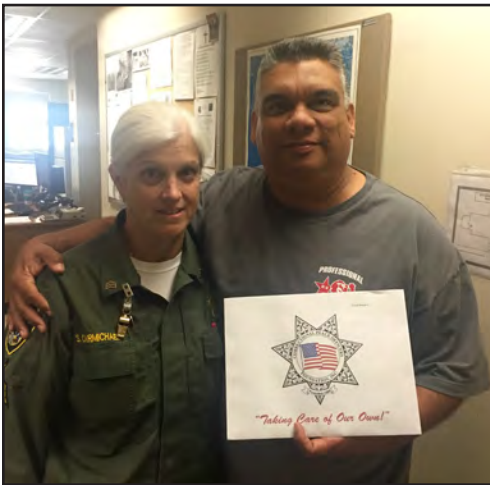


***Oregon Honor Guard Commander
Lance Albert (right) and Oregon
HG Member Annette Houston***



***CPOF NHG Piper Bob Hanley, Ret.
from the New York City DOC***

The CPO Foundation assists Staff that were displaced or lost their homes in the devastating wildfires in Sonoma and Napa Counties, California in October of 2017



Retired Officer Cesar Navarro, a Supporting Member



Officer Scott Dearmore



Officer Todd Wenderoth, a Supporting Member



Fire Captain Matthew McCormack, a Supporting Member



Officer Allan Roper and various Volunteers



Officer Scott Hoggan, a Supporting Member

**When Disasters Strike
Fires, Floods and Hurricanes: Be Prepared**

As mentioned on page 11, 2017 brought one of the worst hurricane seasons in recent memory, starting with Harvey, followed by Irma, and then Maria hit Puerto Rico with major force. The pictures on this page are of some Correctional Staff affected by the Napa and Sonoma fires. Then, Fire Captain Matthew McCormick left his damaged home to help fight the Taylor Fire in Southern California.

Purchasing fire, flood and hurricane insurance is extremely important. Yes, if you live in an area/state that could possibly be affected by hurricanes, you do need hurricane insurance. Please take the time *NOW* to see what insurance you currently have and determine what you *should* have.

“Be Prepared.”

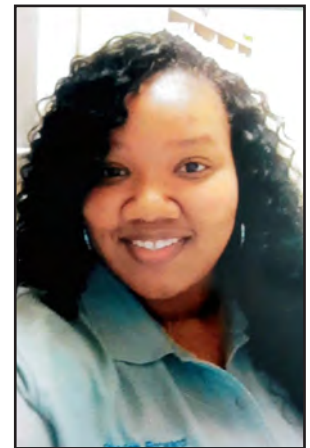
-- Char

Federal News

Trust Fund Supervisor Phillip Duffield is a Supporting Member at FCI Gilmer in West Virginia. As of August 9, 2017 Phillip's wife, Rita, had been dealing with heart complications since March of 2017, including palpitations, tachycardia, hypertension and heart block. On July 27 she had to undergo surgery to have a pacemaker inserted. Treatments for her various heart problems required multiple trips to West Virginia University Hospital, 129 miles from home. In addition, Phillip was off work at the beginning of 2017 due to emergency stomach surgery. He exhausted all his time on the books due to his condition, and then taking care of Rita. The family incurred extensive out of pocket medical and medical/travel expenses.



Supervisor Duffield sent us this great family photo: Rita, Phillip, Olivia, Rianna, Randy and Thorton.



C/O Rajwinder Kaur of FCI Mendota in California was diagnosed with breast cancer on February 2, 2017.

She had a total mastectomy and underwent chemotherapy followed by radiation. She exhausted all her time on the books and is a single parent. The surgery, doctor visits and treatments were all done in

Fresno, 109 miles from home. Above: "Wonder Woman" C/O Kaur giving an "A-OK" sign with both hands, and outdoors in her uniform.

Laundry Employee Cheryl Forward is a Supporting Member at FCI Marianna in Florida. Her 27-year-old daughter, Sherisa, became very ill and was taken to the hospital where doctors found she was bleeding internally. Before they could determine the cause, sadly, Sherisa passed away. Above: Cheryl, Sherisa and Cheryl's other daughter, Shaunte; and Sherisa.



Senior Corrections Officer John Schwartz is a Supporting Member at USP Canaan in Pennsylvania. His 17-year-old son, Sean, was diagnosed with leukemia and received treatment at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, 142 miles from the Schwartz home. After being discharged from the hospital, Sean underwent treatments in King of Prussia, PA. Officer Schwartz received CPOF assistance with the extra travel expenses incurred. Pictured at left: Officer Schwartz, Mrs. Schwartz (Kristin), Sean and Ed Hayden from Local 3003.

continued next page

Federal News



Kim,

Thank you for the wonderful gift we got in the mail yesterday. Words could never express how truly thankful and grateful I am for you, Laura and CPOF. I've been a CPOF member since joining the BOP in 2007 and saw all the wonderful things that CPOF has done for other LEO families and have always been in awe. But I never thought we would be the ones in need. CPOF took some of the financial burden off of this single momma and I'll be forever grateful. CPOF is not only a wonderful organization but a saving grace in my time of need. We love y'all and wish you a wonderful holiday season! Thank you so very much for all you do for all of us!

Racheal and Baby Channing Jamison

Secretary Racheal Jamison, a Supporting Member at FCI Marianna, gave birth to Baby Channing on September 19, 2017. The baby developed pneumonia and was in the NICU in a Tallahassee, FL hospital for almost two months.

Kim,

Just wanted to thank you for all the support in these past months. It's been a very bad autumn with the loss of my house and pets. But it can only get better! It might actually be fun looking for a new house, too. I've told all my co-workers and Union 683 to sign up for the CPOF, and use me as an example of why they should be members.

Thanks much, Kim, for the support!

Greg Anderson, Hawley, PA

Counselor Greg Anderson is a Supporting Member at FCI Sanstone in Minnesota. While at work Greg got a call that his house was on fire. When he arrived "home," he found the house had burned to the ground. All was lost, including his two dogs that died in the fire.



HR Specialist Bridgette Chretien is a Supporting Member at FCC Beaumont in Texas. Her husband, Kevin (pictured), died unexpectedly from a pulmonary embolism on November 16, 2017.

HR Specialist Chretien also suffered major damage to her home from Hurricane Harvey.



Supervisor General Instructor Christopher Greiner (right) of the BOP Staff Training Academy, Glynco, GA passed away on January 29, 2018 from heart failure. His widow, Alice, is pictured at left receiving a CPOF bereavement assistance check. With her are Firearms Instructor Adam Martin and Firearms Instructor Andy Nieves.





In December of 2017 C/O Ali Davis of FCC Coleman in Florida was killed on impact in a motorcycle accident when a car turned in front of him, causing the accident. C/O Davis is pictured at left with his wife, Jessica.

When Natural Disasters Strike -- Your CPOF Family will be there to help!

The year 2017 may be among one of the worst hurricane seasons we have seen in many years. Hurricane Harvey, for one, left a path of devastation and destruction that impacted many Correctional families, including staff at FCC Beaumont, FDC Houston, FCI Three Rivers, FPC Bryan and FCC Oakdale. Shortly after Harvey came Hurricane Irma, which strongly impacted Staff at FDC Miami, FCI Miami and FCC Coleman. Then came Hurricane Maria, regarded as the worst natural disaster on record to befall Puerto Rico. Many on the island to this day are still without power and running water. Through it all CPOF has come to the aid of over 330 BOP Staff, sending out over \$240,000.00.*

Below, several FCC Beaumont Staff that we assisted.

-- Kim Blakley, Federal Catastrophic Coordinator

*CPOF also came to the assistance of over 1,600 State/County Corrections families in need during this time, sending out over \$920,000.00 in aid.

Pictured below: Sr. C/O Chris Bertrand, CPOF Volunteer Liaison at FCC Beaumont, and Annie Norman, CPOF Federal Volunteer Representative, with a few FCC Beaumont assistance recipients.



Dear Kim Blakley,

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for the wonderful support that the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation provided to my family and me in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The funds provided were a Godsend, and helped my family and me to recover financially. Your actions speak clearly and louder than words that the CPOF does indeed look after our own! Again, my profound gratitude to you all!

Very respectfully,

James Watanabe, Nederland, TX

Chaplain Watanabe is a Supporting Member at FCC Beaumont.



California

To the CPO Foundation:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my wife, Amanda; daughters, Leila and Ava; and myself. The past couple of weeks following my assault have been a difficult time for my family, and I am thankful for all the love and support from not just my fellow brothers and sisters I work with, but from many different organizations such as CPOF. Due to severe headaches and blurred vision, I have not been able to drive myself to the multiple doctors' appointments I have weekly. My wife has been taking time off from work to drive me to these appointments since we do not have any immediate family that lives nearby. The support received from CPOF is greatly appreciated in alleviating some of the hardship this incident has caused my family. While I still have a long road to recovery and many upcoming appointments and procedures, it is comforting to know that there are people out there who understand the nature of our profession, and the toll it takes not only on us, but the rest of our family – especially in times of need. On behalf of myself and my beautiful wife and daughters [pictured], thank you, CPOF, for the assistance in our time of need.



William J Fuerte, Correctional Officer, R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility

C/O William Fuerte is a Supporting Member at R.J. Donovan. He was acting as a counselor on July 17, 2017. When he stepped into his office an inmate “sucker-punched” him in the back of the head and then continued to punch him repeatedly. The inmate forced C/O Fuerte to the ground and kept assaulting him until staff arrived. C/O Fuerte suffered a fractured nose that required eight stitches, a chipped tooth, swelling in his face and head and several lacerations.

C/O Christopher Gonzalez is a Supporting Member at CCC. His wife, Isabel, was diagnosed with a brain tumor/cancer in late summer of 2017. She was five months pregnant at the time. She was hospitalized in Reno, Nevada where tests were run to determine what treatments she could receive while pregnant. Chris stayed in a hotel near her in Reno, thus incurring considerable expenses. The photos below are of (1) Chris and Isabel and (2) their four daughters:

Mia, Sophia, Galilea and Ava.



To the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation,

Thank you so much for your donation to our family [pictured]. We lost our home in the Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa in October 2017. We literally left with only the clothes on our backs and have been starting over since the day of the fire. We are working with our insurance company to rebuild our lives, but it has been the generosity of family, friends, strangers and organizations like yours that has allowed us to start rebuilding immediately.

Thank you,

John, Lauren, Jack and Will Thompson

John Thompson is a Special Agent with the CDCR.

Three from Valley State Prison



C/O Christy Duree, a Supporting Member at Valley State Prison, was in a car accident while on her way to work

on September 17, 2017. She was hospitalized and put into the ICU after having emergency surgery. She was discharged but then had to go back for another emergency surgery. Above: Christy and her family.

C/O Albert Anderson, a Supporting Member at Valley State Prison had a medical emergency on November 11, 2017 and was taken to the ER and admitted to the ICU. Doctors thought he had suffered a brain aneurysm but ruled that out and thought it might be a brain bleed. Albert underwent an angiogram, followed by another on November 20. He was hospitalized for two weeks. Above: Albert with his wife, Kelly, on a lakeshore.



Jose Navarro (left), retired from the CDCR, passed away on November 14, 2017 from liver disease. The CPOF assisted his son, Enrique, with funeral expenses.



C/O Fred Sanchez, a Supporting Member at Valley State Prison, was at work on November 3, 2017 when suddenly he experienced double vision and everything became hazy. He managed to finish his shift and then went home. He went to the ER on November 5 where he was diagnosed with a rare virus known as Miller Fisher Syndrome that causes nerve and muscle paralysis. He was released on November 12. Above: Fred with his wife, Donita, and sons, Brett and Dylan, at Sea World.

To my CPOF family,

Thank you for your generosity. I really appreciate you and what you have done. Still trying to recover so I can return to work. I miss my brothers and sisters I work with at CIM.

Thank you again,

C/O LaTanya Hall, Moreno Valley, CA
C/O LaTanya Hall, a Supporting Member at CIM, has a medical condition that causes her kidneys to fail.

Ms. Corby and CPOF,

Just wanted to drop you a card to express my gratitude for all you do for CDCR employees! You all are on the spot any time I've reached out to you!

Scott Long
President, CCPOA Fire Chapter
Thank you very much, Scott!

Connecticut



Lieutenant Wesley Collins of MacDougall Walker Correctional Institution was injured on June 7, 2017 during an incident involving a fight between two inmates. When the fight broke out in a housing unit a Code Blue was called and staff responded, including Lt. Wesley Collins. As he was running down the hall, he slipped and fell face first onto the concrete floor. He suffered a long and deep laceration on his forehead and another laceration on his nose. He was treated, then sent to outside medical for treatment. Lt. Collins was not able to return to work for several weeks.

In the photo at left: Deputy Warden Gerald Hines; Correction Officer Wesley Collins; Deputy Warden Jesus Guadarrama; Correctional Lieutenant Michael White;

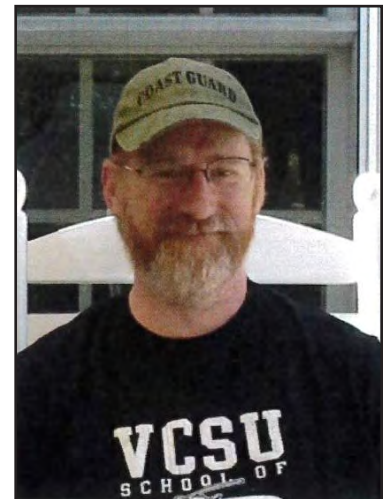
Warden William Mulligan; Captain Anna Dorozko; Deputy Warden Joseph Roach. The two young girls on the right are daughters of Lt. White.

Dear Kim,

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you and all of the DOC families who made it possible to give Todd's daughter such a generous check! This is going to be such a big help.

God bless you all,

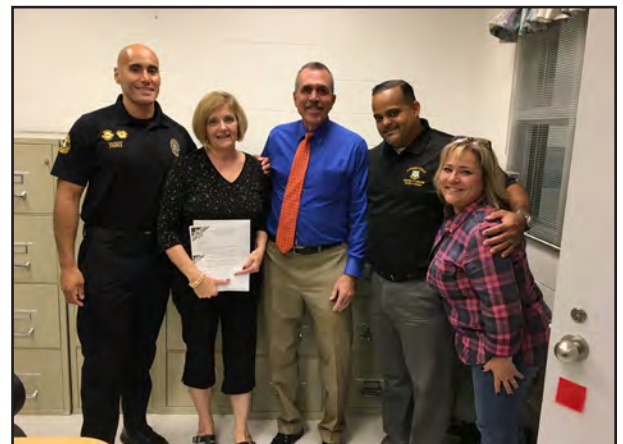
Arlene and Doug Mayer (Todd's mom and dad) and Jessica Johnson C/O Todd Johnson (pictured), a Supporting Member at Carl Robinson Correctional Institution, passed away on July 28, 2017 after battling brain cancer for approximately 20 months. His daughter, Jessica Johnson, was the responsible person for funeral expenses.



Kim,

I want to extend our sincerest appreciation for everything your organization has done for the Connecticut DOC. We recently handed Sue the catastrophic assistance check and the smile on her face was truly amazing! It's very comforting to know that there is an organization that truly takes care of their own.

Lt. Sergio Perez, Willard Cybulski CI Secretary Susan Grucci of Willard Cybulski CI was diagnosed with ALS in the fall of 2017. As the disease progressed, it affected her mouth and throat (as is characteristic of ALS), making it difficult for Susan to swallow, speak and chew. She made many trips to Boston (101 miles each way) to undergo experimental treatments. At right: Lt Sergio Perez, Secretary Susan Grucci, Warden John Tarascio, Captain Jose Angeles and Record Specialist Allison Oulette.



North Carolina



Case Manager Michael Valentine, a Supporting Member at Franklin CI, was off work for many months in 2017 owing to foot surgery, blood clots and other health issues. Above: C/O Valentine receiving a CPOF check from Administrator Timothy McKoy.

C/O James Jenkins is a Supporting Member at Lincoln CI. His wife, Terri Lee, suffered a severe stroke in August of 2017.

At right: Assistant Superintendent Jeff Teague presents a CPOF assistance check to C/O Jenkins. The

assistance was recommended by Lincoln CI Superintendent John Crow.



Dear Ms. Labio:

I am in receipt of the monetary assistance packet for Joan Irvine. I presented it to Ms. Irvine on August 3, 2017. Ms. Irvine was very surprised and appreciative to receive the monetary assistance for expenses due to her home and vehicle receiving damage as a result of her neighbor's home being on fire.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the assistance the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation has been providing to staff and staff families in their time of need. I will continue to express to our staff the importance of supporting this worthwhile Foundation.

Sincerely,

Larry Dail, Correctional Facility

Administrator

Craven Correctional Institution

On June 7, 2017 C/O Joan Irvine's house was damaged due to her neighbor's house fire. The siding of Joan's home was melted and some windows were cracked. Her vehicle was damaged as well.



Program Supervisor Jessica Cannady, another Supporting Member at Franklin CI, was under medical care due to a cracked bone in her foot. At left: Jessica with her CPOF check to help with her extra expenses.



Pictured at left are Maury CI Assistant Superintendent Roderick Watson and C/O III Warren Rimmer, a Supporting Member. C/O III Rimmer's wife, Mallory, passed away in early 2018 due to complications from diabetes.

continued next page

North Carolina



Sergeant II David Miley of Maury CI was assaulted by an inmate in September of 2017, resulting in outpatient medical attention and surgery. Above: Sgt. Miley with Administrator Dennis Daniels, Unit Manager Justin Williams and Assistant Superintendent Mark Flemming.

To: Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Inc.

Words cannot express how much we appreciate the monetary gift and the love and concern that all of you have shown to us during this time of our grief. If I wasn't retired, it would be great to work with a group like all of you. May God bless all of you and keep you safe.

Faye Decatur and Family of Lindsey Mathis, Pender, NC
RN Lindsey Mathis of Pender CI was killed in a motorcycle accident on August 12, 2017. A 15-year-old unlicensed driver pulled out in front of him. Faye Decatur is RN Mathis's mother and was responsible for the funeral expenses.

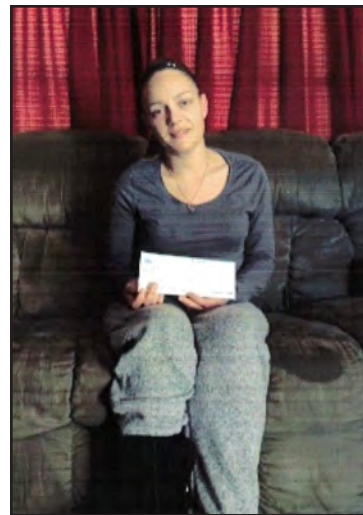
Dear Christina Labio,

Just a small note to say thank you. The gift is very appreciated and has been a Godsend, with medical bills coming in and me being out of work. The check really came right on time, so thank you. May God bless your paths.

Ricky Ross

Correctional Officer, MVCI

C/O II Ricky Ross, a Supporting Member at Mountain View CI, had a major heart attack in late October of 2017. He had to have surgery and was hospitalized for several days.



In the fall of 2017 C/O Sherry Hunt of Marion CI was in a vehicle collision in which she struck a tree at 45 mph while traveling to work. She was seriously injured and transported by EMS to Carolinas Healthcare Systems. She suffered broken bones in her pelvis, cracked ribs and a punctured lung. She was expected to be off work for many months. Sherry

is pictured here with her CPOF assistance check.



C/O II Michael Glenn, also a Supporting Member at Mountain View CI, badly injured his knee while at work. He was assisting an inmate getting out of a van when the inmate fell on him. Michael caught the inmate and injured his knee in the process. He had to go through physical therapy and surgery to repair the damage. He also had to undergo heart surgery to repair a valve. Photo: C/O Glenn and his wife, Alma.

North Carolina

To the CPOF,

It is such a blessing to have the support from such a group. When I joined I never thought I would need help -- I joined to help others in need. I can't express enough my gratitude for your help. Also, I would like to give a "play" to my fellow workers at Mountain View. There has been so much care and support from them as well.

Thanks much,

*C/O Tracy McIntyre, Spruce Pine, NC
C/O McIntyre, a Supporting Member at Mountain View CI, lost months of work recovering from injuries, including a back fracture, that he received in an auto accident.*



C/O Richard Henson of Foothills CI passed away unexpectedly on November 8, 2017. The CPOF gave the family a bereavement assistance check. C/O Henson is pictured here with his wife, Cathy, and daughter, Hayley.

Dear Christina,

I am humbled and truly grateful for the assistance that you, the CPOF Board of Directors, Representative Laura Matthews and my fellow Supporting Members have given my wife and me in this time of need.

Most sincerely,

John Riggs (Ret.), Merritt, NC

Mr. Riggs worked at Pamlico CI. He had to take a medical retirement owing to long-term complications from injuries received from a fall onto the concrete floor of the facility's master control room. Mr. Riggs had to have knee replacement surgery and other foot surgeries to repair a disconnected tendon and torn ligaments.



On January 10, 2018 C/O Steven Webb of Odom CI suffered a stroke after shift lineup and was taken to Richmond, VA for treatment. Above is a family photograph of Steven; his wife, Maria; and son, Steven.

I'm sure you hear this in all the thank-you notes you receive, but it's so true: we appreciate you thinking of us and the support we've received. My husband, Tracy, was adamant about supporting this cause and I've discovered it is a worthy one! May y'all's work continue to be an encouragement to all of us so that it continues to bless others! God bless and thank you!
Lori McIntyre

NEW YORK



In August 2017, CPOF NY Representative Jay West presented a check to C/O Richard Donah (Ret.), a Supporting Member at Clinton CF who was recovering from serious injuries after a fall in January 2017. Also pictured is Richard's grandson, Logan.

C/O Heather Manwarren, CPOF contact for Mohawk CF, presented a check to RN Chris Dunham who lost all possessions in a house fire in May 2017.

Heather brought her granddaughters, Aleeah and Jaelyn, along, which made RN Dunham's smile even broader!



Jay West presented a check to C/O Tina Watson, a Supporting Member at Downstate CF, who was diagnosed with kidney cancer. Also pictured are Tina's daughter, Arianna, and son, Ryan. Jay also gifted Arianna with a CPOF Lucy Lion.



C/O Anthony White of Bare Hill CF lost his home and all belongings in a house fire in June 2017. C/O Mike O'Hare, CPOF contact at Bare Hill (left), presented C/O White with an assistance check.



C/O Jeff Belli, a Supporting Member at Greene CF, sustained very serious injuries in a car accident in October 2017. He received an assistance check from Jay.



In October 2017, Jay presented a check to C/O (Ret.) Jon Lintner of Altona CF who was recovering from various medical issues. Also pictured is Jon's wife, Sharron.



Jay presented a check to C/O Jon Ayers, a Supporting Member at Upstate CF, who had extensive surgery to repair muscles and tendons

in his legs relating to his cerebral palsy. Also pictured is Upstate CPOF contact C/O Brandy Smith.

*CF = Correctional Facility

NEW YORK



RN Jennifer West of Attica Correctional Facility received a bereavement assistance check after her son, Brian Jr., was killed in a car accident on July 10, 2017; he was 17 years old. This photo is of the West family, with Brian on the far right.



NYSCOPBA Executive Board members Tammy Sawchuck, VP; Michael Powers, President; and David Viddivo, Treasurer, presented a \$12,000 donation to CPOF, net proceeds from their 2017 Statewide Golf Tournament. Accepting: CPOF NY Representatives Jay (peeking over the top of the check) and Ellie West. Many, many thanks to our friends at NYSCOPBA for their generosity!



C/O Kim Saturnino of Hudson CF was involved in a motorcycle accident in May 2017, resulting in many serious injuries and subsequent surgeries. One procedure was the insertion of a metal plate and screws in her left wrist. Kim was off work for several months.



Jay presented a CPOF assistance check to Lieutenant Dan King, a Supporting Member at Franklin CF, whose daughter, Kayla, was having medical issues that required frequent trips to New York City for specialist treatments. Also pictured is Dan's wife, MJ.



Sergeant Gene-Paul Brennan, CPOF contact at Cape Vincent CF, presented a check to C/O Paul Picunas, also of Cape Vincent, who had a medical condition that required multiple surgeries.

C/O Adam Cox of Franklin CF, pictured here with a faithful friend, passed away unexpectedly on June 28, 2017. His mother, Irene, received a CPOF bereavement assistance check.



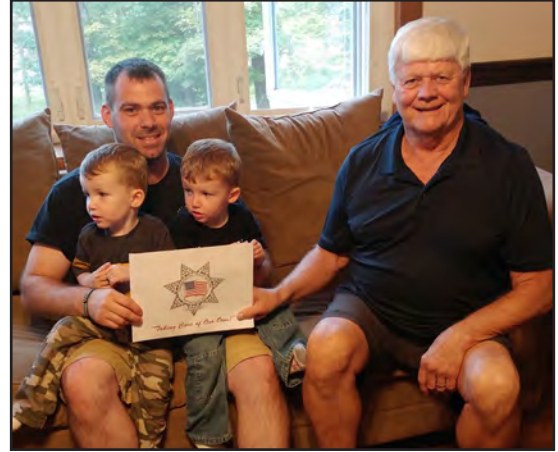
continued next page

NEW YORK



C/O Jesse Keenan, pictured in front with Jay West, is a Supporting Member at Attica CF. He is also a Counselor at the NYSDOCCS Academy. Jesse is accepting an assistance check on behalf of C/O Dan Munafo, a Supporting Member at Coxsackie CF, whose son, Matthew, 11 years old at the time of this photo (late August 2017) was hospitalized for what was expected to be four to six months at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, MD. The hospitalization was for orthopedic reconstruction of Matthew's lower tibia that was malformed due to a birth defect. Jay reported that "I'm happy to say that Matt's prognosis is excellent."

The group pictured here was the NYSDOCCS's latest graduating class of C/Os at the time.



Jay presented a check to C/O Matt Fingar, a Supporting Member at Green Haven CF, who's holding his twins, Hunter and Matthew. Hunter had a heart condition that required several surgeries.

Note: Matthew had an operation to remove a tumor on his liver in late 2016.

Christina,

I would like to thank the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation for the monetary gift I received today. At a time when all my finances seem to be tied up and I have lost control of my life, it brought me to tears. I have been so touched by the Department of Correction for all their support, and am proud that Bill was part of a great group of Officers. Thank you for your condolences and your prayers. One day at a time with God by my side is the only way to get through it. Bill was my everything.

Elizabeth Carpenter, Lyndonville, NY
C/O Elizabeth Carpenter is employed at Albion CF. Her husband, William, was killed in a motorcycle accident on August 26, 2017.



CPOF contact C/O Joe Spina presented a check to C/O Darrin Dean of Marcy CF whose home received extensive damage during a flood in July of 2017.



Above: C/O Maria Murdza, retired from the NYSDOCCS; her husband, Stephen (also retired from the NYSDOCCS); and Jay West. Stephen was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2017. Along with the assistance check, Jay brought a CPOF "Leo Lion" for Stephen -- you're never "too old" to enjoy a cuddly stuffed animal!

NEW YORK



Sergeant Steve Coughlin, a Supporting Member at Sing Sing CF, sustained multiple injuries on September 17, 2017 when a car collided with him while he was on his motorcycle. Also pictured: Steve's friend, Vicki; his son, Mason, who is a C/O at Auburn CF; and Jay.

To the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation,

We would like to say how thankful we are for the money we received from you. It was greatly appreciated and helpful with all the medical co-pays.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Frost, Plessis, NY

In September of 2017 C/O Joe Frost of Cape Vincent CF developed cellulitis in his leg for the fourth time. A blood infection caused him to be hospitalized for two weeks.



Left: Jay presented a check to C/O Pauline Rabideau of Great Meadow CF whose daughter, Morgan, was injured in a motorcycle accident in October 2017. Also pictured is C/O Heather Roberts, CPOF contact at GMCF.



Right: Dental Assistant Bethany Harte, a Supporting Member at Upstate CF, is pictured here with Jay West and Brandy Smith. Bethany's son, Liam, was diagnosed with LCH and severe diabetes for which he received chemo and other treatments. The family had to travel out of state for treatments and incurred considerable extra expenses.



CPOF Contact for Downstate CF C/O Nicholas Laino presented a check to C/O Peter Robillard who had a house fire in November, 2017. All belongings were lost. Per Jay, "Thankfully there were no injuries. Much luck to Peter on his rebuilding process."



CPOF Contact for Otisville CF C/O John Skoufis presented a bereavement check to C/O Margarita Smith who lost her husband, Shane, due to a heart attack in November. Also pictured is their daughter, Alayna.

TEXAS



To the CPO Foundation:
In July 2017, Officer Kamoru-deen Adewolu, a Supporting Member, was presented a check from the CPO Foundation at the W.J. Estelle

Unit by Sr. Warden Christopher Carter and Major Bobby Rigsby. Officer Adewolu is extremely appreciative of this check. We extend a thank you to the CPO Foundation for the assistance and support that you continually provide to the Correctional Community.

Officer Adewolu's check will help with the funeral costs for his wife, who passed away on February 19, 2017.

Shelly Crossland, Admin II,
Estelle Unit Warden's Office

Above: Major Rigsby, Officer Adewolu and Sr. Warden Carter.

Phlebotomist Christina Peppers of Choice Moore Unit was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery in September of

2017. Ms. Peppers is pictured here with Assistant Warden Christopher Poole and Warden Tovi Butcher.



At left: Clerk II Sharon Bullion of Ellis Unit receiving a CPOF assistance check after her husband, Edgar, suffered a stroke on October 29, 2017. Edgar was hospitalized at Memorial Herman in Houston, approximately 90 miles from the Bullions' home. With Sharon are Alex Wakefield of Estelle Unit HR and CPOF Texas Representative Cathy Stokes.

Dear Stephanie,

Words cannot express my gratitude to the CPO Foundation. Your financial donation to my family came when I was at the darkest period financially and otherwise. My wife passed away at a time I didn't expect it and this left me totally devastated and financially handicapped. Your financial help really helped me to offset some of the funeral expenses incurred.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and gratitude on behalf of myself and the children. We are indeed very appreciative of the Foundation.

Sincerely,

Matthew Morolani, Houston, TX

C/O Matthew Morolani is a Supporting Member at Terrell Unit. He received a CPOF bereavement assistance check, as shown in this photo.



C/S II Kayla Lucas of George Beto Unit is pictured above with her husband, Captain Spencer Lucas; children Aubrey, Emma and Hazel; and Warden Norris Jackson (left). Kayla's six-year-old son, Skylar, passed away on October 26, 2017 as a result of injuries sustained in an ATV accident.



To: Ms. Barone

On behalf of the TDCJ-Hobby Unit and Sergeant Donnie Fulton, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the support provided by the CPO Foundation to him in his time of need. Here is a picture of Sergeant Fulton receiving his check from Warden Vikki Wright. Sgt. Fulton was touched and very grateful.

One cannot imagine the grief of losing the love of your life and the struggles it brings to a family. Your generous gift and caring words were a great comfort to him and his family. Thank you again for all that you do for the Correctional Officers of TDCJ.

Respectfully,

Warden Vikki Wright, Hobby/Marlin Complex
Sergeant Donnie Fulton is a Supporting Member at Hobby Unit. His wife, Lisa, passed away on October 13, 2017. Lisa also was a longtime Supporting Member of the CPOF.

Dear CPO Foundation,

I can think of no better time than Thanksgiving to send our check to the CPOF from the 2017 "Boss Run" fundraiser. The CPOF makes such a difference in so many lives no words can express my personal thanks.



I became a member of your Family on January 14, 2015 and was told it was "forever." People and groups often say this but Kim Blakley with CPOF proved this to be true when she called me almost three years later to check on me when my mom passed away.

I am proud to be part of the CPOF Family.
Thank you,
Donna Davis

Donna is the widow of Correctional Officer V Christopher Davis who, with his colleague Eligio Garcia Jr., was killed in a prison bus crash on January 14, 2015.

Above: Correctional Officer V Christopher Davis on his motorcycle.

Dear Ms. Barone,

On behalf of the TDCJ Ruben Torres Unit, and Melinda Palacios, Laundry Manager II, I would like to thank you for the assistance check provided to Ms. Palacios who has had unexpected expenses due to medical issues involving her spouse. Ms. Palacios expressed sincere appreciation for the generosity of the CPO Foundation, and the support of her fellow TDCJ "family." In this photo are: Warden Darren Wallace, Melinda Palacios and Assistant Warden John Cirone, as Ms. Palacios was presented with the check.



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

Sincerely,

Warden Darren Wallace, Ruben Torres/Joe Ney Units
LM III Melinda Palacios is a Supporting Member. Melinda's husband, Blas, had to have both feet amputated in two separate surgeries.



C/O III Victor Cancel, a Supporting Member at Garza East Unit, received a CPOF check to help with expenses when he had to be off work for a considerable time.

Per Texas CPOF Representative Eileen Kennedy, "He was very thankful!!" Above: Eileen Kennedy, C/O III Cancel, Captain Puente and Warden Rayford.

Investigator Rose Lerma of Estelle Unit received a check after her husband, James, was killed in a motorcycle accident. Pictured: Major Kevin Smith, Rose Lerma and Texas Rep Cathy Stokes. *continued next page*



TEXAS

How We helped Texas C/Os and Families who suffered Losses from Hurricane Harvey

To the CPOF:

On behalf of the C. T. Terrell Unit Administration and Staff, I would like to thank you for the Hurricane Harvey assistance checks that CPOF provided for our employees. We are all deeply touched by the support of your great organization, and cannot thank you enough for the generosity that was given during such a difficult time for so many of the employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The Terrell Unit Administration and Staff express their gratitude for all that CPOF does to support Correctional Staff and their families in their time of need.

Mary Ann Comstock, Senior Warden
Charles T. Terrell Unit

To: Stephanie Barone

Thank you so much for the generous gift of money. It will come in very handy during this recovery period. My wife and I really appreciate you.

Respectfully,

C/O IV Jon Mott, Grangefield, TX

C/O IV Mott is a Supporting Member at Stiles Unit. He and his family were displaced from their home when it was flooded after Hurricane Harvey.

To the CPOF,

Thank you for helping my family and me during this difficult time in putting our lives back together again!

Maria Cervantez, Groves, TX

Mail Supervisor Maria Cervantez, a Supporting Member at Leblanc Unit, was displaced from her home and suffered flood damage due to Hurricane Harvey.

Hurricane Harvey brought a lot of rain and wind with him. Disaster was left for many of us to work through to try for normality. Your assistance is so much appreciated. Thank you and God bless you abundantly.

LM III Cassandra Jones, Port Arthur, TX

LM III Jones is a Supporting Member at Leblanc Unit. She and her husband were also displaced from their home due to flooding after Hurricane Harvey.



On Monday, October 16, 2017, C/O III Warren Smith was presented a check from the CPO Foundation at the W. J. Estelle Unit by Assistant Warden C. Laco. A few days later, on Thursday October 20, 2017 Sgt. Garnett Williams was presented a check from the CPO Foundation by Estelle Unit Sr. Warden C. Carter. Officer Warren and Sgt. Williams were both extremely appreciative of the checks they received. We thank the CPOF for the assistance and support that you continually provide to the Correctional Community.

Shelly Crossland, Admin II,
Estelle Unit Warden's Office

Officer Smith, a CPOF Supporting Member, and Sgt. Williams both lost their property and belongings due to Hurricane Harvey. Above: Officer Warren Smith and Asst. Warden C. Laco. Below: Sgt. Garnett Williams and Sr. Warden C. Carter.



To Stephanie Barone, Cathy Stokes and Eileen Kennedy:

There are no words to express my gratitude for the check I received to help after Hurricane Harvey. Your kindness touched my heart.

Sincerely,

C/O IV Lori Collins, Carole S. Young
Medical Facility

C/O IV Lori Collins, a Supporting Member, had water damage inside her home and lost a vehicle due to Hurricane Harvey.

To the CPO Foundation,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the assistance my family received from your Foundation after Hurricane Harvey.

My family experienced the loss of two homes, two cars, and an array of personal possessions. At this time, my two daughters, their husbands and two grandchildren are staying with us. The donation you gave to my family has been a blessing to help with expenses incurred due to the storm.

Thank you again, so very much, for your generosity.

Jerry Lynn Yates, Nederland, TX
Sergeant Yates is a Supporting Member at Stiles Unit.

Dear Sirs,

I hereby express my sincere and deep heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your wonderful assistance to me. Honestly, I never expected this compassionate style of leadership and for that I am really grateful.

You have dearly taken care of your own. Making me to be a beneficiary by providing this financial assistance for my family and me, you have done an enormous favor for us.

May the almighty God bless you and your good work.

Yours faithfully,

Festus Imo Nwokocha, Richmond, TX

C/O V Nwokocha is a Supporting Member at Jester III Unit. He and his family suffered severe damage to their home from Hurricane Harvey.

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my gratitude for the financial support you gave to me and my family during our time of need.

Hurricane Harvey affected my family and me in so many ways. Mentally and emotionally it will take some time to recover from images of our entire town flooded with water. Weeks without lights and running water. Some of our family and friends have not returned and may never return due to the fact that their homes were totally destroyed. And some of the businesses here will never reopen, such as our dentist's office and favorite yogurt shop.

However, financially your gracious gift helped us put together some of the pieces of our broken and shattered world.

Thank you!

Irma Levine, Beaumont, TX

Substance Abuse Counselor I Irma Levine is a Supporting Member at Leblanc Unit.

Dear Ms. Eileen Kennedy,

Thank you for your [CPOF's] contributions to staff at Hospital Galveston and Carole Young Medical Facility. Your kindness was very much appreciated!

Jacqueline Jones, Lorie Larson and Staff

These are just a very few of the TDCJ Corrections Professionals that the CPO Foundation assisted after Hurricane Harvey destroyed or badly damaged so many of their homes, possessions and properties. In fact, we assisted 1,352 TDCJ Staff for a total amount of \$717,400.00.

We send our hopes and best wishes for successful recoveries, in every respect, to all of our Correctional families that were severely affected by recent weather events and flooding.

"Taking Care of Our Own"

Christmas Thank-Yous

12/12/17

Dear Kim,

No words can express the sincere gratitude for you + your organization. Thank you so much for the Christmas letter and enclosed gifts - it is very much appreciated!

PS - HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank you again
Dena Parbo

JUST WANTED
TO LET YOU KNOW
HOW MUCH
YOU'RE APPRECIATED.

We wanted to
Thank you so much
for all the help.
He is doing so much
Better. Love too
my second family
Sharon & Ed
Bullion



Somehow, just saying "thank you" doesn't seem like enough. But I hope you know how much your kindness has meant to me.

From the Ewins Family
May God bless and
I wish you all happy
christmas.

Dwain
12/15/17

Kim,

Wishing you, the CPO Family, and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year filled with cheer and fun.

Sometimes saying thank you is not enough to express all the gratitude I feel. The CPO Family have really may a great impact in my life this holiday season, so I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have given me the kids and I really are so grateful for the gift that we received this Holidays.

Always with much love

Sara, Xavier and Augustine

Christmas Thank-Yous



It is the season
to be grateful

Love, The Coreys 2017
Melissa, Geno, Keith, Kellen

Dear CPO Foundation,
We sincerely thank you
for your generous gift card.
It was a rough fall season,
and we are so very
grateful for the prayers,
warm thoughts & kind
wishes sent our way.
What a great Foundation.
It is so nice to know you
stand behind your officers
& bless those who in need.
God bless each & everyone
of you ☺ ☺

Dec 2017

No wonder there's
such warmth behind
the thanks this brings
your way—
Your thoughtfulness
brought so much joy,
it really made our day! /
Bob, Mary & Prayer!

Christina &
CPOF

2017

and may each day of the new year
be filled with happiness.

Thank you so much for the kind
gifts. we were truly blessed.
Merry Christmas.
Brent, Nichole, Lucas,
Rory, Zander &
Lowen Oakes



hi I am
Lane
Thank
you
for
the gift

From Lane
Masey

CPO Foundation,
We cannot tell you how
much we appreciate your generosity
to our family. It has meant so
much to us! Our son Lane wanted
to write his own Thank You note,
so it is enclosed. Thank you so
much! Merry Christmas!
Larry & Shelly Masey & Family

We Hear from a Rikers Island Corrections Officer and Member of the NYC Department of Correction Pipe Band

The NYC Department of Correction Pipe Band is a staple of CPOF. Every year, going on for over 20 years now, we have had the distinct honor to play for the fallen families, colleagues, and guests attending the CPOF's annual **Project 2000** gathering. This entails the Pipe Band playing at the Memorial Ceremony as well as at the dinners and lunches, in the halls of the hotels, and occasionally at the hotel swimming pool. It's not CPOF's **Project** event until you hear the gentle drumming and warming up of the bagpipes.

I began my career as a Correctional Officer in 2014 having grown up on Long Island in a family that has always valued law enforcement. I became a drummer with the NYC DOC Pipe Band in 2015. My first experience with CPOF was attending the 2016 Pittsburgh conference and it is something I will always remember. Watching members of different Honor Guards along with state and county law enforcement from all over the country come together as one was incredibly inspiring. The moment that stands out to me most was the Friday morning Memorial Ceremony where the Pipe Band performed at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. As I was playing the drums, I watched the Correctional Officer Color Guards march with their flags in their Class A uniforms. Everyone looked so sharp and at that moment, the perception of my job changed.

I went from being an Officer posted on Rikers Island, to a member of a huge community that I never knew existed. I had the opportunity to network with many of these Officers from all over the country. We talked about the inmates and of course the crazy (and sometimes disgusting) stories that only people who work on the inside understand. One thing we have in common is that we all want to go home the same way we go to work. It is an unfortunate and sad truth that this isn't the case for all Officers. We recently had four Officers who are recovering from injuries resulting from assaults at Rikers Island. These injuries range from a spinal fracture after authorities said several inmates beat the Officer in a planned gang attack, to a broken nose, and first and third degree burns after what authorities also said was an ambush.

CPOF is about caring for our own and supporting and strengthening each other. It's not only honoring fallen and assaulted Officers, but their the families as well. I am proud to be involved with CPOF and look forward to more years to come.

-- Correction Officer Rob Pastor

As Officer Pastor states above, four fellow Rikers Island Officers were recently assaulted. A Rikers Island Correctional Captain also was brutally assaulted by three inmates on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2017. It is important for all Correctional Staff working "behind the walls" to remember that assaults on Correctional Officers continue to happen every day. Some assaults on our Officers have been so vicious and brutal as to disable or incapacitate them for life; force them to leave the profession; and/or cause intense emotional trauma not only to themselves but to their families, which affects them all forever.

Even many Correctional Staff do not hear of the assaults that happen daily in our various correctional institutions and facilities. This is very unfortunate because knowledge of the frequency of assaults, while daunting, is also empowering. Correctional Officers and Staff certainly should attend as many training and informational classes offered as they can. However, no class or training video could possibly contain everything that is so important for them to know concerning safety, precautionary measures, and how to protect themselves in every situation while still doing their jobs properly and professionally. Thus, it is essential that every Officer take it upon himself or herself personally to always be prepared and on the alert. *Never* let your guard down, and *never* forget that the individuals that you are supervising are not only law-breakers but, in all too many cases, serious offenders and/or career criminals. There is a reason that they are incarcerated and remanded to your custody!

-- Char

***To be Honored at the CPO Foundation
Annual National Memorial Ceremony
Friday, June 15, 2018 at PROJECT 2000 XXIX***

**Correction Maintenance Mechanic Geoffrey Howe ~
EOW: 11/2/17 ~ North Carolina**

Correctional Officer Wendy Shannon ~ EOW: 10/30/17 ~ North Carolina

Correctional Officer Justin Smith ~ EOW: 10/12/17 ~ North Carolina

**Correction Enterprises Manager Veronica Darden ~
EOW: 10/12/17 ~ North Carolina**

Senior Officer Specialist Christopher Parlo ~ EOW: 8/16/17 ~ New Jersey

Correctional Officer Joe Heddy Jr. ~ EOW: 6/17/17 ~ Florida

Transfer Sergeant Curtis Billue ~ EOW: 6/13/17 ~ Georgia

Transfer Sergeant Christopher Monica ~ EOW: 6/13/17 ~ Georgia

Correctional Officer V Shana Tedder ~ EOW: 6/9/17 ~ Texas

Deputy Sheriff Mark Burbridge ~ EOW: 5/1/17 ~ Iowa

**Correctional Sergeant Meggan Callahan ~
EOW: 4/26/17 ~ North Carolina**

Lieutenant Steven Floyd ~ EOW: 2/2/17 ~ Delaware

Corporal Stephen Jenkins ~ EOW: 1/7/17 ~ Oklahoma

Georgia



Two Food Service Supervisors at Washington State Prison received CPOF assistance checks after suffering losses and damages from Hurricane Irma.

FSS Bernestine Salter (left) was without power for five days, and FSS Shakeyia Rogers (right) suffered damages to her home. In each case WSP Warden T.J. Conley presented the checks.



Below, letters from three other Georgia Correctional Staff whom we assisted after Hurricane Irma:

To: CPOF

I would like to thank you for your support to our family by sending us a gift card and assistance check. It is greatly appreciated and will be very helpful in removing trees from our yard and repairing the damage done to our roof by Hurricane Irma. It is pride that I feel being a member of an organization that takes care of families during their times of need. It is truly a blessing.

Thank you,

Sonja Rhodes and Family, Pitts, GA

Ms. Rhodes is a CPOF Supporting Member and Secretary at Dooly State Prison.

To the CPOF,

Thank you for your donation. I was extremely appreciative and grateful. May God bless you and all that you do; and may you all be successful in your work and in life.

The good that was accomplished with the assistance you provided has, in more ways than you will ever know, helped people who so desperately needed it.

Thanks again,

Juanita Williams-Thorpe, Macon, GA

Counselor Juanita Williams-Thorpe, a Supporting Member at Central State Prison, suffered damages from Hurricane Irma. Three trees fell in her backyard and the wind ripped the door from her home.

Dear Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Inc.,

I would like to say how thankful I am for your helping me financially to do the repairs on my home that was damaged by Hurricane Irma. I was distraught when we were hit. We lost all of our food and areas of our house were damaged from the trees that fell on our roof. Your thoughtfulness has made a difference in getting back to where we once were. Overall we are very thankful that no one was hurt during the process of nature. It is because of your thoughtfulness I am now a new member of such a great organization that is willing to give back to the many employees of the state. I am delighted and honored to share my gifts with others. Again, thank you for your willingness to be a blessing to others.

Yours truly,

Jelendra M. Lloyd-Daniely and Family, Perry, GA
Social Services Provider II Lloyd-Daniely is employed at Pulaski State Prison.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart! You blessed my family and me.

Angela Renée Merritt and Family,
Bainbridge, GA

Angela Merritt is employed at Bainbridge Probation Substance Abuse Treatment Center. She suffered a blunt impact injury to her foot and an infection developed. Treating the infection involved surgery and the insertion of stints.

Georgia



C/O Sarah Stubbins of Dooly State Prison received a bereavement assistance check after her daughter, Tosheika Taylor, passed away on August 8, 2017 from cervical cancer. Above: Officer Stubbins sent us this photo of five of her nine grandchildren.



C/O Saledria McCrory, a Supporting Member at Valdosta State Prison, lost her home in a fire in mid October of 2017. She and her four children had to live in a hotel for some time, creating great financial hardship. C/O McCrory is pictured here receiving a CPOF assistance check from Warden Blakely.



Certification Officer Frank Colvin works at Smith State Prison. His wife, Calah, was 30 weeks pregnant with their second child when it became clear that it was a high risk pregnancy. Calah, who also works for the Georgia Department of Corrections, had to be hospitalized from that time on until she gave birth. Above: Officer Colvin and Calah with their new baby.



Lt. Sharon Williams is a Supporting Member at Greenville Correctional Center. Her nine-year-old son, Lamont Harris III ("Trey"), passed away on September 14, 2017 after a long battle with cancer. The cancer was first diagnosed in early November of 2010. Trey is pictured here with a written thank-you note from the Williams/Harris family.

*CPOF Family:
Thank you so much for your gift in memory of my husband, Charles "Charlie" Bryant. He took great pleasure introducing CPOF to new employees and was one of the first to refer a co-worker in need. Your generosity is humbling and shows what a wonderful family we have in the CPOF and Charlie had at Bland Correctional Center.
Sincerely,
Lill Bryant*

Florida

The CPOF assists Florida Officers in need after Hurricane Irma:



CPOF Florida Representative Gerard Vanderham, Mrs. Joseph Ossman (Sandy) and AWP Amy Frizzell. Sgt. Joseph Ossman, a Supporting Member at Hardee CI was in a fatal car accident caused by severe weather conditions during Hurricane Irma.



Officers of Zephyrhill Correctional Institution



Officers of Sumter Correctional Institution

Sergeant Thomas Crosby of Florida State Prison suffered a massive heart attack while on duty and passed away in early December 2017.



Dear Board Members of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation,

I wanted to say how blessed my family is for the assistance check provided. I have been out on medical leave and have exhausted all my leave. Upon notifying John Williams, CPO Foundation Florida Field Representative, he notified Stephanie Barone, Catastrophic Coordinator, and they immediately started working on getting my family assistance. One of our concerns was not having the funds to continue my benefits, but with the CPO Foundation's assistance you have made this possible.

You never think it will be you in my current situation, but you just never know and that's why being a member of this Foundation is important. I cannot thank you enough and will make sure to encourage other Officers if they are not a member to join so that the Foundation always has the funds it needs to help other Officers in times of need.

May God bless this Foundation and all who represent it.

Sincerely,

Steve Thompson, Palatka, FL

Correctional Officer and Supporting Member Steve Thompson works at Putnam CI. He was off work for months undergoing several back surgeries. He is pictured here (center) with John Williams (right) and Assistant Warden C.E. Norman.



Mississippi



Thank you to my CPOF family. I really do appreciate all that this organization stands for in “Taking Care of Our Own.” After my surgery, I really had financial challenges with getting back and forth to the doctor and therapy. I still have a long way to go, but I know with the grace of God I will make it through. Again, thank you for your support.

CSA I Brenda Gray, Jackson, MS

CSA I Brenda Gray is a Supporting Member at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility. She underwent major surgery in the fall of 2017 and had to be off work for a considerable time while recovering. CSA I Gray is pictured at left (center) with Asst. Warden Betty Phillips, and CPOF Mississippi Representative Vanessa Lee.

Dear Mrs. Barone,

My family and I thank you for your generous gift. We greatly appreciate the assistance we received from CPOF.

Thank you,

Beverly Cox, Drew, MS

Training Officer Beverly Cox is a Supporting Member at Mississippi State Penitentiary. In August of 2017 Beverly’s son had to be hospitalized and put in the ICU at University Medical Center in Jackson, MS, 113 miles one way from home. Warden Sonja Staniel recommended Officer Cox for assistance with the extra expenses she incurred.



To CPO Foundation:

Our family would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and support shown during the loss of my husband.

Thank you, CPOF!

Sincerely,

Sgt. Thelma

Dickerson, Jackson, MS

Sgt. Dickerson is employed at Central Mississippi

Correctional Facility. Her husband, Perry, passed away from pancreatic cancer on October 5, 2017. Above: Vanessa Lee, Sgt. Dickerson and Warden Leander Parker.



I would like to say thank you to my CPOF family for assistance while I was off work and going back and forth to the doctor’s office for my neck injury. I am doing better now. The check was greatly needed, and coming at the holidays, I really appreciated it.

Thanks again,

Linda Coleman, Pearl, MS

Officer Coleman is a Supporting Member at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility. She is pictured here with Vanessa Lee and Warden Brian Ladner.

Training Officer Beverly Cox is a Supporting Member at Mississippi State Penitentiary. Her son, Jarvis, was hospitalized in ICU at University Medical Center in Jackson, 113 miles one way from the Cox home. Officer Cox received a CPOF check to help with the medically-related expenses she incurred. She wrote a note saying, “The assistance I received was greatly appreciated.”

COLORADO

Dear Kim,

I am Alberto Chavez, C/O1 at the LaVista Correctional Facility in Pueblo, Colorado. Recently I received monetary assistance due to the death of my wife, Ivy. I was blown away at the generous donation given to me to assist in the cost of final arrangements for Ivy and to assist with bills that seem to come out of the woodwork.

Thank you so much for your support and the support of the CPOF. I will always be grateful for the kindness and quick assistance the CPOF provided me. With your assistance I was able to keep my mind on the grieving process without worrying about money. Thank you and the staff of the CPOF for being there for the Correctional Staff that are going through hard monetary times.

Sincerely,

Alberto (Al) Chavez, Colorado Springs, CO

C/O Alberto Chavez is a Supporting Member at LaVista Correctional Facility. His wife, Ivy (pictured above at the Chavez home), was diagnosed with cancer on June 6, 2017 and passed away on July 21, 2017.



Mrs. Tonia Reis is employed in the HR Department of ADC Headquarters. Tonia's husband, Thomas, had been battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma since July of 2016 and underwent many chemotherapy treatments. Sadly, Thomas passed away on January 3, 2018. In addition, Tonia was dealing with her own health complications (kidney stones) and since mid August of 2017 was in and out of the hospital for treatments as well as taking Thomas to and from his chemo appointments. Eventually, Tonia exhausted all her time on the books and had to go on leave without pay. She is pictured here with her CPOF assistance check.

C/O Jared Sabo is a Supporting Member at Colorado State Penitentiary. His wife, Debra, experienced serious problems while pregnant with their third child, and had to be hospitalized for several months. When baby Charlie was born he had to be placed in NICU where he spent eight weeks.



At the recommendation of CPOF Colorado Representative Guy Edwards, C/O Sabo received assistance from the CPOF with the many extra expenses incurred during this prolonged period of hospital visits and to help with hours lost from work while he cared for the couple's two- and four-year old children.



Supervisor Scott Hall of Canon Minimum Center was trampled by a horse running at full speed on July 30, 2017 while judging barrel racing at a rodeo. Scott suffered major injuries, including a shattered shoulder blade, fractures of six ribs and a broken neck. On October 5, 2017 he underwent surgery to fuse vertebrae in his neck.

Dear CPO Foundation Board of Directors, Warden Angel Medina, Captain Vicki Jaramillo, CPOF Field Representative Guy Edmonds, Catastrophic Assistance Coordinator Kim Blakley and Supporting Members,

Jeff and I would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your thoughtfulness and generous gift. In May 2017 without any hesitation, Jeff began the many evaluations and tests necessary to see if he would be a match to donate part of his liver to me. On September 12, 2017 we started our biggest, scariest, and life-changing journey. We were in the expert and caring hands of the liver transplant team at the University Hospital of Denver. We each had our own surgeons, who also just happen to be husband and wife. Jeff donated 60% of his liver and had a rougher recovery than I did. He had to be readmitted into the University Hospital of Denver for two more days. During our

recovery, I felt guilty that I was feeling so much better than Jeff. However, Jeff would repeatedly state he would do it again and that it was a “no brainer!”

Our journey of now 27 years together has taken us on many adventures, climbs over mountains and scary rides into the unknown. Most of all it has shown us how grateful, blessed, and thankful we are for the caring hearts of our friends, family, and complete strangers.

Thank you to each and every one of you.
Sincerely,

Jeff and Kathy Seley, Pueblo, CO

Jeff, a Supporting Member, is a Supervisor at Colorado Correctional Industries. It is truly a pleasure to share this story of a successful organ donation between husband and wife. We wish Jeff and Kathy all the best for their complete recoveries.



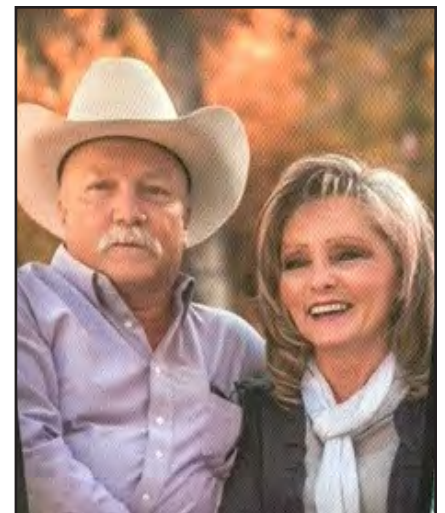
Sergeant Salvador Soto, a Supporting Member at Colorado State Penitentiary, and his fiancée, Chelsea (also a C/O) suffered a house fire in October 2017. The house and contents were a total loss.

To Kim Blakley, Guy Edmonds and the CPO Foundation Board of Directors,

I don't know how to thank you for your support during these hard times. My husband, Ronnie, suffered for a short six weeks before he went to be with Jesus. Ronnie and I were high school sweethearts and were married for 42 years. I miss him every day! Thank you for the checks -- they were a huge help! Your organization is more than awesome. I will always cherish your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Karen Stewart, Canon City, CO

C/O I Karen Stewart is a Supporting Member at Fremont CF. Her husband, Ronnie, passed away on January 2, 2018 due to complications from cancer.



Kim,

I want to personally thank you, Guy Edmonds and the CPOF for your support during our time of need this past year and a half. The CPO Foundation is amazing!

Love, Tonia, and Leya (daughter)

HR Tonia Reis is a Supporting Member at Colorado DOC Headquarters. See her story on page 34.

Pennsylvania



Nurse Robert Merritt of SCI Albion passed away from an apparent heart attack on July 21, 2017. He was 38 years old. Above is a picture of his eight children: Alesha, Elijah, Seth, Nathan, Kaleb, Averie, Ethan and Ryan.



C/O William Maloney, also of SCI Albion, was diagnosed with prostate cancer in July 2017. He had surgery on August 1, 2017 and unfortunately suffered many complications and infections since the surgery. Above: C/O Maloney with his son, Noah; wife, Catherine; and daughter, Gabrielle.



C/O Tammy Moyer, a Supporting Member at Lancaster County Prison was diagnosed with a brain tumor and had surgery to remove it. In the photo at left, C/O Moyer has just received a CPOF assistance check from Wendy Baur, CPO

Foundation Representative in Pennsylvania. Also pictured is Lancaster County Prison Warden Cheryl Steberger.

C/O Scott Showalter, also a Supporting Member at Lancaster County Prison, suffered serious injuries while snow tubing. Warden Cheryl Steberger presented C/O Showalter with his CPOF assistance check.



Food Service Instructor Janet Jones of SCI Frackville is pictured above with her 11-year-old daughter, Alexis, and husband, William. Alexis was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in October of 2017.

(continued next page)

Pennsylvania



C/O I Mary Jo Wall, CPOF contact at SCI Mahanoy, presented FSI Janet Jones with an assistance check in mid November as seen in the photo at left of Superintendent Brittain, FSI Jones and C/O I Wall.



In addition, FSI Jones received wonderful

monetary support from SCI Frackville's Empowerment Committee which presented her with two generous checks, one resulting from a bake sale and the other from a "Team Alexis" T-shirt sale. From C/O I Wall: "Thank you to SCI Dallas, SCI-Retreat and SCI Mahanoy for supporting 'Team Alexis' in our T-shirt sale." Pictured at right are: Superintendent Brittain, FSI Jones, Beth Lazusky, Jen Mateyak, Missy Miller, Angela Barret and FSM Johnson.



Chaplain David Balzer of SCI Smithfield is pictured above with his family. On August 6, 2017 David's daughter, Ari, was life flighted at the age of eight weeks from Altoona UPMC to a children's hospital due to a brain bleed. Ari was released on August 15 and has had numerous appointments since in Pittsburgh, PA. Her neurologist said the extent of Ari's brain damage would not be known for two to three years.

Ms. Labio,

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity. My family and I are so appreciative. Your generosity in the gift of money was put into the kids account for their future. In working in the Department of Corrections for over 10 years, I have been so blessed to be part of their family. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Jill, Lauren and Justin Capra,
Mcdonald, PA

C/O Jill Capra works at Greene County Prison. Her husband, David, went in for knee surgery in July of 2017 and developed a blood clot. He suffered cardiac arrest and, sadly, passed away. Pictured: Jill, David, and their children, Lauren and Justin.



Dear Christina,

I humbly thank you and the CPO Foundation for your generosity in my time of need. I am truly grateful and appreciative. My letter cannot express fully how you have helped during these challenging times. The Foundation is a proud extension of those of you who truly care.

Thank you again, and I wish you well.

Sincerely,

Denise Bomba

Counselor Bomba of SCI Waymart developed a serious medical condition that required her to take off two or three days a week for treatments and for her doctors to try different medications.

Illinois

Meet Sue Davison, CPOF Representative in Illinois:

I grew up in a small town in Montana. The prison was on the main street and looked like a castle. I never thought about the people who worked there because many were the parents of my friends, and it was "just their jobs." It was not until tragedy touched my family that I really thought about the employees of the prison system. One of my brothers-in-law started teaching at the Telford Unit in New Boston, Texas, and I was happy for him. My other brother-in-law, Tim, lived with his mother. One horrific day, my mother-in-law's house had a gas explosion, and she was killed. Tim was blown out of the house but survived. He then moved to Texas and was going to try to get a job doing HVAC, which he was trained in. Instead, Tim became a Correctional Officer; we were glad he got a job even if it was not what he thought he might get.

After only nine months, tragedy struck our family again. Tim was killed while he was escorting a violent prisoner. Cathy Stokes, Texas Representative for CPOF, was there for us even before we arrived in Texas for the funeral. The Telford Unit family and CPOF were there for us, and I could not believe all the support they gave us. In 2016, we went to Pittsburgh, PA for **Project XXVII** where Tim was one of the honored Fallen Officers. It was an experience that I will never forget. I believe it helped his two daughters, ages 17 and 11, realize what a great man their dad was.

Because of our experience at that **Project** and all that CPOF has done for our family, I knew I needed to give back. Becoming a Representative for Illinois was definitely something I wanted to do.

-- Sue Davison

C/O Jeffrey Wonders a Supporting Member at Sheridan Correctional Center, has a very rare form of cancer called pseudomyxoma peritonei. He has had chemotherapy treatments and, as of December 2017, may have to have surgery. At right, Jeffrey with his CPOF assistance check; below, Jeffrey with FSPM Chad Jackson, AWO Mark Koropka and Warden David Gomez.



Dear Alyssa,

My family and I would like to thank you for the money we received from the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation. The health crisis my family and I have endured has been costly in many ways. The check we received helped to offset some of the financial burden and we are forever grateful.

Thanks again,

Darin Wells, Vandalia, IL

Counselor Darin Wells of Vandalia Correctional Center was diagnosed with oral cancer in April of 2017 and was traveling regularly to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri for treatment.

Dear Ms. Franchini,

My husband and I would like to thank you, the CPO Foundation Board of Directors, and *ALL* who have donated to the CPO Foundation for the support you have given us. We are very grateful for the check we have received as it will definitely be a big help with the expenses we have incurred from the tornado damage we sustained on October 14, 2017. Your caring and generosity during this difficult time have been very much appreciated.

Thank you again,

Pam & Gary Frank, Galesburg, IL

Pamela Frank is Office Coordinator at Hill CC. She and her husband, Gary, had to stay in a hotel for a considerable time while their house was being repaired after being damaged by a tornado.

Shelby County Sheriffs Office, Tennessee



Counselor B Emma Gamble was diagnosed with lupus (a chronic disease that causes inflammation of connective tissue) in July 2017. She incurred extensive out of pocket expenses for medications and an ambulance bill. Along

with her illness Emma cares for her adult son who is in need of a new kidney and has been on the transplant waiting list for 12 years. Counselor Gamble is pictured here with CPOF Tennessee Representative Cheryl Thorpe.

Counselor B Karma Walker's husband, Carlos, needed a bone marrow transplant. His brother was cleared to be the donor, and the Walkers went to Nashville in December 2017 for the procedure. Carlos also was in Stage 3 kidney failure. He was

on dialysis and undergoing chemotherapy. Karma, a Supporting Member, takes time off work to take care of her husband and take him to appointments. Above: Counselor Walker and Cheryl Thorpe.



Counselor B Mark Berryhill, a Supporting Member, has been undergoing extensive chemotherapy for over three years to treat his cancer. Correctional Deputy Kimberly Thomas is also a Supporting Member and has a teenage daughter, Antoinetta, who had cancer and received a bone marrow transplant. Kimberly took considerable unpaid time off to care for her daughter.

In this photo, front row: Chief Deborah Hammons, Mark Berryhill, Kimberly Thomas and Chief Amos Harrison; back row: CPOF Members Deputy Jailer Evelyn Shelton, Counselor A Kathleen Wright and Correctional Deputy Tora Newton. Tora is the CPOF's volunteer

Representative at the Shelby County Sheriffs Office (see below).

Tora Newton, who has worked at the Shelby County Sheriffs Office for 17 years, is a CPOF Liaison. She has worked tirelessly this last year promoting CPOF to her fellow Officers/Co-workers. She has signed up over 150 new Supporting Members within the last year (including her husband Eric Newton) and has had a big hand in the Shelby County Sheriffs Office becoming the *first* Lifetime Sponsor in the State of Tennessee.

Tora has also formed a committee within Shelby County to help her promote CPOF and has talked to them about the history of CPOF and how to help their Co-workers through our Catastrophic Assistance Program.

Well done, Tora, and thank you for your outstanding efforts on behalf of the CPO Foundation.



Rhode Island

Rhode Island News

Some **BIG** changes have happened in Rhode Island. One of the biggest is that Director A.T. Wall retired on January 27, 2018. We are saying goodbye to the longest-serving Corrections Director in the nation. All of us here at CPOF wish Mr. Wall an exciting and hopefully stress-free retirement. I would personally like to say **THANK YOU** to Director Wall for all his help and support over the years to CPOF and me.

Another **BIG** and exciting change, thanks to the Rhode Island Brotherhood for Correctional Officers (RIBCO), is that *we now have a payroll slot* for all RIBCO members who wish to donate directly to CPOF.

In November 2017 Manny Leander, CPOF Rhode Island Representative, and I spoke with Staff at each institution during their roll calls. We now have 665 payroll deducted CPOF members, and we have approximately 135 SECA members. **THANK YOU**, RIBCO, for all your past and continuing help and support.

-- Kim Blakley



A.T. Wall; Richard Ferruccio, RIBCO President; and Richard Loud, CPOF Representative.



Kim Blakley and Manny Leander, CPOF Representative in Rhode Island, during their November 2017 "roll call tour."



Hi, Kim,

I would like to thank you so much for the assistance with Emma. My family and I greatly appreciate the support of the CPOF. We have paid some of the medical bills, and got some of the things Emma needed medically to help her

recover. My family and I cannot thank you and CPOF enough.

Rob Lineberger, Portsmouth, RI
C/O Lineberger is a Supporting Member at Intake Service. His daughter, Emma, was diagnosed with Lyme disease which has affected her central nervous system. She is undergoing regular treatments at a medical facility in Vermont. Above: Manny Leander presents C/O Lineberger with his assistance check.



CPOF was happy to once again make a donation to the RIBCO Hector Poulin Scholarship Fund during their 11th Annual Golf Tournament in August 2017.

***For those of you that are CPOF Supporting Members please note that CPOF also has a scholarship program. Visit our website -- www.cpof.org -- and click on the Scholarship tab at the top.**

Rhode Island



Kim says, "It is always nice to have the RIBCO Honor Guard helping and participating in Memorial Services for Fallen Officers, as well as CPOF's annual Project 2000 events."



With Kim in this photo are (left) C/O Justin Curran and Honor Guard Commander John Bray.

Nebraska



On August 12, 2017 Armory Sergeant Dean Baker of Tecumseh State Correctional Institution was helping his family take down an old pole barn. He was on the ladder when the telephone poles started falling "like dominoes." Dean was pinned between a pole and the barn, then fell 20 feet. He was "life-flighted" to the hospital and in ICU for two days. He sustained two compound fractures, a torn artery in his right leg, 20 broken bones in his right foot and four broken bones in his left foot. He received seven units of blood and underwent three surgeries with, at the time, more to come. Six to eight months were projected for a full recovery.

CPOF Nebraska Representative April Bulling-June recommended Sgt. Baker for assistance. He is pictured above receiving his CPOF check from Warden Brad Hansen.

Ohio



C/O Antonio Watson of Ohio State Penitentiary is pictured here with his 13-year-old son, Devyn. Devyn has multiple medical issues and is receiving several treatments from different doctors. OSP Warden's Assistant Laura Gardner recommended C/O Watson for assistance from the CPO Foundation.

South Carolina



Dear CPOF Family,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful and amazing gift to me and my family. You were so kind to think of us in the worst time of our lives! Enclosed [above] is a picture of my family in honor of my husband, Thierry Nettles.

Diana Nettles, Summerville, SC

Associate Warden Thierry Nettles of MacDougall Correctional Institution, a Supporting Member, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on September 11, 2017.



Captain Jefferson Caraway Jr., a Supporting Member at Wateree River CI, passed away on August 3, 2017 of unknown reasons. He was 38 years old. His wife, Carla, received a bereavement assistance check. At left: Gary Evans, CPOF Representative in South Carolina, with the Caraway family.

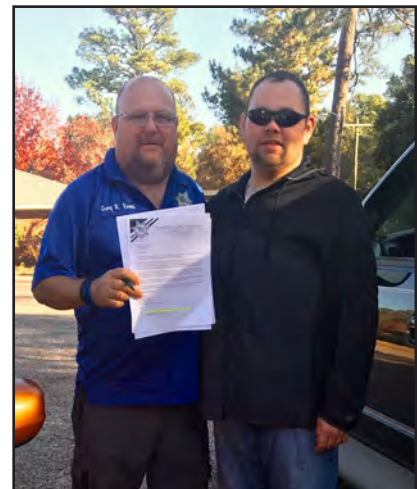
To the CPOF,

The family of Faye Barrineau would like to thank you for your generous condolences.

Melissa Butler (daughter) and Lorin (granddaughter) *Faye Barrineau, retired from the SC DOC, had been a Supporting Member. Faye was killed in a car accident in December 2017. The CPO Foundation assisted Melissa with the funeral expenses for which she was responsible.*



Lt. Gainey Mickens, Jr., a Supporting Member at Lee CI, was diagnosed with a malignant lung tumor and vocal cord paralysis. He was off work for many months while undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments. A 20-year veteran in Corrections, he was reportedly very optimistic about eventually returning to work. Above: Lt. Mickens receiving a CPOF assistance check from Warden Aaron Joyner.



C/O Michael Harris, a Supporting Member at Trenton CI, had surgery on his right eye which caused him to be off work for some time while healing. Above: C/O Harris with Gary Evans (holding C/O Harris's letter that accompanied his assistance check).

Oklahoma



Dear Correctional Peace Officers Foundation,

On behalf of Correctional Unit Assistant Nathan Gaisford and myself, I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your assistance. The funds you provided will assist Mr.

Gaisford and his family as he continues to travel to his medical treatments. Mr. Gaisford is waiting for a donor for a kidney transplant.

Thank you again so very much!

Becky Guffy, Warden, Bill Johnson CC

Above: Warden Guffy and Unit Assistant Gaisford.

Ms. Blakley,

Thank you so much for the support from the CPO Foundation. Your kindness and concern for our family means a great deal to us. We appreciate all the support you extended to us during our loss of Ken Lively. Ken worked 21 years for the Department of Corrections and loved his job. He took great pride in doing a good job and working hard.



With sincere thanks,
Tasha, Kendall, Wade and Wyatt Lively,
Freedom, OK

Chief of Security Ken Lively, a Supporting Member at William Key CC, passed away after suffering a heart attack brought on by complications from liver cancer and treatments. In the above photo Warden Lonnie Lawson presents a CPOF bereavement check to Ken's widow, Tasha Lively. With Tasha are two of the three Lively children, sons Wade and Wyatt.

Dear Ms. Blakley,

On behalf of our staff members, Sandra Hackenberger and Christopher Bliss, I would like to personally thank you and the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Inc. for the monies sent to help them through the aftermath of their automobile accident.



Ms. Hackenberger and Mr. Bliss are recent additions to our work family, and unexpected expenses are devastating when on a tight budget. Your gifts will assist in filing the gaps this event has imposed on their lives. I am grateful their injuries were minor, and that they have been able to return to work after only a brief absence. Officer Bliss, Officer Hackenberger and I are all immensely thankful for your kindness.

The generosity of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation reinforces that, regardless of which state we live in, or the specific agency we serve, we are all members of the Corrections family.

Sincerely,

Janet Dowling, Warden, Dick Connor CC

*On August 29, 2017 C/O Christopher Bliss and C/O Sandra Hackenberger were in a rollover accident while carpooling to work. **Photo:** Officers Hackenberger and Bliss, with (center) Acting Deputy Warden Chris Redeagle.*



Customer Service Representative Jack Allen, a Supporting Member at Jackie Brannon CC, passed away after a brave battle with cancer. His widow, Ramona Allen, received a CPOF bereavement assistance check. She is pictured here (center) with

Warden's Assistant Kim Lynn and Debbie Moore.

ARIZONA

Thank you, Kim, for the CPOF's assistance with hotel expenses from my having to evacuate my home due to the Goodwin Fire in Duey, Arizona. Pictured in this photo are Ms. Tamara Gallett, Secure Care Bureau Administrator of Adobe Mountain School, and myself, Eddie Rodriguez, Physical Plant Director at Adobe Mountain School.

Again, the assistance was much appreciated.

Eddie Rodriguez, Duey, AZ

Plant Director Rodriguez and his family were forced to evacuate their home on June 28, 2017 due to the Goodwin Fire that burned over 28,000 acres of land. Due to the area being evacuated all available hotels were in Phoenix, 80 miles from home.



Dear Ms. Blakely,

Thank you so much for the financial assistance for Correctional Officer II Dillon Levis-Brown. He was not prepared for the generosity of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation.

This is such a difficult time for him and his family. There are no words of comfort as they go through the bereavement process.

It is amazing to me how your organization is there for our Corrections family. So many different issues arise in the lives of our employees and your organization is always there, providing much needed support. I was able to share with him the good work the CPO Foundation does around the country for people who work in the field of Corrections, uniformed and non-uniformed staff.

Sincerely,

Berry Larson, Warden

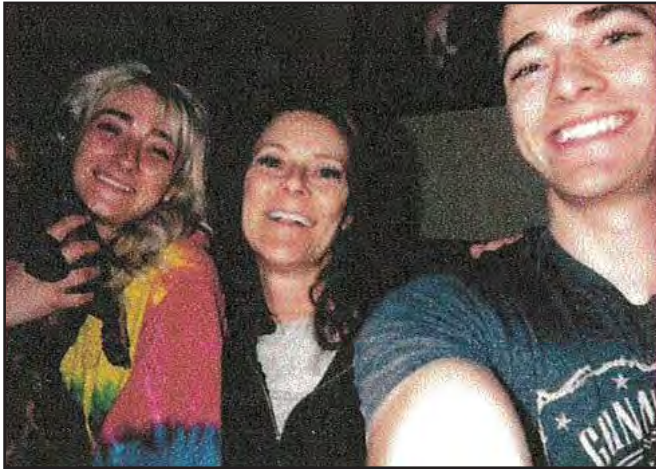
Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis

C/O II Dillon Levis-Brown's one-year-old daughter, Allie, died in a drowning accident. He is pictured here with ASPC Lewis Warden Larson, who is a Supporting Member.

Detention Officer Jennifer Fritz of the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office was unloading a truck at work when she felt her left leg "pop," causing her to fall to the pavement. In the fall she broke both fibula bones. D/O Fritz was off work for several months while her broken legs healed. She is pictured here with her husband, Mark.



Washington



On August 29, 2017 C/O Tracy Peters of Longview Field Office was one of four Community Corrections Officers conducting a warrant check to an offender with an active warrant. While C/O Peters was standing watch on the back perimeter of the offender's residence, she was attacked by a dog, sustaining serious injuries to her left hand and right leg. She was off work for two months recovering from the attack.

Darren Feiler, CPOF Representative for Western Washington, gave C/O Peters an assistance check while she was off work. C/O Peters is pictured above with her two children (and the family cat, draped around C/O Peters's neck).

Dear Stephanie,

Thank you so much for the money I received from the CPO Foundation. It was a very welcome surprise and I can't begin to tell you the difference it has made.

I feel very lucky.

Shelley Beck, Kirkland, WA
Analyst 3 Beck works at the Monroe Correctional Complex. She had open heart double bypass surgery in December 2017 and was off work for a considerable time. She is the mother of four children.

Oregon



Transportation Officer Michael Pfenning, a Supporting Member, was in a motorcycle accident in June of 2017 that resulted in a spinal fracture, lacerated spleen/liver, knee/shoulder injury and injuries to his rib cage. Mike went down on his bike, then was hit by an oncoming car. This photo is of Michael at home with his family receiving his CPOF assistance check.



At left: C/O Stuart Harrison, a Supporting Member at Deer Ridge CF. C/O Harrison was assaulted on July 8, 2017. He sustained a fractured left eye socket, damaged left eye, a broken nose and an arm injury.

Missouri



Hi! I am Cyndi Prudden, Missouri Field Representative for the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF). After more than thirty years of a very rewarding career with the Missouri Department of Corrections (MODOC), I

submitted my resume to CPOF CEO, Char Corby. The fact is, I felt a calling to work with CPOF and am truly honored that Char asked me to join this wonderful team! I tell people it was easier for me to retire because I knew that I would have the opportunity to continue to serve the fine employees in the field of corrections and continue to stay connected with the people that I have come to admire and respect.

Throughout my career with the MODOC and especially during my attendance at Project 2000 XXVIII in San Francisco last year, I have witnessed this wonderful organization assist many Correctional officers, employees and their families during their time of need. They truly live up to their mission, "Taking Care of Our Own"! We all know that Correctional employees sacrifice so much of themselves for public and institutional safety. They risk their lives when they come to work each and every day, they forfeit time with families while working overtime to ensure the shifts are covered, and in general give so much of themselves to make a difference.

I was blessed to have met Mrs. Helen Hoff (see photo in next column) and her daughter Barbara (right). Helen's son, Captain John Huff, had 32 years of dedicated service to the MODOC and passed away of natural causes in his home in January of this year. Any mother who has lost a child knows how very devastating



this is and Mrs. Hoff has lost three of her children. Deputy Warden Becky Ehlers and I had the privilege of presenting Mrs. Hoff with a gift from CPOF and letting her and her daughter know what a positive impact her son's service had on public and institutional safety, employee development and offender rehabilitation.



Matt Jones served the MODOC for 25 years in several capacities and a couple of years ago was diagnosed with a rare disease that affects many of the body's functions. Matt had no choice but to take disability as he was no longer able to work. Matt and his wife, Sheila, also an employee with the MODOC, are very generous people who have dedicated their lives to the Corrections field and to making a difference in their community. Matt and Sheila have a special needs daughter and have struggled financially as a result of Matt's illness, surgeries, doctor's visits, etc. True to their word of taking care of their own, CPOF was able to assist the Jones's with a financial assistance check. Matt and Sheila were humbled and appreciative and I was blessed to have been able to deliver the gift on behalf of CPOF.

Correctional employees are a rare breed who continue to answer the call to do more with less. They are dedicated to public safety, to each other, their families and making a difference in their field. It warms my heart to know that CPOF is there to "take care of our own" and assist Corrections staff in their time of need. Thank you, CPOF for taking care of Missouri Corrections employees!

Missouri

Correctional Peace Officer Foundation,

Thank you so much for the cash donation for my son, Mason, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. We are so grateful for this gift in our time of need.

Captain Brenda Calvert, Savannah, MO

And:

Thank you so much for all the support and the donation. I am doing very well with my treatment. I hope one day I will be able to repay your kindness.

Mason Calvert

Captain Brenda Calvert is a Supporting Member at Maryville Treatment Center.



OSA Carrie Spencer of Western Reception, Diagnostic and Correction Center is pictured here with District Administrator Vicki Bealmear, Office Support Assistant Carrie Spencer, Senior Office Support Assistant Heather Cook and Deputy Warden of Offender Management Todd Francis. Carrie's 18-year-old son, Nicholas, died from injuries sustained in an auto accident on August 20, 2017.

I would like to extend to you a warm thank-you for the monetary gift. It sure came in handy during my time of need.

Sherry Spegal, Hannibal, MO

C/O I Spegal also works at Western Reception, Diagnostic and Correction Center. She was off work for months recovering from a back surgery in November, 2017.

West Virginia



Case Manager Beverly Sanger of Gene Spadaro Juvenile Center and her family lost their home and all belongings in a fire in late July of 2017. Above: Beverly is presented with a CPOF assistance check from GSJC Director Tim Meadows.

From:

Ray Wagoner

**WV & Virginia Correctional
Peace Officers Field
Representative**

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma, I coordinated a project that provided a way for Correctional Staff from the WV Division of Correctional Services, WV Division of Juvenile Services, and WV Regional Jail and Correctional Authority, as well as other generous folks, to spring into action to help. In a very short time a truckload of much needed supplies was collected. On October 13, 2017, the supplies were promptly distributed to hurricane victims, many of which were fellow Correctional Staff. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who assisted me with this project.

Alabama



Left: Alabama Representative Carolyn Kelley and her daughter, MaKayla Kelley, attended Vendor Day at the DOC Training Academy in Selma, AL.

Carolyn,

I thank you so very much for your support of ACCD. We appreciate you, your mother and the CPOF for being a part of this valuable training opportunity.

Thank you,
Karla Jones, Warden
Ventress Correctional
Facility



Above: Carolyn Kelley and CPOF volunteer Jannie Isom attended the 69th Annual Alabama Council on Crime & Delinquency (ACCD) Fall Conference in Prattville, AL. The conference was held October 11-13, 2017.

Nevada



C/O Ryan Hesler of High Desert State Prison in Indian Springs, NV received a CPOF check, presented to him by Lt. Keith McKeehan who referred C/O Hesler for assistance. C/O Hesler suffers from a chronic condition requiring expensive treatments and medication. He missed many days of work as well as spending extensive time in the hospital.



AW Bruce Stroud, also of High Desert State Prison, passed away from a heart attack after coming home from work early due to not feeling well. In this photo Bruce's widow, Lovie Jones, receives a CPOF bereavement assistance check from HDSP Warden Brian Williams Sr. Also pictured: Lt. Ron Oliver, AW Jeremy Bean, and Lovie's son, DJ.

UTAH



I am pleased to report some very exciting news from Utah. It is that we were able to secure automatic payroll deduction for Utah CPOF members! This went into effect last year and was made possible by the support of the Utah Department of Corrections Administration. We have been working toward this goal for a long time. I've had the

wonderful opportunity to be the Representative for Utah for the last two years. Prior to this role, I helped manage the "Kids and Teens Room" at many **Project 2000** events, along with my sister. Being the daughter of a Correctional Officer killed in the line of duty* gave me an understanding of the necessary benefits CPOF offers their members.

My work as a Rep involves attending pre-service, in-service and monthly meetings with Administration officials to discuss what CPOF means to employees. In 2016, Utah didn't have enough CPOF members to

receive a payroll deduction slot. Today, we have over 200 members and have helped over 17 individuals. Some of the catastrophic situations CPOF has assisted with in Utah are: natural disasters, medical issues, vehicular accidents and suicide.

This incredible growth of membership in Utah has shown me that there is a need and desire to support and promote CPOF in the Department. I would like to give a special thanks to Director Cook, Deputy Director of Administrative Services Mike Haddon, and the rest of the Administration. A big thank-you and shout-out to Lieutenant Moore and Major Cook at the Fred House* Academy. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Sergeant Roberts for attending classes with me. All of these people, and many more, helped made the Utah recruitment success possible and I'm so grateful for all of their efforts.

Christy House
CPOF Utah Representative

** On January 28, 1988 Lieutenant Fred House of the Utah Department of Corrections was shot and killed while participating in an FBI tactical raid to end a lengthy standoff.*

PUERTO RICO

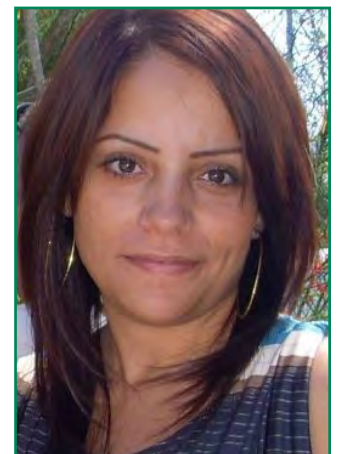
My name is Helen Andujar Albarati. My husband was Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati who worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons at MDC Guaynabo here in Puerto Rico. On February 26, 2013 while Osvaldo was on his way home he was ambushed and murdered by gang members who didn't like that my husband and his team were intercepting contraband coming into the prison. This night forever changed our lives. My husband was my high school sweetheart and we share two beautiful daughters.

Many people and organizations reached out, but CPOF is one of the only ones that continues to be part of our family and proves that the motto of "Taking Care Of Our Own" is more than just a motto: it is truly who they are.

My kids and I first attended Project 2000 in Seattle, Washington. It had such an impact on our lives that we have returned every year since. It is something my girls and I look forward to each year.

After living through Hurricane Maria and seeing the destruction that it left on our island and seeing the hundreds of families impacted, including my own, it was such a relief when CPOF once again stepped in and Took Care of Their Own. I felt that it was time for me to start "paying it forward" not only by helping the newly bereaved families at Project but also helping with our Corrections families here at home in Puerto Rico.

CPOF is a family, and we are thankful to be part it. A family tragedy brought us together, and our love and friendship will last forever.



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 148, USP Lewisburg, PA
- AFGE - Local 171, FTC Oklahoma City/FCI El Reno, OK
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 - AFGE Local 701, FCI Pekin, IL
 - AFGE - Local 720, FCC Terre Haute, IN
 - AFGE - Local 817, FMC Lexington, KY
- AFGE - Local 1007/3957, FCC Oakdale, LA
 - AFGE - Local 1405, USP Lee, VA
 - AFGE - Local 3969, FCC Victorville, CA
 - AFGE - Local 3979, FCI Sheridan, OR
 - American Correctional Association
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 - Arizona Corrections Association
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- Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency
 - FDGlobal
- Fraternal Order of Police Labor Committee, Department of Correction, Washington, D.C.
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 - Retired Chapter of CCPOA
 - Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers
 - Sierra Steel Company
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 - Trussbilt, Inc.
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Lifetime Sponsors from Departments of Corrections and Correctional Facilities

- Benton Unit, Benton, AR
- Grimes Unit, Newport, AR
- Cummins Unit, Grady, AR
- Tucker Unit, Tucker, AR
- Maximum Security Unit, AR
- Mule Creek State Prison, Ione, CA
- Wasco State Prison, Wasco, CA
- 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
 - San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA
 - Denver Complex, CO
 - Connecticut Honor Guard, CT
 - North District Office, CT
 - Osborn Correctional Institution, CT
- 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

LIFETIME SPONSORS of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation

Lifetime Sponsors from Departments of Corrections and Correctional Facilities (cont.)

- Orange County Corrections, FL
- Idaho Maximum Security Institution, ID
 - Northpoint Training Center, KY
- Massachusetts Correctional Officer Federated Union, MA
 - Mississippi State Penitentiary, MS
 - Southern Mississippi State Prison
 - Montana State Prison
 - Nebraska State Penitentiary, NE
- NCDPS-DAC Community Corrections, NC
 - NCDPS Honor Guard, NC
 - Caldwell Correctional Center, NC
 - Catawba Correctional Center, NC
- Lanesboro Correctional Institution, NC
 - Craggy Correctional Center, NC
- Community Corrections District 17, NC
- Community Corrections District 19A, NC
- Community Corrections District 23, NC
- Community Corrections District III, NC
 - Western Region Office, NCDPS
 - Attica Correctional Facility, NY
- Livingston Correctional Facility, NY
- Wyoming Correctional Facility Honor Guard, NY
 - Gowanda 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
- Powder River Correctional Institution, OR
- Oregon State Correctional Institution, OR
 - Warner Creek Correctional Facility, OR
 - Mill Creek Correctional Facility, OR
 - South Fork Forest Camp, OR
 - Philadelphia Prison System, PA
 - Curran Fromhold Correctional Facility, PA
- House of Correction, Philadelphia Prison System, PA
- Industrial Correctional Center, Philadelphia Prison System, PA
 - Detention Center, Philadelphia Prison System, PA
 - Riverside Correctional Facility, Philadelphia Prison System, PA
 - Shelby County Sheriffs Office, TN

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Lifetime Sponsors

- Allred Unit
- Beto Unit
- Boyd Unit
- Briscoe Unit
- Byrd Unit
- Choice Moore Transfer Facility
 - Clemens Unit
 - Clements Unit
 - Coffield Unit
 - Cole State Jail
 - Connally Unit
 - Crain 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
- Marlin Transfer Facility
 - McConnell Unit
 - Michael Unit
- Middleton Transfer Facility
- Montford Psychiatric Unit
 - Mountain View Unit
 - Murray Unit
 - Neal Unit
 - Pack Unit
 - Plane State Jail
 - Polunsky Unit

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LIFETIME SPONSORS of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Lifetime Sponsors (cont.)

- Powledge Unit
- Ramsey Unit
- Region I Director's Office
- Region II Director's Office
- Region VI Honor Guard
 - Roach Unit
 - Robertson Unit
- Rudd Transfer Facility
- Sanchez State Jail
 - Sayle SAFPF
 - Segovia Unit
- Skyview/Hodge Unit
 - Smith Unit
 - Stevenson Unit
 - Stiles Unit
 - Stringfellow Unit
- TDCJ Correctional Training
- TDCJ Department of Classification and Records
 - Staff Development
- TDCJ Western Region Transportation
 - Telford Unit
- Terrell Unit
- Torres Unit
- Travis County State Jail
 - Vance Unit
 - Wallace Unit
 - Ware Unit
- Wheeler SAFPF
- Woodman State Jail
 - Wynne Unit

Lifetime Individual Sponsors

- Mrs. Lucile G. Plane
- The Eric Autabee Family and Ms. Yolanda Floyd
- David & Ruthie Reeves
in Honor of SSG Jason A. Reeves
 - Mr. Eric Spierer
- Mr. Dan M. Reynolds and Family
 - Ms. Pamela Omelson
 - The Garcia Family
in Memory of
Correctional Officer Eligio Garcia, Jr.
 - Donna Davis
in Memory of
Correctional Officer Christopher Davis
- John and Carey Mendiboure

To learn how to become a Lifetime Sponsor of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, please visit our website -- cpof.org -- and click on the Sponsorship button.



Left: Yolanda W. Lockwood, former Director of the Philadelphia Prison System, accepted the House of Correction Lifetime Facility Sponsor plaque. Right: Likewise, National Honor Guard member Officer Steve Perrine accepted the Lifetime Facility Sponsor plaque for Oregon State Correctional Institution.



Both plaques were presented at Project 2000 XXVII in Pittsburgh, PA in 2016.

Important Information regarding Lifetime Facility Sponsors:

- **A Lifetime Facility Sponsorship does not equal or replace Supporting Membership in the CPO Foundation by an individual Correctional Officer or Corrections Professional employed at the Facility in question.**

YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS: DO WE HAVE IT??

Was this magazine forwarded to you? Or, even though you're a Supporting Member, does the copy you're reading belong to a friend because you didn't get your own in the mail? If you answered yes to either question, it means we don't have your current and correct address! **PLEASE** email Alyssa Franchini -- alyssa@cpof.org -- at the CPOF's Sacramento headquarters and give her your current address.

If you are planning to move and know what your new address will be, likewise email Alyssa with the new information. This applies even if all you're doing is moving to a new unit in your apartment building.

THANK YOU for keeping us up to date on your current whereabouts, so that we can keep you up to date with the CPO Family and other CPO Foundation mailings.

Sergeant Mark Baserman

EOW: February 26, 2018



On Wednesday, March 7, 2018, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections held a memorial ceremony in honor of slain SCI Somerset Sergeant Mark Baserman. Baserman was brutally assaulted by an inmate on February 15, 2018; he died as a result of those injuries on February 26.

Several thousand gathered to pay last respects to Sgt. Baserman at a ceremony held at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, whose officials donated their facilities at no cost.

Honor Guards, consisting of more than 1,000 individuals, representing each PA DOC state prison, several county prisons, many states and even representatives from Canada were in attendance. Honor Guards lined the walkway leading into the venue as SCI Somerset employees arrived for the ceremony.

During the ceremony, the honor guards lined the center aisle as Baserman's casket was carried to the front of the room. In addition to the honor guards, Sgt. Baserman's family, all of SCI Somerset's employees and representatives from each state prison, prison motorcycle groups, county prisons, state police, other states, the local EMT community and Pennsylvania State Corrections Officer officials attended the ceremony, bringing the number of attendees to more than 3,500.

Serving as emcee for the event was Rev. Ulrich



Klemm, who serves as the DOC's religious services administrator.

Following a radio check and moment of silence, the invocation was provided by SCI Somerset's facility chaplaincy program director Pastor Philip Maust.

Speakers included PSCOA Vice President Larry Blackwell, Brian James* from the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation, SCI Somerset Superintendent Melissa Hainsworth, East Hills EMS Paramedic Paul Bomboy and Corrections Secretary John Wetzel.



Flag folding and presentation, call to rise, rifle volley, Taps and EMS last call concluded the ceremony section of the event, which was then followed by an opportunity for attendees to address the casket.

Finally, the casket was carried to an East Hills EMS ambulance, which then departed the venue to deliver Sgt. Baserman to the station where he served as an EMT for several decades.

Superintendent Melissa Hainsworth's Speech

"First, I would like to start by saying I am truly honored to be here in front of you today to celebrate the life of Sergeant Mark Baserman. Today, we have come together to honor a true hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in his service to others by enforcing the law inside of the fence.

"In order to meaningfully convey to you how Mark fit into our family at SCI- Somerset, I must first

** Retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and a member of the CPOF National Honor Guard.*

continued next page

Sergeant Mark Baserman



recognize the work and life of a Corrections Officer. Corrections is a difficult and demanding profession. There are long hours with the constant risk of danger and harm. Their job is not to just confine and provide for those who were found to have broken the law, but to treat and reform them in an effort to prepare for their return to society. A Corrections professional cannot fear change, commitment, or danger. Despite the minimal praise at times and few tangible rewards, Corrections officers take great pride in their work, making a positive difference every day, and remaining committed to keeping our communities safe.

“Courage, fairness, respect, and being genuine are all required characteristics of a successful Corrections Officer. It’s imperative to treat those incarcerated, their families, visitors, and others with dignity, respect, and consistency, despite the possibility of not receiving the same in return. A Corrections Officer must be dedicated to his or her job to do it effectively, dedicated to his or her fellow staff members with whom



they serve to maintain trust and respect, to his or her family to risk their safety to provide for them, and to the community to keep them safe.

“As a result of all of the above, the team of Corrections professionals assigned the task of upholding the standards and expectations of a Correctional facility becomes a family. A family that protects one another, supports one another, and defends one another. This inherent loyalty to each other is not limited to just those we are putting in our time with, but to all of their families outside of the fence also. When there is a tragedy, a need for a helping hand, a cause to be fought, an accomplishment to be celebrated, or a need for a shoulder to cry on, we are there for each other. I have personally witnessed this dedication to our corrections family over the past three weeks as individuals have rallied around us locally, within our own state, and nationally.



“Sergeant Mark Baserman was the epitome of a successful corrections officer. In preparation for this opportunity to represent the SCI-Somerset family today, I asked for those who worked beside Mark to provide me with input regarding what message should be conveyed. When I would do rounds, Mark always made a point to greet me. He was always professional and courteous. He was the type of staff member who could be trusted to complete any assigned task without question and took pride in his work. Sergeant Baserman took his job as a Corrections professional seriously, enforcing the rules, while remaining fair, consistent, and respectful. He was described as genuinely caring for people and was a sincerely kind person. He was gentle and easy to talk to. Mark would go out of his way to make a new employee feel welcome by befriending them upon their arrival. He would share stories of his time in the military, as an EMS worker, and of his dogs. Mark would faithfully check in with all of the staff on his unit upon him assuming his post, to include the non-uniformed staff. He would go above and beyond his responsibilities as a Corrections

Sergeant Mark Baserman

Officer by supporting his Corrections family. He expressed his concern for their professional and personal well-being – reaching out to them and offering an ear to listen or a helping hand. In addition to his dedication to his chosen profession, he took care of his family at home – providing for them in many ways.

“Mark was a true hero in many aspects and will be dearly missed by not only his family at home, but also by his corrections family. There is no ceremony or words that can ease the pain we all feel today. However, we must continue to honor Sergeant Mark Baserman – his courage, strength and kindness he exuded each day. Mark embraced his profession as a Corrections Officer. His ultimate sacrifice was for a far greater purpose than himself. We must honor Mark by continuing our mission in maintaining our dedication to the profession and conducting ourselves in a respectful manner - caring for and supporting one another – just as he did. Be mindful of our families and friends and appreciate all of their support, expressing our gratitude to them for all that they do. I ask that each of us do this to honor Mark who will always be with us in our hearts.

“Rest easy, Sarge, we have the watch from here.....”

Secretary John Wetzel’s Speech

“America has a sacred covenant with its guardians. Around this room, you are guardians of America.

“Three weeks ago, that sacred covenant was broken without cause, without purpose. An inexcusable act.

“Our families loan us to the Commonwealth and to the country to protect them. That covenant is a two-way street.

“So, to Sgt. Baserman’s family, thank you for loaning your hero, our hero, to us.

“This job is thankless, but thank you, thank him.

“To the first responders, Officers McDowell, staff at Somerset, the EMS folks, the folks at the hospital, thank you for your heroic acts.

“Winston Churchill, in the midst of war, said that sometimes our best isn’t good enough and sometimes we must do what is required. You all did that was required. We’re all saddened and shaken to our core that this tragedy occurred.

“That this hero died for no reason.

“And when I say no reason I say that because it’s causeless, but what he stood for is a life of service to this country, service to his community and service to this Commonwealth. Every citizen in this Commonwealth



benefited from this man’s heroic service.

“We grieve deeply. Deeply.

“When someone gets put behind that wall we forget about them. The citizens forget about them.

“But every day our staff walks the toughest beat and does it in an honorable fashion.

“This honorable man shall forever be remembered.

“You know, one of the things about Corrections that people don’t understand is that we’re forced and asked to deal with the worst that humanity has to offer. The worst side of humanity and in response to that, we show America our best. The best that America has to offer.

“So, I would ask all of you and all of us to determine that we can’t allow this to end here. We’re a family, and sometimes families fight, sometimes families are angry at each other. But at the end of the day we are a family. And when the chips are down we pull together.

“We can’t leave here today without a firm commitment, first of all to Sgt. Baserman’s family, that whatever it takes this is not an event that ends today. Our support, our commitment to them just begins today. And it continues throughout – whatever that means, by any means necessary. But our commitment to ourselves to take care of each other – we’re always outnumbered. We’re often forgotten, but what we do counts. And I would ask you to join me in the commitment to ensure that Sgt. Baserman’s memory remains eternal.

“As Larry Blackwell said, ‘Rest well. Rest well.’

“God Bless. Thank you.”

Pennsylvania State Police Sgt. Daniel Mosura and the “Touch of Brass” ensemble performed “On Eagles Wings,” as selected by Sgt. Baserman’s family.

More photos on back cover



CPO Foundation

P. O. Box 348390, Sacramento, CA 95834-8390

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Sergeant Mark Baserman

