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# CPO FAMILY

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WINTER 2020

A Publication of The CPO Foundation

Vol. 30, No. 2

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## PROJECT 2000 XXXI Bloomington, Minnesota, September 3-6, 2020

*By Jim Freeman, CPOF Florida Representative:*

The Correctional Peace Officers (CPO) Foundation is a national, non-profit charitable organization created in 1984. Its primary function is to preserve and support the surviving families of Corrections Officers and Staff who lose their lives in the line of duty.

In 1990, The CPO Foundation began hosting an annual four-day gathering for Correctional Officers and families called **PROJECT 2000**. The focal event of that **Project**, and of every **Project** gathering since, is a National Memorial Ceremony to recognize those men and women in the Corrections profession who lost their lives in the line of duty in the preceding year. Surviving family members are invited as honored guests



of the CPO Foundation, and Honor Guards from Correctional facilities or departments across the nation participate in the Memorial Ceremony. Seminars and support group sessions are also offered at **Project 2000**, as well as four hosted meal functions. The last of these is the Sunday Farewell Breakfast.

This year **PROJECT 2000 XXXI** (our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual event) was held September 3-6 in Bloomington, Minnesota to honor Correctional staff that gave the ultimate sacrifice; those that are survivors of serious assault; and those who have taken courageous action above and beyond the call of duty.

Five Fallen Officers were honored, one of whom was Senior Officer Specialist Andrew Douglas from FCI - Tallahassee, Florida. His family and loved ones were in attendance.

A number of Officers from around the country were recognized as survivors of serious assaults. Florida Department of Corrections Officer James Newman (*see photo at left*), a Supporting Member

*Left to right: Tommy Ewell, CPOF National Honor Guard;  
Sgt. Zachery Bandl, Sumter CI Honor Guard;  
Sgt. Denise Bedgood, Sumter CI Honor Guard;  
Mrs. James Newman (Lisa);  
Officer James Newman, Mayo CI, Florida DOC;  
Jim Freeman, CPOF Florida Field Rep;  
Sgt. Diana Harris-Stevens, Sumter CI Honor Guard;  
and Sgt. Jeff Eaton, Sumter CI Honor Guard.*

*Continued on pg. 4*

# CPO FAMILY

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*To request catastrophic assistance for a Correctional Officer or Staff at your prison, jail or office, email: [char@cpof.org](mailto:char@cpof.org). Please provide your full name, institution, rank and cell phone number (or other phone number where you can be reached). Thank you for assisting us in "Taking Care of our Own."*

*Note: Many Representatives bring the CPO Foundation to one or more other States in addition to their home State.*

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt charity registered with the Internal Revenue Service under IRC 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), ID number 68-0023302.

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Evelyn Schultz	Wisconsin
Richard Catron	Wyoming



**CPOF National Honor Guard Bugler Gil Arizmendi III and the NHG's newest member Shauntia Brown**

The CPO FAMILY is the official publication of The Correctional Peace Officers (CPO) Foundation. \$5.00 of each Supporting Member's annual donation is allocated for the CPO FAMILY subscription. Any item submitted for publication must contain the true name, address and telephone number or email address of the author. *The Editor reserves the right to edit for space considerations or for other reasons as deemed appropriate by the Editor.* © 2020 Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Inc.

# CPO FAMILY

Winter 2020

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**Back Cover:  
The Bloomington, Minnesota  
Fire Department Honor Guard**

# PROJECT 2000 XXXI

September 3-6, 2020 - Bloomington, Minnesota



## The Honor Guards of Project XXXI

*Continued from front page*

at Mayo CI, was one of the Officers recognized. On June 26, 2019 while working in food service, Officer Newman was assaulted by two inmates. He suffered several cuts to his head, face and back. He was also stabbed in the head with a handmade ice pick. Officer Newman was transported to an outside facility for medical treatment and after a recovery period returned to work. The CPO Foundation invited Officer Newman to attend **Project 2000 XXXI** to be recognized as an Assault Survivor.

While at **Project**, Officer Newman had the opportunity to interact with Corrections professionals from across the country and attended a seminar with others that were seriously assaulted. I spoke with Officer Newman about his experience at **Project** and this is what he had to say: *"I really didn't know what to expect. I looked at the material that they (CPOF) sent in the mail but didn't fully grasp what CPOF was all about. My eyes were really opened*

*to what a great organization this is. Everyone treated Lisa and me as if we were family. I was honored to be able to attend and have such a wonderful experience. And Lisa asked me before we even got home if I was interested in attending next year in Ohio."*

A final note: Since the late 90's the Sumter CI (SCI) Honor Guard has been a regular attendee at **Project** and participated in the Memorial Ceremony. This year several members of the SCI Honor Guard attended on their own, taking leave and paying their way. While they were unable to participate this time in the actual Memorial Ceremony they volunteered their time instead by working at the airport greeting attendees upon arrival and handling their luggage. See our **Cover Story** picture with four members of the SCI Honor Guard proudly flanking Officer Newman and Lisa at the Saturday Recognition Luncheon when Officer Newman received his award.

*-- Jim Freeman*

# PROJECT 2000 XXXI

September 3-6, 2020 - Bloomington, Minnesota



Photos: Top, Flags of the home states of the Correctional Professionals honored at Project XXXI; above, the Memorial Wreath and tabletop arrangement of roses; right, CPOF Board of Directors members Ron Barnes, Glenn Mueller and Don Dease.

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

**Thursday --**

- *The Annual Welcome Dinner*

**Friday --**

- *The Annual Memorial Ceremony*
- *The Annual Memorial Luncheon (follows immediately after the Memorial Ceremony)*
- *Seminar: "Staff Suicide Awareness"*
- *Seminar: "Contraband in Prisons"*
- *Assault Survivors Pre-Meeting*

**Saturday --**

- *Seminar: "Gangs in Prisons"*
- *Seminar: Repeat of "Staff Suicide Awareness"*
- *Special Session: "Time for You" (informal session for our current and past Fallen Family members)*
- *The Annual Recognition Luncheon*
- *Assault Survivors Meeting*
- *Seminar: Repeat of "Gangs in Prisons"*
- *Seminar: Repeat of "Contraband in Prisons"*

**Sunday --**

- *The Annual Farewell Buffet Breakfast*



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**Remarks at CPOF Memorial Ceremony**  
**by Gary Mohr, 106th President,**  
**American Correctional Association**  
**September 4, 2020**

**Good morning**, I am Gary Mohr, and proud to be the 106th President of the American Correctional Association for many reasons, but I am especially happy to hold this office today because it brought me here to be with you. It is an honor to stand here with the people of great courage, the families, colleagues of those who gave their all, and members of our proud profession. I cannot imagine the strength your families summoned to be here as we honor your loved ones. I want to let you know this is a day I will never forget.

**Despite the wide range** of ages represented in this gathering, I am guessing that most of us have heard the names of Tom Brokaw, former NBC news anchor and now political commentator, or Tom Hanks, a great actor for the last few decades. These two have called those who lived through World War II our greatest generation. They were not just talking about those courageous soldiers who lived and died in circumstances we cannot even imagine. They included the women and men, seniors and youth that made sacrifices and changed their lives in support of protecting our freedom. Those sacrifices extended far beyond the inconvenience of wearing masks.

**I certainly do not** dispute their claim that this group of Americans is our greatest generation. In fact, that public depiction of this generation of Americans inspired me to write an article that appeared in the January/February 2020 edition of *Corrections Today*, the official journal of the American Correctional Association. The title of that article was, "Corrections Professionals: Today's Greatest Public Servants." I wrote it then, and I believe it today!

**Just like** Brokaw and Hanks, I not only

recognize our heroic correctional professionals, but also those loved ones that make deep sacrifices and provide much needed support and understanding to the ones they love, those who have committed their lives to our profession. For you family members who lost a dad or mom, a son or daughter, a brother or sister or a loved one, the courage it took to be with us today, to help the rest of us understand the true meaning of today, is nothing short of heroic.

**So how can I** say that our correctional professionals are today's greatest public servants when we are reading about so many other types of people doing great things? There are some that in fact would argue with my assertion.

**I am so pleased** that healthcare professionals, teachers, mail carriers, grocery store employees, truck drivers and delivery drivers and many others have been recognized for their service that threatens their well-being during this pandemic. These people seldom receive the recognition they deserve.

**But let's look** at our correctional professionals in our jails, prisons and supervising offenders in our communities.

- **Our correctional staff** respond to more incidents that have the potential for loss of life than any other First Responder. Let me repeat that: staff working in our jails, prisons and supervising offenders in the communities respond to more life-threatening situations than any other First Responder. And as we are here today to recognize, sometimes those incidents take their lives.

- **Given vacancies** in our work force, our staff often go to work not knowing if they are going to be relieved to allow them to go home and be with those they love.

- **Our staff** are under paid and under

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appreciated. In fact, when lists of First Responders are used in recognition or to offer special deals and discounts, our corrections staff are more often than not left off the list. This is despite the volume of incidents they are called on to resolve.

- **In today's world**, our corrections heroes are asked, and they accept the responsibility of supervising people in jails, prisons and in unsecured settings in our community who do not want to be supervised. Further, our staff are in settings where social distancing cannot be achieved and where it often becomes necessary to be in physical contact with offenders to resolve situations.

**For those reasons**, and so many more, I stand by our professionals being "Today's Greatest Public Servants." I ask each of you to remind the public about the difficult, yet great, work performed by our staff and the hardships our jobs place on families. And when you see our corrections professionals being ignored in discussions and offers made to First Responders, remind them that **THE** First Responders are our correctional staff.

**Today we** recognize individuals and heroes who Ended Their Watch. They served our profession as correctional officers, detention officers, correctional administrators, sergeants, correctional specialists, probation officers and storekeepers. When I arrived yesterday, the first

email I read was about a corporal in Wayne County, Michigan who lost his life after an assault by an inmate just two days ago. These lives lost and the grieving families left behind, remind us of the ongoing need for the caring work of The Corrections Peace Officers Foundation.

**The individuals** and their families being recognized here today deserve the respect and gratitude of our nation. It is our job to ensure that happens.

**Those continuing** to serve our profession have earned the respect to be called professionals not guards or other slang we see in the media at times and to be referred to as First Responders. In fact, as I was boarding my flight to come here, I was reminded of the updated number of corrections staff who have died of COVID-19, a number maintained by the American Correctional Association and found on our website. That number is 131 correctional heroes.

**In closing**, as President of the American Correctional Association and on behalf of our Association, I salute those who have lost their lives to those they were sworn to supervise. I salute the courageous families here today and those who could not be with us for all your sacrifices. And I salute our current correctional professionals, "Today's Greatest Public Servants". May our God bless us and be with us all.



**Members of The Correctional Peace Officers  
Foundation National Honor Guard  
at Project 2000 XXXI**

**The Corrections Professionals of**  
**PROJECT 2000 XXXI**  
*Honored on Friday, September 4, 2020*

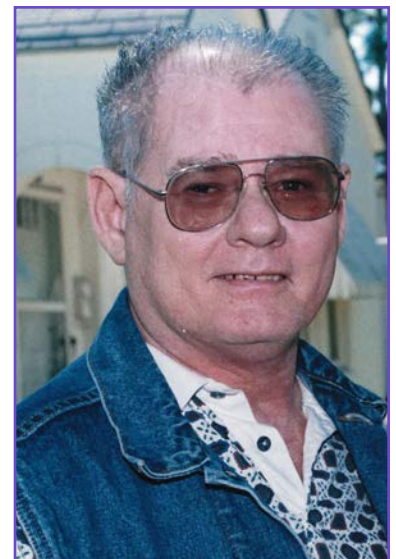


**Adult Probation Officer Russell Salazar**  
**Kendall County Community Supervision &**  
**Corrections Department**  
**Texas**  
**EOW: January 31, 2019**

On January 31, 2019, Probation Officer Russell Salazar completed a field visit at a probationer's home and was on his way to his next field visit when he was in a single vehicle accident. While entering the on-ramp of the highway, Officer Salazar's car hydroplaned; Officer Salazar lost control and the car rolled over approximately five times, crashing through a fence and ejecting Officer Salazar from the car. Officer Salazar was taken to the hospital where he passed away.

Adult Probation Officer Russell Salazar had served the Kendall County Community Supervision and Corrections for five years. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; mother, Tina; and stepson, Garrett.

**Correctional Officer II Ronald Cooper**  
**Wynne Unit**  
**Texas Department of Criminal Justice**  
**EOW: May 11, 2019**



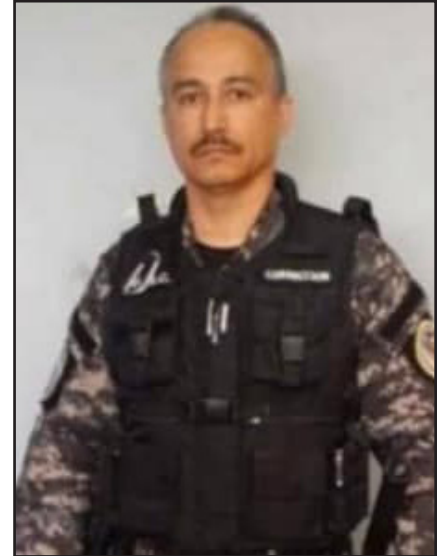
Correctional Officer Ronald Cooper was severely assaulted by an inmate on September 4, 1996. The inmate kicked him repeatedly in the head with boots on. Officer Cooper suffered severe head trauma and underwent a frontal lobotomy. Officer Cooper never fully recovered. On May 11, 2019, Officer Cooper passed away from complications associated with his injuries.

Correctional Officer Ronald Cooper served the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for nine years before his life-altering assault. He is survived by his wife, Nancy (who also worked for the TDCJ), and stepson, Christopher.



**The Corrections Professionals of**  
**PROJECT 2000 XXXI**  
*Honored on Friday, September 4, 2020*

**Correctional Officer Pedro J. Rodriguez-Mateo**  
**Ponce Maximum Security Facility**  
**Puerto Rico Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation**  
**EOW: August 1, 2019**



While supervising inmates during visitation on July 31 Correctional Officer Pedro Rodriguez observed a visitor pass contraband to an inmate. Officer Rodriguez removed the inmate to be searched. During the search, the inmate attacked Officer Rodriguez, and was able to disarm him of his baton. The inmate then struck Officer Rodriguez several times in the head, causing a skull fracture. Officer Rodriguez was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries the following day.

Correctional Officer Pedro Rodriguez had served the Puerto Rico Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for 26 years. He is survived by his wife, Gloris; and daughters, Tiffany and Heidi.



**Correctional Administrator Debra Johnson**  
**West Tennessee Region**  
**Tennessee Prison for Women**  
**EOW: August 7, 2019**

Correctional Administrator Debra Johnson was found assaulted and murdered in her residence on the grounds of the West Tennessee State Penitentiary. After an immediate inmate count, it was determined that an inmate had escaped. The inmate, who was serving a sentence for aggravated kidnapping and rape, remained at large for five days before being taken into custody. He was charged with first-degree murder, burglary and escape.

Administrator Johnson had served the Tennessee Department of Corrections for 38 years. She started her career as a Correctional Officer. She is survived by her three adult children: daughter, Shernaye, and sons, Stanley and Mychal; her mother, Annie and seven grandchildren.

*On August 2, 2020, the Tennessee Department of Corrections issued a press release announcing that Tennessee Governor Bill Lee signed an Executive Order renaming the Tennessee Prison for Women in Administrator Johnson's honor. The facility is now known as the Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center. See page 12 for the full story!*

**The Corrections Professionals of**  
**PROJECT 2000 XXXI**  
*Honored on Friday, September 4, 2020*



**Detention Officer Gene "Jim" Lee**  
**Lower Buckeye Jail**  
**Maricopa County Sheriff's Office**  
**Arizona**  
**EOW: October 30, 2019**

Detention Officer Gene Lee was supervising inmates on October 29, 2019 when one of the inmates attacked Officer Lee. The inmate grabbed Officer Lee by the throat and before Officer Lee could react the inmate struck Officer Lee, sweeping his legs out from under him, causing him to fall and hit his head on the concrete floor knocking him unconscious. Staff responded and took control of the inmate while attending to Officer Lee. Officer Lee was taken to the hospital but slipped into a coma. On October 30, with his family by his side, Officer Lee passed away.

Detention Officer Gene Lee had served the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for six years. He is survived by his wife, Linda; 19-year-old daughter, Robin; and stepson, Justin.

**Senior Officer Specialist Andrew Douglas**  
**Federal Correctional Institution - Tallahassee**  
**Federal Bureau of Prisons**  
**Florida**  
**EOW: November 6, 2019**

On November 6, 2019, Officer Andrew Douglas, along with Officer Calvin Aikens and Lieutenant Frances Barber, were transporting inmates from FCI Tallahassee to USP Atlanta. Officer Douglas was the driver of the transportation bus. After dropping off 28 inmates and en route to the Armory, Officer Douglas collapsed at the steering wheel. This caused the bus to crash into the guard rail. Lieutenant Barber radioed for assistance and began CPR. Officer Douglas was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Senior Officer Specialist Andrew Douglas had served the Federal Bureau of Prisons for 25 years. He is survived by his two sons, Jamal and Rashad; his sister, Kimberly; brother-in-law, Kevin; and nephew, Douglas.



**The Corrections Professionals of**  
**PROJECT 2000 XXXI**  
*Honored on Friday, September 4, 2020*

**Sergeant Joshua Voth**  
**Fremont Correctional Facility**  
**Colorado Department of Corrections**  
**EOW: December 4, 2019**



On December 4, 2019, while Sergeant Joshua Voth was working in the building that stored the institution's boiler, the boiler suffered a catastrophic failure and exploded, blowing the boiler room door off. Sergeant Voth was standing near the area and the door struck him, causing fatal injuries.

Sergeant Joshua Voth had served the Colorado Department of Corrections for three years. He is survived by his wife, Tomi Jo; and three young children: daughters five-year-old Samantha and two-year-old Addison; and one-year-old son, Jace.

*From the Past*



**Civilian Prison Worker – Storekeeper Tammy Sperle**  
**Huron Valley Men's Facility**  
**Michigan Department of Corrections**  
**EOW: February 5, 1996**

On the morning of February 5th, Civilian Prison Worker Tammy Sperle, who operated the prison's store, met with her inmate work crew at 10 am. A prison employee who worked in the warehouse went to the store around 1:30 pm to deliver supplies. He discovered Tammy's body on the floor and radioed for assistance. She had been strangled and beaten to death. Responding staff tried to revive Tammy but were unsuccessful. After a two-year-long investigation, it was found that Tammy was murdered by an inmate who was in prison for attempted murder. He was a former inmate employee at the store and was apparently angry over losing his job when Tammy took over as storekeeper. The prisoner was found guilty of her murder and was given a life sentence.

Civilian Prison Worker Tammy Sperle had served the Michigan Department of Corrections for 10 years, the last three working at the Huron Valley Men's Facility. She is survived by her husband, Allan; and two sons, Shad and Jason.

## TENNESSEE PRISON renamed in honor of Debra Johnson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

The Tennessee Prison for Women will now be known as the Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center, the state Department of Corrections announced Thursday.

Governor Bill Lee signed an executive order renaming the facility in honor of the TDOC Correctional Administrator who was killed in the line of duty one year ago.

Johnson was found dead in her home on Highway 87 West in Henning on the grounds of the West Tennessee State Penitentiary on Aug. 7, 2019.

Escaped inmate Curtis Watson is charged with the crime. A release from the Tennessee Department of Corrections shared details of Johnson's career.

Debra Johnson led a distinguished career over her 38-years of service to the Department of Correction and TPFW. She joined the facility as a correctional officer in 1981.

"Debra loved being a part of the Tennessee Prison for Women but more importantly she loved the staff and cared deeply about improving the lives of incarcerated women," Commissioner Tony Parker said. "Governor Lee's executive order is a fitting tribute to a brave and dedicated public servant."

Ms. Johnson rose through the ranks to Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Unit Manager between 1986-2005. She was promoted to Deputy Warden of the Tennessee Prison for Women in 2005 and in 2009 she was named Deputy Warden of the Lois DeBerry Special Needs Facility. In 2011, Ms. Johnson was promoted to Warden of the Tennessee Prison for Women and in 2013 she was named Warden of the Turney Center Industrial Complex. In 2016, she was promoted to Correctional Administrator and oversaw all facilities in West Tennessee.

"CA Johnson believed in second chances and maintained a focus on the rehabilitation of inmates," Commissioner Parker said. "She worked hard to prepare inmates to return home by encouraging them to participate in educational, vocational and treatment programs that would help them succeed in their communities."

*Friday, August 7 marked the one-year anniversary of Correctional Administrator Johnson's death. The department paused at 8:10 a.m. (CDT) for a moment of silence.*

**DEBRA K. JOHNSON REHABILITATION CENTER, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

## PROJECT 2000 XXXI in Pictures: Honored Families



*APO Russell Salazar Family: Stepson Garrett Sethan and widow Peggy Salazar, with their Escort Natalie Rocco of the California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation*



*C/O II Ronald Cooper Family: Stepson Christopher Moore and widow Nancy Moore-Cooper, with their Escort Manny Leander of the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers*



*CPOF Florida Representative Jim Freeman accepted the Plaque and Flag on behalf of the Family of C/O Pedro Rodriguez-Mateo of the Puerto Rico Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation*

*Honored Family Members are escorted to the Memorial Ceremony at the DoubleTree Bloomington-Minneapolis South. Each Family Member will receive a special Plaque honoring their lost loved one and a framed Flag of their State.*



*continued next page*

## PROJECT 2000 XXXI in Pictures: Honored Families



**Correctional Administrator Debra Johnson Family:**  
Family friend Tiffany Robinson, grandson Cason, granddaughter Brooklyn and daughter Shernaye, with their Escort Jay Larkin of the Snohomish County Sherriff Corrections Bureau



**Senior Officer Specialist Andrew Douglas Family:**  
Family Escort Lt. Frances Barber of Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Tallahassee, FL; nephew Douglas Sampson, sister Kimberly Waters, brother-in-law Kevin Waters, son Jamal Douglas, son Rashad Douglas and niece-in-law Nicole Bouie



**CPOF Washington Representative Bridgett Bolinger** accepted the Plaque and Flag on behalf of the Family of Detention Officer Gene "Jim" Lee of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, AZ



**Sergeant Joshua Voth Family:**  
Natalie Rocco of the California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, CPOF Research Analyst Kim Blakley, family Escort Joseph Menezes of the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers, mother-in-law Rhonda Thompson, father-in-law Matt Thompson, widow Tomi Jo Voth, sister-in-law Morgan Thompson, CPOF Board Member Don Dease and family Escort Joseph Caragan of the California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation

**CPOF Oregon Representative Tom Donaldson** accepted the Plaque and Flag on behalf of the Family of Civilian Prison Worker – Storekeeper Tammy Sperle of the Michigan Dept. of Corrections



**PROJECT 2000 XXXI:  
Presentation of Fallen Correctional Professionals'  
Commemorative Plaques for Home Facilities**

*In each photo, the individual accepting the Facility Plaque on behalf of the Facility involved is flanked by CPOF Board of Directors Chairman Glenn Mueller (left) and CPOF Board Member Ron Barnes (right). The two gentlemen at far right in each photo are Mr. Shane Fausy, AFGE-CPL\* 33 President and Mr. Lee Dotson, Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Corrections. Both were speakers at Project XXXI.*



*Adult P/O  
Russell Salazar:  
CPOF Texas Rep-  
resentative Eileen  
Kennedy accepted  
on behalf of  
Kendall County  
Community  
Supervision &  
Corrections,  
Texas*

*C/O II Ronald  
Cooper:  
CPOF Texas  
Representative  
Kelli Forrester  
accepted on  
behalf of the  
Wynne Unit,  
Texas  
Department of  
Criminal Justice*



*C/O Pedro J.  
Rodriguez-Mateo:  
CPOF Florida  
Representative  
Jim Freeman  
accepted  
on behalf of the  
Puerto Rico  
Department of  
Corrections and  
Rehabilitation*



*Correctional  
Administrator  
Debra Johnson:  
Lee Dotson,  
Assistant  
Commissioner  
of the Tennessee  
DOC, accepted  
on behalf of the  
newly-renamed  
Debra K. Johnson  
Rehabilitation  
Center, Tennessee*



*Detention Officer  
Gene "Jim" Lee:  
CPOF Washington  
Representative  
Bridgett Bolinger  
accepted on behalf  
of the Maricopa  
County  
Sheriff's Office,  
Arizona*

*Sr. Officer  
Specialist Andrew  
Douglas:  
Kristan Morgan,  
Local Union 1570  
President,  
accepted on  
behalf of FCI  
Tallahassee,  
Florida*



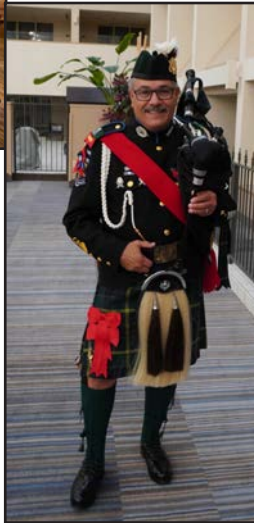
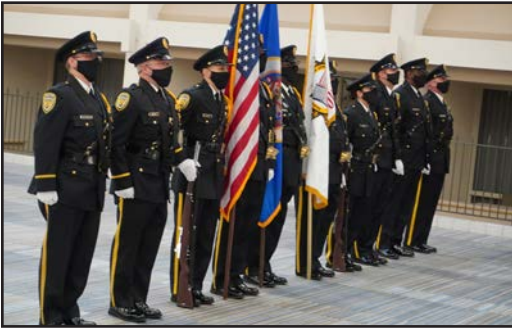
*Sergeant Joshua  
Voth:  
CPOF Colorado  
Representative  
Guy Edmonds  
accepted  
on behalf of the  
Fremont  
Correctional  
Facility, Colorado*



*Civilian Prison  
Worker  
Storekeeper  
Tammy Sperle:  
Gary Mohr  
accepted on  
behalf of the  
Michigan  
Department of  
Corrections*

\*CPL=Council of Prison Locals

## PROJECT 2000 XXXI in Pictures: Honor Guards



### *The "Missing Officer" Table*



*The Missing Officer Table* was brought to the CPO Foundation by Captain Steve Dizmon, Retired from the California Department of Corrections and for many years the Commander of the CPO Foundation National Honor Guard. In his words:

"I would like to explain the meaning of the items on this special table:

**The table is round** - to show our everlasting concern for our missing loved ones.

*continued next page*



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## PROJECT 2000 XXXI in Pictures: Survivors of Assaults & Recognition of Bravery Above and Beyond the Call of Duty



*Assault Survivor  
Corrections Officer Gunther Frehn  
Houtzdale Correctional Institution, PA*



*Assault Survivor  
Correctional Officer I Ryan Cruz  
Colorado State Penitentiary, CO*



*Assault Survivors  
Sergeant Patrick Raygor and Corrections  
Officer Lewis Comer, Greene State  
Correctional Institution, PA*



*Bravery Above and Beyond the Call of Duty:  
Critical Incident Administrator Jeffery Billups II  
NCDPS Division of Adult Correction  
and Juvenile Justice, NC*

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### *The “Missing Officer” Table*

*The tablecloth is white* - symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

*The sword* - symbolizes honor.

*The single red rose* - displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing loved ones and friends of these Correctional Staff who keep the faith.

*The vase* - is tied with a yellow ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to remember and to “Take Care of Our Own.”

*A slice of lemon* - reminds us of the bitter fate of those killed and/or crippled while protecting society.

*A pinch of salt* - symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.

*The Bible* - represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those of us that continue on.

*The glass, inverted* - symbolizes their inability to share this day’s toast.

*The chair is empty* - they are missing.”

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## DONATIONS MADE AT PROJECT 2000 XXXI

**AS ALWAYS**, we extend our thanks to All of these wonderful people, facilities, groups, organizations and entities for their generous donations made at Project 2000 XXXI!

AFGE Local 817, FMC Lexington, KY

Kelsey Brandt, Karley Burbridge and Kaleb Burbridge

*in memory of their father, Deputy Mark Burbridge, EOW May 1, 2017*

Council of Prison Locals 33, AR

Ms. Jessica Duran, Lucedale, MS

*in memory of her mother, Sergeant Iris Smith, EOW May 25, 2015*

Mr. Jordan Duran, Lucedale, MS

Memphis City Employees Credit Union, TN

John and Carey Mendiboure, CA

State of Nebraska Honor Guard

Pennsylvania State Correctional Officers Assn (PSCOA)

Santiam Correctional Institution, OR

Shelby County Sheriff's Office, TN

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A few "fun photos" from Project 2000 XXXI:



*Left: CPOF Arkansas Representative Annie Norman "fluffing" our Leo and Lucy Lions' manes.*



*Right: CPOF Colorado Representative Guy Edmonds with Addison Voth in the Kids' Room. Addison is one of Fallen Officer Joshua Voth's three children.*



*Left: Christin Parr, Kids' Room Volunteer, with Samantha and Addison Voth; and Clarke Reed, granddaughter of Fallen Correctional Administrator Debra Johnson.*



*Right: Jace Voth getting a lift UP!*

## “Smokin Bros Rubs & Seasonings” Donates to the CPO Foundation



Hi! This is Joe Witter. That’s me at left, giving a “thumb’s up” behind my **Smokin Bros Rubs & Seasonings** vendor table at the CPO

Foundations **Project 2000 XXXI** gathering in Bloomington, Minnesota.

I was asked to tell about how Smokin Bros Rubs & Seasonings came to be and how my brother, Brandon, and I became company donors to the CPOF.

First of all, Brandon and I both worked as Correctional Officers at the Minnesota Correctional Facility - Oak Park Heights. I began in May of 2007 and Brandon started in July of 2008. In October of 2017 I promoted to Sergeant and Brandon promoted to Sergeant in July of 2020.

Around 2010 we started to compete in BBQ competitions. We fared pretty well and won some awards. We learned a lot from our father and fine-tuned what we learned. We started to make our first seasoning that would later become known as “The Warden,” a Kansas City- style rub used mainly for pork. In early 2015 we decided to try our hand at catering BBQ. We were making so much food and seasoning was so expensive that we came up with our own seasonings to make in bulk. The catering side job was going great; however, one short year later our Dad suddenly passed away. We kept the catering business

going and kept competing in BBQ competitions but it was never quite the same without him.

Fast forward to January of 2020. I said to Brandon, “What do you think of bottling our seasonings, getting labels made and trying to sell our product via Facebook and possibly getting it into a few stores?” So it began. I contacted an



**Brandon and Joe**

artist in Canada known for making cartoon BBQ characters to design our bottle labels and I arranged with the owner of an award-winning company specializing in a wide variety of BBQ and

seasoning sauces to be our co-packer and to mass-produce our recipes.

After the recent events of 2018 with Joe Gomm from MCF-STW and Joe Parise from MCF-OPH both dying in the line of duty that year, and with learning more and more about the CPO Foundation, we **decided we would take a portion of the proceeds from every bottle we sold and donate the funds to the CPOF at the end of the year.** We came up with the names of our seasonings: The Bubba, The Jailbird, The Officer and The Warden (see above), believing these names would work perfectly and represent Corrections well.

So here we are, present day, and, as I said at the start of this write-up, I just attended my first CPOF **Project** in Bloomington, MN. The people I met and the support we got was amazing, and the stories I listened to from survivors were very humbling. I knew for sure right then that this is the reason we donate: to assist all the people in or connected to the Corrections profession in their times of need.

*I had the great pleasure of meeting Glenn Mueller, Board Chairman of the CPO Foundation and the Warden of Folsom State Prison from 1996-2000. He also served in the Marine Corps. It was great getting to know Glenn and to listen to his many stories. Of course he walked away with a bottle of “The Warden” from Smokin’ Bros Rubs & Seasonings It was “on the house” for all of Glenn’s past service and the continued service he gives to the CPO Foundation.*



# California



I would like to thank the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) for all the assistance you have given us. Aside from the financial help I would like to thank *all* for the support my CDCR family has shown us. In these very trying times when you feel lost and helpless, I have had many correctional employees approach me and express their condolences, also letting me know that my family would be in their prayers. I will forever be indebted to you all for your support and kindness.

This is a picture of my family on my daughter Jennifer's wedding

day. From left to right: Juan (son-in-law) Jessica (daughter that passed away), Hayley (granddaughter), Jennifer (daughter), Yolanda (wife), Michelle (daughter), Jeanette (daughter), Kimberly (daughter), Jasmine (daughter) and me.

Sincerely, Jesse Martin

*Sergeant Jesse Martin is a Supporting Member at CSATF. His adult daughter, Jessica, passed away on March 18, 2020. Sgt. Martin paid for all the funeral expenses.*

## Dear Christina Labio & CPO Foundation,

My family and I would like to thank you and the CPO Foundation for the assistance check. We are very grateful and appreciative of your organization for your help during my time of need.

Sincerely,

Alvaro Guerrero, Lemoore, CA  
*C/O Alvaro Guerrero is a Supporting Member at Avenal State Prison. His wife, Mona Lisa, sustained severe multiple injuries in a one-person auto accident caused by her car crashing and falling into a ditch. She suffered a broken back, broken ribs, a punctured lung, her right leg broken in three places and her left leg fractured. Referred by John Mendiboure (an active CPOF Supporting Member and Volunteer), C/O Guerrero received an assistance check to put toward the many incidental medical expenses incurred.*



C/O Mozart Lozano, a Supporting Member at Sierra CC, passed away on July 4, 2020 from cardiogenic shock. His

widow, Elsa, received a bereavement assistance check. Elsa is pictured here with sons Sergio and Benjamin.

## CPO Foundation,

Thank you for your kindness and generosity following Ron's passing. He was blessed to have such an organization to support him.

Again - Thank you

Carol Sherrill

*C/O Ronald Sherrill, a Supporting Member at Kern Valley State Prison, passed away from several medical issues, including organ failure and septic shock. He suffered a fatal heart attack on August 20, 2020.*

# California

Ms. Char,

Good morning. During the last National Honor Guard training at the Foundation headquarters, you asked me to tell you which fires I have been fighting this year thus far. I have been on three incidents:

Apple Fire in San Bernadino County, CA

Fire in Contra Costa County, CA

LNU Lightning Complex Fire in Solano, Napa and Sonoma Counties.

The LNU is the second largest fire in California's history.

I have just come back after 18 days of battling the LNU fire. There were a close calls that almost "got" me -- falling trees -- and I almost got stamped by Texas Longhorn bulls.

Hope all goes well with **Project**. I am so sorry for not making it this year.

Sincerely,

Duke Juanitas

*Fire Captain/C/O Duke Juanitas is a Supporting Member at Folsom State Prison. He is also a member of the CPOF National Honor Guard. He sent us these photos from one of his firefights.*



# NEW YORK

C/O Heather Manwarren, CPOF contact for Mohawk CF, presented a check to C/O Erica Nusbaum who was on her way to a full recovery after major surgery. At right: C/O Manwarren and C/O Erica Nusbaum.



C/O John Lalone of Watertown CF was diagnosed with kidney cancer and had surgery to remove the diseased organ in June of 2020. At left: C/O Lalone (center) with his family, receiving his CPOF assistance check. At far left is Sergeant Scott Waldon, CPOF contact at Watertown CF.

C/O Zach Sullivan works at Clinton CF. His wife, Tonya, was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent treatment at Canton Potsda Hospital. He is pictured at right with the assistance check requested for him by CPOF New York Representative Jay West.



**To Christine Labio, William Fennessy, Nick Petronella\* and Jay West,**

Just wanted to thank you all for the very generous monetary gift I received after the passing of my husband, Robert. Your kindness at a time like this is most appreciated. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

Cara and Kyleigh Hoyle

*C/O Robert Hoyle, a Supporting Member at Midstate CF, passed away from Stage IV non-small cell lung cancer. He had been having serious problems with his lungs for well over four years.*

\* Nick Petronella is the CPOF contact at Midstate CF.



C/O Neal Gruber, CPOF contact at Lakeview Shock, presented a check to C/O Mike Privitera whose son, Salvatore (three), front and center in this photo, sustained severe burns in a campfire accident. Also pictured: Wife, Elizabeth, holding Luca (one);

and Leena (12). Jay West says: "Much luck to the 'Little Warrior' on a complete recovery."

# NEW YORK



C/O Jeremy Tucker of Clinton CF was hospitalized in January of 2020 due to a pulmonary embolism and blood clots in his lungs. C/O Tucker is pictured at left holding his CPOF assistance check. Also pictured: Jay West and Jeremy's wife, Tiffany.

C/O Tyler Dvornski, CPOF contact at Ogdensburg CF, presented a check to C/O Johnathan Goodspeed who was recovering from a motorcycle accident that occurred in July of 2020. At right: C/O Goodspeed; his wife, Ashley; sons, Brody and Parker; and C/O Dvornski.



Christina,  
 Our family would like to sincerely thank you and the other CPO Foundation Board members for the generous monetary gift given to our family. This gift will assist us with medical costs we acquired throughout my cancer treatments. I am very happy to report that I am now Cancer free! The amazing amount of support and the generosity of organizations like CPO Foundation, help families cope with tragic events that unfortunately occur. Thanks again, we are beyond grateful.  
 ~ With warmest regards ~  
 Katie Thibault - as well as my husband Jeff, and our 3 sons, Ben, Trenton and Cain



Retired and ongoing Supporting Member C/O Russ Donah, who worked at Altona CF, holds a check presented to him by the CPO Foundation. In 2017 Ross had surgery for bladder cancer at the University of Vermont Medical Center. He had several other very serious health problems at the time, and he continues to have

medical issues that require him to travel to the UVMC monthly for testing and other therapies. With Russ is his wife, Carol.

NEW YORK continued next page

# NEW YORK



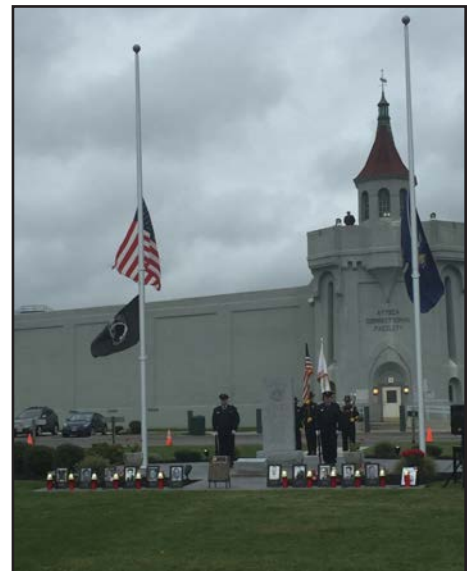
Supporting Member C/O Rich Remy, Jr. of Clinton CF holds the CPOF check presented to him when he was having ongoing problems with prostate cancer, first diagnosed in June of 2019. C/O Remy was scheduled for surgery at the University of Vermont Medical Center in mid-August 2020. He had been going to the UVMC frequently for various therapies and treatments for many months. At left: C/O Remy with his check.

Right: RPL Sam Lashway, a Supporting Member at Altona CF, holds a check from the CPO Foundation. Sam had surgery on September 10, 2020 at Crouse Memorial Hospital in Syracuse in an attempt to repair a detached retina in his right eye. He may need a second surgery to complete the process. With Sam is his wife, Darlene, who is retired from Altona CF.



C/O Shawn Robert is a Supporting Member at Franklin CF. On June 30, 2020 Shawn had surgery for cervical disc herniation and removal/replacement of a disc in his neck. He had to take several weeks of physical therapy. At left: Officer Robert; son, Brayden; wife, Tiffany (with dog, Enzo) and daughter, Brooke.

Every year on September 13 a Memorial Ceremony is held at Attica Correctional Facility\* to honor the 10 Corrections Officers who lost their lives in the brutal inmate uprising and hostage taking that began on that date in 1971. Two of our current Volunteers, Donnie Almeter and John Stockholm, are survivors of this riot. September 13, 2021 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Attica uprising.



C/O Ronnie Goss, a Supporting Member at Sing Sing CF, passed away on May 4, 2020 due to a COVID-related medical condition. Left: Ronnie and his wife, Michelle, who received a CPOF bereavement assistance check.

CPOF bereavement assistance check.

\*Attica State Prison at the time.



# Federal News

## Good afternoon,

I just wanted to say THANK YOU for all the support and generosity that the CPOF has given my son and me during this very difficult time. We greatly appreciated all the wonderful gifts and kind words you have blessed us with.

Sincerely,

Marco and Santiago Del Rio

*DTS Marco Del Rio is a Supporting Member at FCI Terminal Island. In May of 2020 his wife, Maria, passed away from a massive brain aneurysm. He received a bereavement assistance check to help with hospital and funeral expenses. At right: Maria, one-year-old Santiago and Marco.*



On June 1, 2020 C/O Michael Dessino of USP Lewisburg passed away from multiple injuries he suffered in an auto accident two days earlier. At left: Ms. Steph Hoffa, Chief Steward of Union Local 148 presents a CPOF bereavement assistance check to Michael's widow, Katrina.



Maintenance Worker Foreman Linton Thomas is a Supporting Member at FCC Oakdale. He and his family had to evacuate their home when Hurricane Laura struck. The family had to stay in a hotel for some time, incurring unexpected expenses. This emergency was made worse by the fact that Linton had undergone a total knee replacement surgery only a few weeks prior to the hurricane. The CPOF provided the family with an assistance check to help with their expenses. Above: In back, Brittany Thomas, Pamela Thomas and Linton; in front, Kharington Thomas, Knox LeMoine and Kinlee LeMoine.



C/O Marilessie Stokes, a Supporting Member at FDC Hudson, was diagnosed with breast cancer in June of 2020. She had to be off work for a lengthy time while undergoing chemotherapy treatments. C/O Stokes also has a compromised immune system. She is a single parent with two children. C/O Stokes received a CPOF assistance check to put toward her many expenses. Above: C/O Stokes's daughter Amani (21), son Amahd (13), C/O Stokes and daughter Amari (16)

**FEDERAL NEWS continued next page**

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# Federal News



Kim Blakley  
Federal Catastrophic Coordinator

**Dear Ms. Kim Blakley,**

I am writing to express my deepest thanks for the CPOF's generous contribution towards my illness and recovery process after having a heart attack and then major heart surgery. This has been a long process and I thank God for your prayers.

Again, thank you all for the support, thoughtful prayers and compassion that I have received from you all at the CPO Foundation. God Bless you!

Sincerely,

Shantel Pugh, Senior Officer Specialist, FCC Yazoo City, MS

*Senior C/O Shantel Pugh (left) is a Supporting Member at FCC Yazoo City. In March of 2020 Shantel had a heart attack at the age of 41 and underwent emergency triple bypass heart surgery. She was hospitalized for a considerable time and, once released, had to make many round trips to the hospital for follow-up care.*

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*Kim,*

*I want to thank you, Annie Norman and CPOF for the generous gift to support and assist our family during our difficult and uncertain times. Kendall was diagnosed with Leukemia on February 22nd and was in the hospital for 35 days. Shortly after, the COVID pandemic hit. All told, my wife and I were off work for two months. I went back in early May and my wife did so closer to mid-May. During the two months off work my wife did not get a paycheck. Your gift was a wonderful help to us and will be used for Kendall's mounting medical bills.*

*Thank you!! I am joining CPOF. I want to be a blessing to others as you have been a blessing to me.*

*Greg & Kendall*

*Greg Schanfish is the Chaplain at FCI Seagoville in Texas.*



Greg & Kendall



Kendall's personal thank-you card



Kendall with her toy dinosaur

## Federal Employee Families' CPOF Scholarship Recipients



FCC Forrest City in Arkansas had an outstanding number of CPOF Scholarships awarded this year. Above: Arkansas Representative Annie Norman (purple CPOF shirt, top photo) with the FCC Forrest City recipients, many with a proud family member.

Lieutenant Scott Robertson of FCI Edgefield is pictured here with his daughter, Cara, who received a CPOF scholarship. In March of 2017, wife and mother Carina Robertson lost her battle with cancer that began in 2011 with a diagnosis of breast and lung cancer.



Over time, the cancer metastasized throughout her body. Lt. Robertson received a CPOF bereavement assistance check upon Carina's death to help with funeral expenses.



scholarship check.

Alexa Hermans

Jason Hermans was President of Local 3979 at FCI Sheridan for a considerable length of time. Alexa says, "He is well loved by all of us."

Hello! I wanted to thank you for the scholarship that you have provided me! I'm very excited to continue my education at college. Here is a picture of my dad, Jason, who suffered a stroke, and me, holding my

# COLORADO

## To the CPOF and Guy Edmonds,

Thank you for helping our family while Curtis was recovering from his surgery. It means so much to us that you take care of your own.

Kim, Curtis and Family

*Supporting Member C/O I Curtis Cole of Fremont CI underwent open heart bypass surgery on April 27, 2020. He was unable to work while recovering at home for several weeks. CPOF Colorado Representative Guy Edmonds recommended assistance for C/O I Cole during his time on LWOP.*



C/O I Reginald Norman, a Supporting Member at Centennial CF, is in charge of a recreational league for other correctional employees to play flag football every fall. In November of 2019 he suffered a calf injury when his tendons separated.

C/O I Norman had to have surgery. He was unable to return to work for two months and exhausted his sick leave. Above: C/O I Norman, Guy, and C/O I Norman's two little daughters, Emilliana and Elena.

C/O I Isidro Lopez is a Supporting Member at Trinidad CI. His wife, Tiejanna, was diagnosed with a brain tumor last December and was life-flighted to Denver to undergo emergency surgery and to have a shunt placed in her head. She was hospitalized for a week. Isidro drove to Denver and remained there while Tiejanna was hospitalized, a 220-mile trip from home one way. Subsequently, he and Tiejanna made multiple trips to Denver for follow-up care.

## To the CPOF,

Thank you for your support during our difficult time. It is reassuring that we have an extended family that helps when times are tough. Our family is grateful for the help, care and support the CPOF gave us.

It was a surprise when Natalie was born eight weeks early in the middle of the COVID pandemic. She is doing great and thriving at home.

Thank you again,

Nathan Harriman

*C/O I Nathan Harriman is a Supporting Member at Delta CI. His wife, Christina, gave birth to Natalie two months prematurely in May of 2020. She was in the NICU in the hospital in Denver, 160 miles from home, for some time. Christina was making daily trips at night to be with Natalie after Nathan got home from work. The CPOF sent the Harrimans a check to help with their many out-of-pocket expenses. Above: Baby Natalie with brother Wyatt (4), sister Emily (2) and brother Liam (11)*



On July 24, 2020 they made another trip to the hospital for Tiejanna to have surgery to remove the shunt in her brain. Tiejanna spent several days in the hospital recovering. Guy Edmonds

recommended assistance for Isidro with the many medical expenses they incurred over many months. Above: Guy with Isidro holding his CPOF check.



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## COLORADO



C/O I Michael Vigil is a Supporting Member at CMC. Michael and his wife, Samantha, welcomed their baby, Adrian, born at 24 weeks on July 6, 2020. Adrian had to be in the NICU for many weeks, during which time Michael and Samantha traveled 100 miles daily to be with their son.

At left, C/O I Vigil with the CPOF check he received to help with the many expenses he incurred during this time.

Samantha was first carrying twins, but owing to complications when she was 20 weeks pregnant, one of the babies, weighing only 9.5 ounces, sadly passed away.

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Case Manager Michael Vecellio is a Supporting Member at Trinidad CI. Michael's wife, Miriam, started having medical problems in October of 2019. The initial prognosis was a nerve disorder and on

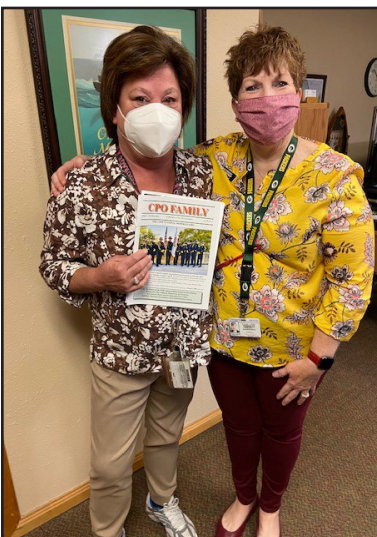
January 9, 2020 she was hospitalized for a week in Colorado Springs. Biopsies were done and sent to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota for analysis. Subsequently, Miriam underwent hemoglobin treatments at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, a 275-mile round trip from the Vecellios' home. Among other costs incurred, Michael had lodging expenses for the week during which Miriam was hospitalized. At right: Case Manager Vecellio receiving a CPOF assistance check from Guy Edmonds.



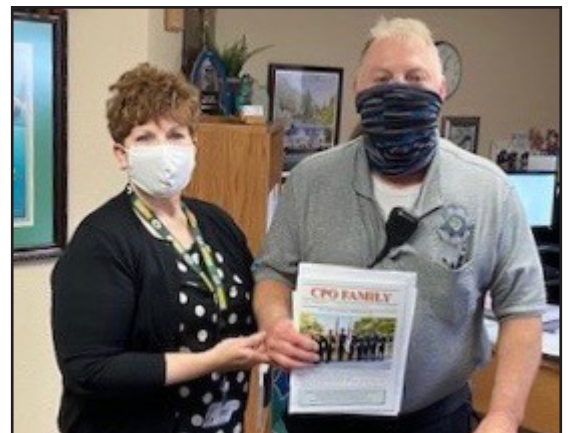
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## Oregon



Assignment Coordinator Becky Boast of Santiam CF and her husband, Brian, who works at OSP, lost their home and everything they owned in the wildfires that ravaged much of Oregon in September 2020. At left: Assignment Coordinator Boast with Superintendent Kimberly Hendricks.



Sergeant Joe Davidson, also of Santiam CF, likewise suffered extreme damage to his home and property from the September 2020 wildfires in Oregon. Above: Superintendent Kimberly Hendricks presents Sgt. Davidson with a CPOF assistance check.

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# Oklahoma



Debra Aldridge, Warden of John Lilley CC and a Supporting Member, passed away in July of 2020 from complications with cancer. Above: Debra's husband, Mark Aldridge, receiving a bereavement assistance check from Debbie Moore, CPOF Oklahoma Representative.



In late June of 2020 Sergeant Jeffery Brashear of LARC was in an ATV accident. He suffered multiple injuries including a broken leg and arm, requiring several surgeries. He was unable to walk for 12 weeks after which he had follow-up physical therapy. Above: Sgt. Brashear receiving his CPOF assistance check, flanked by Deputy Warden Denaye Prigmore and Warden Rick Witten.



On August 19, 2020 Kathi Sappington, Executive Assistant to the Director of the Oklahoma DOC and a Supporting Member, while at work received a call from the Police Department. Her house was on fire, and her husband, Don, who was home with health complications was being taken by ambulance to the hospital. Sadly, Don passed away from smoke inhalation. Above: Debbie Moore, Kathi Sappington receiving her CPOF bereavement assistance check, and Director Scott Crow.



C/O IV Michael Hollowell of NFCC passed away unexpectedly from liver cancer. His 24- year-old daughter, Hannah Ramsey, was responsible for the funeral expenses. Above: Hannah Ramsey and Warden Jimmy Martin.

# Oklahoma



**Dear Kim and Debbie,**

I received the assistance check today (September 21) -- Thank you! Here are a couple of photos of our family and of Steven early on in his healing process. He is healing great (and we are both recovering from COVID! – luckily the teenager hasn't gotten the virus from us) and he is growing his beard back.

Renee Lanier

*Project Coordinator Renee Lanier is a Supporting Member on the Oklahoma DOC's OMS Project Team. On August 7, 2020 Renee and her family were on vacation at a lake house. Her husband,*



*Steven, was doing yard work and had a burn pile going. The fire got out of hand and Steven suffered 2nd/3rd degree burns on his face and body. He was flown by air ambulance to a Tulsa burn center (which is 144 miles from the Laniers' home) and was in ICU for four days. On August 11 he was moved to a "step down" room and underwent surgery on August 13. He was hospitalized for a considerable time. Photos: (1) Steven giving a "thumb's up" from his hospital bed and (2) Renee, daughter Ruby and Steven.*



CSM I Justin Stewart of LARC had knee surgery in mid July of 2020. He was off work recovering for four months. He received a CPOF check to help pay for the many medically-related expenses he incurred during that time.

Above: Debbie Moore, Justin and Warden Rick Whitten.



## The Oklahoma Honor Guard

# TEXAS



The San Saba Unit appreciates the warm gesture the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation made to Correctional Officer IV Brenda Pavey. We would also like to thank the CPOF for always supporting and helping.

Logan Moore  
Admin Asst. II, Warden's Office  
San Saba Unit

*C/O IV Brenda Pavey's husband, Alvin, passed away on May 1, 2020 from lung cancer. C/O Pavey (center) received a CPOF bereavement assistance check to help with funeral expenses.*

## Dear CPOF,

We want to thank you for your kind words, prayers and the assistance check. It will help greatly with all the extra medical expenses.

Sincerely  
Billy Lum, Correctional Officer V  
Huntsville Unit

*C/O V Billy Lum is a Supporting Member at Huntsville Unit. Officer Lum was diagnosed with cancer early in 2020. HRS IV Sheri Baldwin recommended assistance for C/O V Lum.*

*From Kelli Forrester, one of our three Representatives in Texas:*

Here is a picture of the CPOF check presentation made by Senior Warden L. E. Townsend to Mr. Joe Esparza, the son of Officer Jerry Esparza of the Jester III Unit. Officer Jerry Esparza passed away due to contracting COVID-19.



## Good morning, Cathy!\*

Assistant Warden Debra Booker of the Holliday Unit presented Sergeant Adan Garcia with his CPOF check. He was so grateful. Huge thank-you to this organization for helping him out.

Rebecca Sharp,  
Warden's Secretary  
Holliday Unit



Above: Asst. Warden Booker and Sgt. Garcia  
*Sergeant Garcia, a Supporting Member, received a bereavement assistance check following the sad occasion of his and his wife's baby being stillborn in August of 2020.*

*\* Cathy Stokes, one of our three Texas Representatives (see next page).*



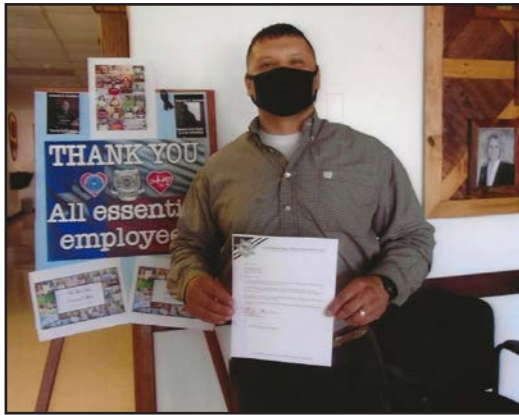
*Thank you for your kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.*

*The Family of  
Coy D. Coffman Jr*

Supporting Member C/O IV Coy Coffman Jr. of Telford Unit passed away from COVID-19. His widow, Debbie, received a CPO bereavement assistance check and sent us this nice thank-you note.



**Coy and Debbie**



In May of 2020 C/O IV Charles Gardner of Daniel Unit died from injuries sustained in an auto accident. At the recommendation of HRS IV Shelby Shipp, a bereavement assistance check was prepared for Charles's widow, Sharon. Above: A.W. Joe Castillo, who later would deliver the check to Sharon in person, holding the letter that accompanied Sharon's check.

Information Specialist Natasha Mills, is a Supporting Member with the TDCJ Health Services Division. She was diagnosed with uterine fibroids, which caused



complications during pregnancy and brought about pre-term labor. Her son had to spend two weeks in the NICU. Above: Texas Representative Cathy Stokes presenting IS Mills with a CPOF assistance check.

### Dear CPOF,

Thank you for your kind support during this difficult time for my family and me.

The check is a blessing.

Mark Taylor

C/O Mark Taylor, a Supporting Member at Cole Unit, suffered numerous mini strokes that caused him to be off work for several months. At left: Mrs. Taylor (Judy), Officer Taylor, Warden Cooper and HRS IV Dan Essary, who referred C/O Taylor for assistance.



## West Virginia



### Character

**A woman of Great Character whose Judgement, humor and friendly spirit Brought out the finest in those around her. The influence of her life upon others Is a flame that will burn brightly forever. She left so much good with every soul She touched on this earth.**

### In Loving Memory Brianna Rae Armstrong

**Born  
March 7, 1999**

**Entered Into Rest  
May 23, 2020**

**Graveside Service  
2:00 PM, Saturday  
May 30, 2020**

**Final Resting Place  
High Lawn Memorial Park  
Oak Hill, West Virginia**

**High Lawn Funeral Home  
Oak Hill, West Virginia  
[www.highlawnfuneralhomechapel.com](http://www.highlawnfuneralhomechapel.com)**

Trade Specialist II James Armstrong is a Supporting Member at Glen Jean Amory. His daughter, Brianna, died from injuries sustained in an ATV accident. TS II Armstrong received a bereavement assistance check and sent us this copy of Brianna's funeral card.



Supporting Member Corporal Aaron Bennett of Beckley Unit lost his home and belongings in a fire. At left: Unit Manager Melissa Richmond, who recommended Corporal Bennett for assistance from the CPOF, Corporal Bennett and Superintendent William Vest.

## Nevada



C/O Robert Kudlata is a Supporting Member at Lovelock CC. His wife, Carolyn, passed away in early June of 2020 from complications with liver cancer. Robert received a CPOF bereavement assistance check to help with funeral expenses. He sent us these photos of Carolyn and of Carolyn and himself.

***Have you moved lately?***

***If so, please notify us of your new address:  
Email: [mail@cpof.org](mailto:mail@cpof.org)  
or call  
1-800-800-2763.***

***Thank you!***

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## Connecticut

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Lieutenant Matthew McLaughlin was assaulted by an inmate, who slammed him to the ground. He sustained a concussion and additional injuries to his head, neck and shoulders. At right: Deputy Warden Egan, Captain Syed, Captain Lugo, Captain Hurdle, Lieutenant McLaughlin, Lieutenant Deeb, Warden Hannah, Lieutenant Rinaldi, Correction Officer Bronson, Lieutenant Maloid, Captain Hughes, Lieutenant White, Deputy Warden Borges and Captain McDaniel.



On November 27, 2019 Correctional Officer Matthew Montovani suffered a heart complication and was taken to an ER. He was placed in a medically induced coma for several days. C/O Montovani underwent rehabilitation therapy throughout his recovery. At left: Captain Sergio Perez, Officer Montovani, his son (holding his dad's CPOF assistance check); and Lieutenant Chris Porylo.



C/O Ashley Badera, her husband, C/O David Breau (both of Hartford Correctional Center) and their nine children suffered a house fire in mid July 2020. The house burned to the ground and also destroyed their vehicle. The family had to live in a hotel until other arrangements could be made. At left: Ashley and David (center) at the presentation of their CPOF assistance check in HCC Warden Ned McCormack's office. Other staff in this photo: Warden Kristine Barone (MWCI) and Warden McCormack (HCC) with D/W's Long/Washington (HCC) and D/W's Roach, Snyder and Ogando (MWCI), and Captain Anna Dorozko (now retired).

## **What the CPOF does for Correctional Staff**

The Correctional Peace Officers (CPO) Foundation defines catastrophic as when an Officer or Correctional staff member suffers extreme financial hardship as a result of serious illness, injury or other dire event.

Remember: you are our “eyes and ears” at your facility.  
If you know of someone who is in need of catastrophic assistance please do not hesitate to contact us!

### **CATASTROPHIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Medical  
House Fire**

**Natural Disaster  
Bereavement**

### **LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFIT**

### **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

APPLICANT: \* 3.0 GPA           \* FULL TIME STUDENT  
\* APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS IN  
JANUARY AND CLOSSES IN APRIL EVERY YEAR

SPONSOR: \* MUST BE A SUPPORTING MEMBER  
FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR



[www.facebook.com/CorrectionalPeaceOfficersFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/CorrectionalPeaceOfficersFoundation)

CPOF.ORG

“TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN”

# Illinois



JJS Rashaad Addison of IYC – Harrisburg was in a fatal car accident on April 17, 2020. At the request of Bryan Questelle, Business Administration, the CPOF assisted JJS Addison's parents with funeral expenses. At left: Rashaad in his graduation robe.

### Dear Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Inc.,

No words can express my gratitude and appreciation for the check given to me by your Foundation. I've been very blessed by the good Lord to be surrounded by wonderful friends and family such as you!

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, support, friendship, kindness, and your love!

Sincerely,  
Sheila Fleming

C/O Sheila Fleming, also of Big Muddy River CC, was off work for a considerable time due to cancer, essential thrombocytopenia and auto immune disease. As with C/O Nancy Rush, OA III Tammi Kahrhoff recommended assistance for C/O Fleming.

At right: C/O Justin McCalips, a Supporting Member at SCI Smithfield, passed away on July 28, 2020 from a heart condition. He was 28 years old. His father, Steve McCalips, received a bereavement assistance check from the CPOF to put toward funeral expenses. This is the family's thank-you card.

### Dear Christina Labio and to everyone that is a part of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation,

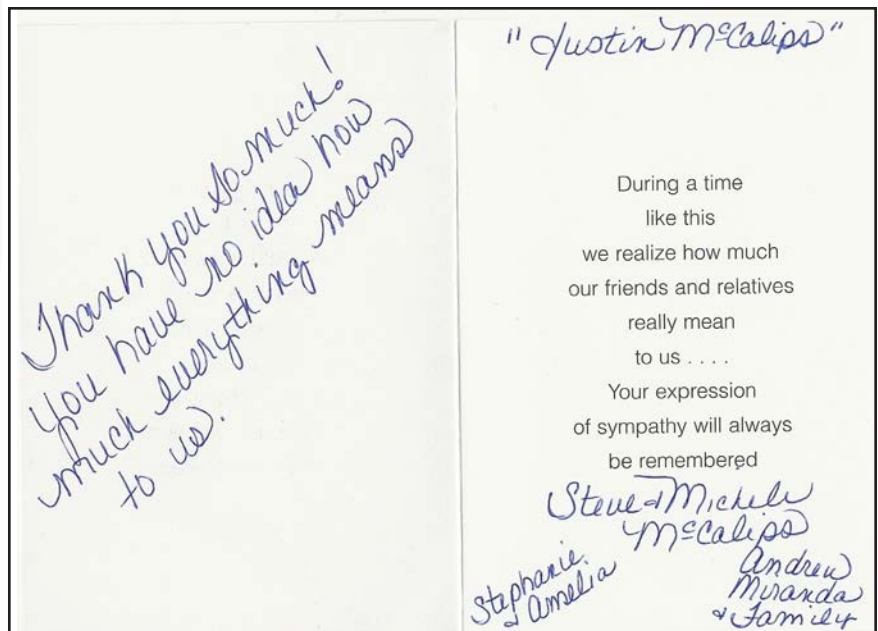
I would like to say Thank you! Thank you from a sincere heart of appreciation for not only the financial help but mostly for the kindness and the knowing that people such as those that are a part of this organization really care. At the end of each day what matters most are the thoughts and actions of others that bring comfort to my family and me by knowing that we are not going through these times alone.

Thank you again. We are truly blessed by this.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Rush

*C/O Nancy Rush is employed at Big Muddy River CC. Her husband, Stewart, who also was a C/O, passed away. C/O Rush received a CPOF bereavement assistance check at the recommendation of OA III Tammi Kahrhoff,*

# Pennsylvania



# Florida



*From Jim Freeman, CPOF Florida Representative:*

On behalf of the CPOF Board of Directors and its Supporting Members, we were honored to present an assistance check to Marion CI C/O Tina Richmond, who herself is a Supporting Member. Officer Richmond recently lost her home and personal belongings to a house fire.

We will continue to keep Officer Richmond in our thoughts and prayers during the rebuilding process.

*At left: C/O Richmond and Marion CI Warden Shannon Varnes.*



At right: Franklin CI Warden Robert Conner presents a bereavement assistance check to Mrs. Hartsfield (Linda) on the passing of C/O Bradley Hartsfield. C/O Hartsfield recently passed away from natural causes.



Senior Class Officer Jennie Morris of Franklin CI passed away on September 24, 2020. Franklin CI Warden Robert Conner recommended bereavement assistance for Jennie's mother, Barbara Morris, to help with funeral expenses. At left: Warden Conner, Ms. Barbara Morris and Classification Supervisor Ms. Tanya Chapman.



**To Jim Freeman:**

Enclosed [left] is the picture of me presenting Ms. Pugh with her check.

I appreciate all the assistance of CPOF. Thanks for your support.

Colonel Randy P. Tift, Detention Division Director  
Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office

*Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Deputy Charles Pugh II passed away from COVID-19 on August 18, 2020. His widow, Tamesha, received a CPOF bereavement check at the recommendation of Colonel Tift.*

*We are pleased to share this gracious and much-appreciated thank-you letter from Anthony D. Watts, Sr., Deputy Chief Corrections, Administrative Services Division, Orange County [Florida] Corrections Department. What with the opposite page featuring four Florida catastrophic assists and the cover recognizing C/O James Newman from Mayo CI while he was at Project 2000 XXXI, the words often said by Board of Director Don Dease, "CPOF is the best resource Administrators have," ring true once again.*

*Mr. Watts, we appreciate and thank you.*



Anthony D. Watts, Sr.,  
Deputy Chief  
Administrative Services

Office | 407-836-3002  
Fax | 407-836-0212

## Corrections Department

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Orlando, Florida 32802-4970  
Email: [Anthony.Watts@ocfl.net](mailto:Anthony.Watts@ocfl.net)  
Website: [www.bestfall.com](http://www.bestfall.com)

August 25, 2020

Ms. Charleene Corby, Chief Executive Officer  
Correctional Peace Officer Foundation  
P.O. Box 348390  
Sacramento, CA 95834-8390

Dear Ms. Corby:

As in years past, as part of Orange County Corrections Department efforts toward the County's annual United Way fundraising initiative, we encouraged staff members to renew or initiate their membership with the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation (CPOF).

While there are a litany of wonderful charitable organizations available to our staff members to contribute to, we highlight CPOF because of your mission and your commitment to supporting certified and non-certified staff members, often times at the time they need it most and when it means the most.

Chief Louis A. Quiñones, Jr. and our organization is pleased to share this year we had **122 team members** who either initiated or renewed their membership totaling **\$13,747.98** in donation/membership contributions. Please note that some of our team members contributed more than the required membership fee. Attached you will find the membership applications, as well as a copy of the corresponding employees United Way Pledge Card.

The Orange County Corrections Department is appreciative of the assistance you have provided to our staff over the years. We truly value and are very appreciative to CPOF for the needed assistance provided to Peace Officers and/or their loved ones and are extremely proud to be affiliated with such an exceptional organization.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony D. Watts, Sr.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anthony D. Watts, Sr., Deputy Chief  
Corrections, Administrative Services Division



## CPO Foundation

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

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



*The Bloomington, Minnesota Fire Department Honor Guard*

We were very pleased that the Bloomington, Minnesota Fire Department Honor Guard was able to accept the invitation from CPOF National Honor Guard Commander Ray Gonsalves to participate in the Project 2000 XXXI National Memorial Ceremony.

**They made quite an impression with their axes!**