CPO FAMILY

WINTER 2021

A Publication of The CPO Foundation

Vol. 31, No. 2

REMEMBERING OUR OWN



Major Angelanette Moore EOW: Jan. 23, 2020



C/O IV Amanda De Leon EOW: March 20, 2020



C/O Thomas Rowe EOW: April 10, 2020



Probation & Parole Agent Kaitlin Cowley EOW: April 20, 2020



Deputy Sheriff James Blair EOW: June 12, 2020



C/O Richard Bianchi, Jr. EOW: June 25, 2020



Corporal Bryant Searcy EOW: September 2, 2020



Lieutenant Veronica Stroman EOW: January 6, 2021

PROJECT 2000 XXXII Columbus, Ohio ~ June 24-27, 2021 by Guy Edmonds, Colorado Representative

2021 started with hope and promises of better things to come. By the time June rolled around, we learned that **Project** was on track and would be held as scheduled with only minor limitations.

As we began arriving in Columbus, you could feel the anticipation of great things to come. While **Project** is always exciting and a great opportunity to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, it has also become a cherished time to lift others up and behold the miracles and fellowship of something more.

As individuals arrived at the airport and were welcomed by our airport team it was evident that something special was starting to build. Even with multiple flight delays and changes we maintained a

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ATTENTION, ALL!

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation will have a new website up in the first quarter of 2022.

It will have the same website -- cpof.org -- with a new look and many new features.

These include signing up for membership, applying for catastrophic assistance, and also an email option to choose a digital copy of the CPO Family and being notified of upcoming events.

Keep checking our current website to see when the new one launches. We will also announce the launch date on our Facebook page.

In case you're wondering ...

Our 2022 Correctional Calendar will arrive sometime in December or early January. It is being printed later in the year when the availability of paper is expected to be greater than it is at present.

PROJECT 2000 XXXIII

Reno, Nevada June 16-19, 2022

Online Registration will be available after January 1, 2022. Registration will be limited to 500 attendees.

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PROJECT 2000 XXXII June 24-27, 2021 ~ Columbus, Ohio

hopefulness felt by all. When the opening Welcome Dinner began on Thursday evening with bagpipes and drums, you could feel the electricity in the air. It carried through the next day to an amazing show of support for those who lost a loved one at the Memorial Ceremony and following luncheon. When during Saturday's luncheon those who had survived a vicious attack, suffered a catastrophic event or had performed action above and beyond the call of duty were recognized, it was still there. By Sunday morning I finally figured out what "it" was.



I know of no other word to use besides **FAMILY!** The events we participated in, the people we met, the activities and workmanship can be called nothing else. Our great Foundation succeeded in creating a special atmosphere. It was demonstrated by multiple large groups of honor guard members, fallen families, survivors of assault, attendees, our great staff and members of the Board of Directors, gathering together and offering up prayers for healing and love.

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation continues to epitomize our motto "Taking Care of Our Own" to an even higher level each and every year. Without this great organization, so many would suffer more than they already do. Even as we were preparing for this event, those individuals putting together welcome bags, putting up the Remembrance Wall (pictured below), setting up rooms for training and special meeting places for the fallen families and kids, making sure everything was on task, this overwhelming feeling of family was prevalent.

My wife Connie and I have been fortunate enough to have our grandchildren attend **Project** when they graduate from high school. This year our grandson was there, and he was overwhelmed by the amount of love and compassion displayed. When I asked him what impressed him the most, his reply was quick. He said, "When you look at the love, interactions with others, care and compassion displayed, there is only one word to use. This is an amazing **FAMILY!**"





From right: Guy Edmonds, Connie Edmonds and their grandson Dakota

PROJECT 2000 XXXII June 24-27, 2021 ~ Columbus, Ohio

Each year the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) holds their annual Project 2000 event in June. This year it was held in Columbus, Ohio. I was greeted at the airport by CPOF volunteers who escorted me to the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus. There, Charleene (Char)



Kathleen Allison, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Corby welcomed me and assisted me with registration.

I was delighted to see how much attention was paid to the children of our fallen officers, not only at Thursday night's Welcoming event but throughout the four days of **Project**. Many children who attended past **Project** gatherings and are now teenagers -- some even adults -- return to welcome the new "kids" and let them all know that "We are Family" and are here for them.

Friday's event to honor our Correctional Staff that were killed or died in the line of duty in the previous year was held at the National Veterans' Memorial & Museum. How appropriate, and, yes, Correctional Officer Richard Bianchi Jr. from High Desert State Prison, one of our [California] own, was one of those honored. His widow Pamela, son Richard III, daughter Rachel, son-in-law Thomas, grandson Christian and brother Anthony were in attendance along with High Desert and CCC Honor Guards. There were also Honor Guards from CRC, Mule Creek and San Quentin which also included a Piper. (Hopefully, with Project XXXIII being held next year in close proximity to Sacramento in Reno, Nevada, June 16 -19, 2022 we can have more of our CDCR Correctional Officers and Staff and Honor Guards attend.)

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 XXXII:

Thursday --

• The Annual Welcome Dinner

Friday --

- The Annual Memorial Ceremony
- The Annual Memorial Luncheon (follows immediately after the Memorial Ceremony)
- Attica Remembrance 50 Years 1971-2021
- Assault Survivors Pre-Meeting
- * A "Tailgate" Buffet Dinner

Saturday --

- Seminar: "Gangs in Prisons"
- Seminar: "Staff Suicide Awareness"
- Seminar: "Collaborative Policing"
- 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 "Staff Suicide Awareness"
- Seminar: Repeat of "Collaborative Policing" Sunday --
- The Annual Farewell Buffet Breakfast

I was asked and honored to speak at the Memorial Luncheon during which I discussed the CPOF's Catastrophic Assistance Program. In 2020, even with facilities shut down to visitors, the CPOF assisted 169 Correctional families in California for a total of \$154,000. So far, and through June of 2021, 44 cases have been reported and CPOF contributed a total of almost \$50,000 to these families. Then, I was also proud to mention CPOF's Scholarship Program which is open to ALL of you who have been Supporting Members of the CPOF for at least one year. Information about both the Catastrophic Assistance and Scholarship Programs is available at cpof.org, the CPOF website.

In closing, if you are not currently a Supporting Member of the CPOF, I encourage you to join this wonderful organization that is the only National Charity dedicated to assisting Correctional personnel in times of need.

The Corrections Professionals of PROJECT 2000 XXXII

Honored on Friday, June 24, 2021



Major Angelanette Moore Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail, Virginia EOW: January 23, 2020

While serving as the Jail's Director of Security Operations, Correctional Major Angelanette Moore participated in a housing unit shakedown. A short time later while disciplining a group of inmates she collapsed suddenly. CPR was performed by medical staff; however, Major Moore never regained consciousness and was pronounced deceased on site. Cause of death was a fatal heart attack.

Major Angelanette Moore had served the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail for over 20 years. She is survived by her husband, David, and their 13-year-old son, Jalen; her mother, Catherine; father, Danny; and brother, Melvin.

Correctional Officer IV Amanda De Leon Lopez State Jail Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas EOW: March 20, 2020

On March 20, 2020 Correctional Officer Amanda De Leon while on duty left the Lopez State Jail to drive to the Connally Unit to work a mandatory overtime shift when she lost control of her vehicle. The vehicle rolled over several times and Officer De Leon was ejected. Officer De Leon died from massive trauma to her body. Wet roads and rain contributed to the accident.

Correctional Officer IV Amanda De Leon had served the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for six years. She is survived by her parents, Mario and Norma, and her brother, Mario Jr.



The Corrections Professionals of PROJECT 2000 XXXII

Honored on Friday, June 24, 2021

Correctional Officer Thomas Rowe Northern Nevada Correctional Center Nevada Department of Corrections EOW: April 10, 2020

On April 10, 2020 Correctional Officer Thomas Rowe while on duty was at the gun range participating in the biannual qualification. Officer Rowe stepped up to take his qualifying shot, fired and suddenly clutched his chest and collapsed. Officer Rowe was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Cause of death was a ruptured aneurysm of the Ascending Aorta.

Correctional Officer Thomas Rowe had served the Nevada Department of Corrections for 12 years. He is survived by his wife, Crystal, and 19-year-old stepdaughter, Savanna.





Probation and Parole Agent Kaitlin Cowley Region II – Baton Rouge District Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections EOW: April 20, 2020

On April 20, 2020 Probation and Parole Agent Kaitlin Cowley had just finished assisting with inmate security at the hospital. While on her way to her next assignment Agent Cowley lost control of her vehicle and crashed into a tree. Agent Cowley died from the injuries she sustained in the accident.

Probation and Parole Agent Kaitlin Cowley had served the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections for three years. She had served the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission for the two years prior. She is survived by her husband, David, and her parents, James and Karen.

Since its inception in 1984, the CPO Foundation has assisted 337 Correctional Families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty, for a total of \$7,022,800.00.

The Corrections Professionals of PROJECT 2000 XXXII Honored on Friday, June 24, 2021



Correctional Officer Richard Bianchi, Jr. High Desert State Prison California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation EOW: June 25, 2020

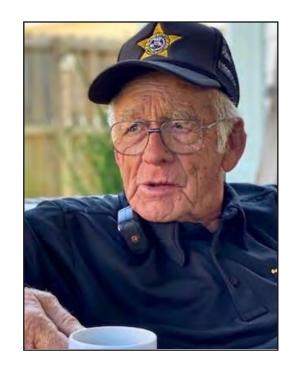
On June 25th Correctional Officer Richard Bianchi, Jr. left High Desert State Prison in his state vehicle to drive to Redding, California 121 miles away to provide inmate security coverage at a hospital. While on his way he lost control of his vehicle which left the roadway and overturned, causing fatal injuries.

Correctional Officer Richard Bianchi, Jr. had served the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for 10 years. He is survived by his widow, Pamela; son, Richard III; daughter, Rachel; son-in-law, Thomas; grandson, Christian; brother, Anthony; and parents, Richard and Carolyn.

Deputy Sheriff James Blair Simpson County Sheriff's Office, Mississippi EOW: June 12, 2020

Deputy Sheriff James Blair transported an inmate to the Mental Health Services Building under court order for an involuntary psychiatric evaluation. Once the evaluation was complete Deputy Blair was placing the inmate back into the patrol car when the inmate attacked him, was able to gain control of his service weapon and shot Deputy Blair multiple times, fatally wounding him. The inmate then fled on foot and was apprehended the following day.

Deputy Sheriff James Blair had served the Simpson County Sheriff's Office for five years and had been in law enforcement for over 50 years. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; sons, Randy, Mike, and John; daughters, Vicki, Stacy, Kimberly and Debra; along with 17 grandchildren. Deputy Blair had taken the job with the Sheriff's Office due to raising several of his grandsons after his daughter, Laura, had passed away.



The Corrections Professionals of PROJECT 2000 XXXII Honored on Friday, June 24, 2021

Corporal Bryant Searcy Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Michigan EOW: September 2, 2020

On September 2nd Corporal Bryant Searcy was alone locking down one side of the jail unit. A certain inmate had rigged his cell door so that it didn't shut properly. When Corporal Searcy passed by the inmate's cell, the inmate opened his door and attacked Corporal Searcy, knocking him to the ground. The inmate then choked Corporal Searcy to death.

Another Deputy was heading to assist with the lock down. When he entered the jail unit, he saw Corporal Searcy lying face down underneath a table with a trail of blood coming from his head. The Deputy pulled the duress alarm and made sure the other cells were locked. When Staff responding to the alarm arrived, they began to give Corporal Searcy medical aid; however, he never regained consciousness.

Corporal Bryant Searcy had served the Wayne County Sheriff's Office for 18 years. He is survived by his wife, Sherry, and daughter, Chasadie.





Lieutenant Veronica Stroman Camille Graham Correctional Institution South Carolina Department of Corrections EOW: January 6, 2021

On January 6, 2021 Lt. Stroman reported to the ICS Building to escort an inmate to the crisis stabilization unit (CSU). The inmate was combative and refusing to comply. Lt. Stroman and three other Staff members attempted to de-escalate the situation. The inmate continued to refuse orders and became more combative, fighting with the Staff. Force was utilized to place the inmate on the floor and apply restraints. The Staff then transported the inmate to the CSU. During the transport the inmate continued her aggressive behavior.

Once the inmate was secured, Lt. Stroman stated she wasn't feeling well. She was escorted to medical with complaints of chest pains. Medical Staff began taking Lt. Stroman's vitals when she began to complain of shortness of breath, head pain and dizziness. Suddenly Lt. Stroman slumped over and began to have a seizure. Outside EMS was called and began CPR. Lt. Stroman was transported via ambulance to the hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Lieutenant Veronica Stroman is survived by her parents, Ralph and Vivian; and her sister, Victoria.

PROJECT 2000 XXXII Honored Families



Correctional Major Angelanette Moore, Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail, VA. Receiving the plaque honoring Major Moore and a display case containing an American Flag and the Virginia State Flag: Husband David Moore and son Jalen Moore.

Correctional Officer IV Amanda De Leon, Lopez State Jail, TDCJ, TX. Receiving the plaque honoring Officer De Leon and a display case containing an American Flag and the Texas State Flag: CPOF Texas Representative Eileen Kennedy on behalf of the De Leon family.



Correctional Officer Thomas Rowe, Northern Nevada Correctional Center, NV. Receiving the plaque honoring Officer Rowe and a display case containing an American Flag and the Nevada State Flag: Wife Crystal Rowe and stepdaughter Savanna Harrington.

Probation and Parole Agent
Kaitlin Cowley,
Region II - Baton Rouge District, LA.
Receiving the plaque honoring Agent
Cowley and a display case containing an
American Flag and the Louisiana State
Flag: Parents Karen and James Cowley.



PROJECT 2000 XXXII Honored Families



Deputy Sheriff James Blair, Simpson County Sheriff's Office, MS. Receiving the plaque honoring Deputy Blair and a display case containing an American Flag and the Mississippi State Flag: CPOF Blair Family Escort Jay Larkin and CPOF National Honor Guard Member Vanessa Lee on behalf of the Blair family.

Correctional Officer Richard Bianchi, Jr. High Desert State Prison, CA.

Receiving the plaque honoring Officer Bianchi and a display case containing an American Flag and the California State Flag: Son, Richard III; daughter, Rachel Deese; son-in-law, Thomas Deese; grandson, Christian Deese; and brother, Anthony



Corporal Bryant Searcy, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, MI Receiving the plaque honoring Corporal Searcy and a display case containing an American Flag and the Michigan State Flag: Jessica Mitchell, cousin of Corporal Searcy's wife, Sherry.

Lieutenant Veronica Stroman, Camille Graham Correctional Institution, SC.

Receiving the plaque honoring Lieutenant Stroman and a display case containing an American Flag and the South Carolina State Flag: Sister Victoria Stroman and parents Ralph and Vivian Stroman.



Survivors of Assaults

Assaults on Correctional Officers and Staff unfortunately continue to happen every day. For the most part, the general public is unaware of the high frequency of assaults inside our prisons and jails, and only hears about an assault if it is particularly brutal, involves more than one Officer or perpetrator or - sadly - results in the near death of one or more of the victims.

Some assaults on our Officers have been so vicious and devastating 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.

Every year at **Project 2000**, we recognize our brothers and sisters in the Corrections profession who have survived assaults that occurred in the preceding year. We are proud to do so and hope that our recognition demonstrates to our recipients how much we care and continue to wish them well.

Here we present this year's Assault Survivors.



Correctional Officer III Michael Gerbitz of Alexander Correctional Institution in North Carolina was assaulted by an inmate who stabbed C/O Gerbitz numerous times in the head and face. C/O Gerbitz had to have many stitches to treat his serious puncture wounds.



Correctional Officer Austin Fuller, Correctional Officer Michael Parent and Correctional Officer Anthony Kelly of Souza Baranowski Correctional Center(a maximum security facility) in Massachusetts were attacked and seriously injured by members of the Latin Kings gang.



Correctional Officer Joshua Brown of California Medical Facility was assaulted by an inmate in January 2020, resulting in a broken wrist. He had surgery to insert a pin into the bone but suffered many complications from the operation. After several months of healing and physical therapy, fortunately C/O Brown was able to return to work in July of 2020.



Corrections Officer III David Walton of SCI Albion in Pennsylvania was attacked in the dayroom by a highly combative inmate. Another Offficer came to C/O Walton's aid and together the two managed to secure the inmate and bring him to the floor. The inmate had punched C/O Walton repeatedly, inflicting facial and head injuries including a jaw fracture.

Survivors of Assaults & Recognition of Bravery
Above and Beyond the Call of Duty



On July 28, 2020 Correctional Officer John Dominianni of Alexander Correctional Institution in North Carolina was conducting a cell search with other Officers. As they were leaving the cell, the inmate suddenly attacked C/O Dominianni and knocked him to the floor, momentarily rendering C/O Dominianni unconscious. The inmate then began attacking another Officer as well. Responding Staff were able to stop the inmate from his kicking and hitting by using a Taser. C/O Dominianni suffered several injuries to his face and head.



Corrections Officer Ben Patton of SCI Dallas in Pennsylvania came to the aid of Corrections Counselor Tiffany White when she was being violently assaulted by a life-sentenced inmate. C/O Patton was able to force the inmate to the floor and when other Officers arrived they helped secure the inmate and aided Counselor White in going to Medical. Counselor White, who was not able to attend **Project**, suffered fractures to her orbital bone, a collapsed carotid artery and other injuries to her head and face. She required surgery to repair the artery and needed several surgeries afterward for the multiple fractures in her face.



Warden Lisa Engram of Camille Graham Correctional Institution, South Carolina, accepted the award on behalf of *Lieutenant O'Brian Colbert of Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina*. Lieutenant Colbert received word on October 19, 2020 that an anonymous caller had said that an assault was going to take place. While Lt. Colbert was locking down the inmates in the dorm, one inmate suddenly jumped out and attacked him. Lt. Colbert tried to run, but was tripped, allowing the inmate to reach him and continue his attack with a knife. The inmate stabbed Lt. Colbert six times in the head and face. Another Officer intervened and was able to pull the inmate off Lt. Colbert.

Bravery Above and Beyond the Call of Duty



Senior Corrections Officer and Volunteer Firefighter Daniel O'Beirne of Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center in New Jersey was driving on the New Jersey Turnpike when he saw a truck in front of him crash into a sign and burst into flames. Officer O'Beirne immediately pulled over and rushed to the driver's aid. As he approached the truck cab, the driver was on the running boards on fire. O'Beirne took off his shirt to pat down the flames and succeeded in saving the truck driver's life.

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 accompanied by CPO Foundation Board of Directors members Jim Brown, Kim Potter-Blair, Don Dease and Perry Speth. At the podium is Board of Directors member Ron Barnes.



Correctional Major Angelanette Moore: Wendy Baur, CPOF Representative for Virginia and Pennsylvania, accepted the plaque on behalf of Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail, VA

C/O IV Amanda De Leon: Eileen Kennedy, **CPOF** Representative for Texas, accepted the plaque on behalf of Lopez State Jail, TDCJ, TX





C/O Thomas Rowe: Kim Blakley, **CPOF** Representative for Nevada, accepted the plaque on behalf of Northern Nevada Correctional Center, NV

Probation and Parole Agent Kaitlin Cowley: **CPOF Kentucky** Representative Wayne Bowdry accepted the plaque on behalf of Region II - Baton Rouge District, of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, LA





Deputy Sheriff James Blair: Vanessa Lee, CPOF Representative for Mississippi, accepted the plaque the facility plaque on behalf of the Simpson County Sheriff's Office, MS CA

C/O Richard Bianchi, Ir.: California DCR Secretary Kathleen Allison accepted on behalf of High Desert State Prison,





Searcy: Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Director Annette Chambers-Smith accepted the plaque on behalf of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, MI

Stroman: Warden Lisa Engram of Camille Graham Correctional Institution, SC accepted her institution's plaque.



PROJECT 2000 XXXII Honor Guards











Honor Guards continued next page

PROJECT 2000 XXXII Honor Guards

























PROJECT 2000 XXXII Transportation Team



Back row left to right: Betty Bauer, Scott Bauer, Guy Edmonds, Connie Edmonds, Dakota New, Bridgette Bollinger, Laura Matthews and Rick Matthews.

Front row: Lisa Miller, Marlon Moore and Debbie Moore.

What is it like to be among the first to meet the Honored Families?

I love being on the Transportation team and having the opportunity to meet the honored families as they arrive, and interact again with them personally as they leave at the end of **Project.**

Many families have no idea what to expect as they arrive at **Project.** As part of the Transportation crew, I take great pride in being a friendly face that can help with luggage, get them seated in a van and provide basic information about the distance to the hotel.

Additionally, being able to explain to them what to expect as they are met at the hotel can help with what I would consider a whirlwind of activity and is of great importance. Many are tired and maybe a bit stressed from the travel and our team can help them relax a little and ease the stressors they may have. The importance of us acting and being professional, respectful, and helpful sets the tone of **Project** and mirrors the CPOF mission. I don't look at my time at **Project** as a vacation; I am here to help in any way I can, in any area. I consider myself "on the

clock" 24 hours a day and take great pride in trying always to be available, as the honored families and the CPOF deserve nothing less.

As **Project** comes to a close, I see the Transportation crew as vital in leaving the honored families with a great experience and hopefully helping them to move forward with a feeling of family, love and a bit of healing. I often receive positive feedback from the families as they are on the way home which empowers and gives me fuel to continue the mission of the CPOF. I am humbled by what each family has experienced and sacrificed from being a part of the Corrections profession.

The camaraderie of the team that work **Project** and the unity of being part of
something bigger than oneself is something I
don't get anywhere else. You folks at the home office have selected some of the best people I have
ever met.

Darren Feiler CPOF Western Washington Field Representative

PROJECT 2000 XXXII Transportation Team

In 2017, I attended my first **Project**2000 Memorial in San Francisco, CA. Upon arrival I learned that my assignment was to greet arriving honored families at the airport. I didn't have a clue how I would react or relate to a family I had never met before. However, after seeing the first smile exiting the plane with our red-carpet treatment, the families actually put me at ease even though my purpose was to be there for them. To instantly have the overwhelming feeling that these families place all their trust and care in us to honor their loved ones is unmatched.

In 2019 in Louisville, Kentucky I was assigned my first family to personally escort throughout **Project**. Not only did I gain the knowledge of CPOF and all the things provided to families, I was able to show the compassion in honoring their loved ones as well. I really enjoy providing ALL the families with genuine compassion and dignity in what is probably the worse times of their lives.

I have come to have a heartfelt passion to serve CPOF not only for my coworkers but for Correctional staff across the United States. To be able to carry the torch for all the great things done by CPOF is the fire now instilled in me. I have experienced traveling to several **Project 2000** Memorials, assisted in a Line of Duty death, catastrophic events, bereavement, education, and membership drives. I will continue to be an advocate and volunteer liaison for CPOF.

Sincerely, Officer Tora Newton CPOF Tennessee Volunteer Liaison Shelby County Sheriff's Office Memphis, Tennessee

PROJECT

Project is always a humbling and rewarding experience for me. I have the privilege of being part of the airport and transportation team. Once the escort Officers bring the honored family off the aircraft, our team is waiting to greet them. We are their first impression of CPOF and **Project**. Our team takes the time to know their names, their tragedy and the pain they are feeling.

When the honored families arrive at the airport, they are overwhelmed, and hesitant of what to expect. Each family is different and experiences a range of emotions, but mostly they are sad and lonely. We reassure them and do our best to let them know that for the time CPOF "has" them, they will be treated with the dignity, honor and respect they deserve.

The next four days changes all of us, every single year. As noted, the families are treated with dignity and honor but mostly they are loved and no longer alone. The Friday night "social" is usually the first time we see smiles and laughter from the families. We always eat and laugh, but we have been known to sing, dance, and pray. Mainly, we build relationships and bonds that carry on year after year.

Sunday is the most rewarding part of **Project** for me. The escorts bring their families to the vans, and we load them up for their journey home. Their burdens are lighter and each honored family leaves with a sense of peace and renewal they did not have upon arrival. There are lots of tears shed out of appreciation for the Foundation and for the newfound friends they will miss until they meet again. It is rewarding to witness the positive change reflected in the honored families after four short days with their CPOF family.

Laura Matthews CPOF North Carolina Field Representative

DONATIONS MADE AT PROJECT 2000 XXXII

Many thanks to the following for their generous donations made at Project 2000 XXXII.

Donations benefit our Survivors Fund, Catastrophic Assistance Program, Scholarship Fund, and the Project 2000 Kids & Teens Room

> AFGE Local 817, Lexington, KY The Burbridge Family (IA), Lifetime Sponsorship in honor of Deputy Mark Burbridge, EOW May 1, 2017 **Connecticut DOC Honor Guard Unit** Correction Captains' Association, Inc., NYC CRC Honor Guard, CA Dave Edelman - Nebraska/Oklahoma Quartet End of Watch Memorial Foundation, OR M.C.F Oak Parks Heights Local 915, MN John and Carey Mendiboure, CA Neil and Laura Nehring, OH New Jersey PBA Local 105 New York Correction Department Pipe Band North Carolina DPS - DCC-Div 4 NYSCOPBA, NY Jodi and Mia Rodriguez, FL Lifetime Sponsorship for the State of Nebraska Honor Guard/Tecumseh State **Correctional Institution**

Visit our website ~ cpof.org ~ for information about Lifetime Sponsorships

Pennsylvania

Baserman Bridge is dedicated on August 20, 2021

by Wendy Baur, Pennsylvania Field Representative



They say you die twice in this life, once when you physically die and then again when people stop saying your name, telling your story and sharing memories of your life. Through the tireless efforts of the PSCOA,* legislation was passed to recognize and honor the sacrifice made by one of our own: Sergeant Mark Baserman who was fatally assaulted by an inmate at

SCI Somerset in February of 2018. On Friday. August 20, PSCOA members gathered with SCI Somerset Staff, Legislators and the family and friends of Sgt. Baserman to dedicate and unveil the Baserman Bridge on Route 219 in Somerset County, considered to be the gateway to SCI Somerset. The dedication of this bridge will serve as a reminder to those who travel over it of the dangers faced by Correctional Staff who show up every day to go behind the walls, as well as a stark reminder of the sacrifice made to the Commonwealth by Sgt. Baserman.





*Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association

Congratulations to the PSCOA



Following a 20-year relationship with the CPOF, the PSCOA has achieved making Pennsylvania the first state in the country to have every prison become a Lifetime Sponsor of the CPOF.

At left: CPOF Board Members Don Dease and Ron Barnes, PSCOA Western Region Vice President Aaron King, PSCOA Business Agent Joe Fox, CPOF Board Chairman Glenn Mueller, PSCOA President John Eckenrode, CPOF Pennsylvania Field Representative Wendy Baur; and CPOF Board Members Kim Potter-Blair, Jim Brown and Perry Speth.

Florida



C/O Jerome Williams

C/O Bill Stranahan of the

CPO Foundation National

Honor Guard

On Monday, July 26, 2021 the Annual Memorial Ceremony to honor Jerome Williams was held at Putnam CI; this day marked the 26th anniversary of his death. The day started out overcast but when it was time for the ceremony to start the skies had cleared.

Jerome's father and former CPOF Florida Field Rep John Williams was present along with his wife, Beth, and extended family. John, along with many others, traveled from South Carolina for the Memorial Ceremony. Also in attendance were several officers from Palatka Police Dept. including Retired Putman CI Warden Tommy



The Memorial

Robinson, representation from the CPOF National Honor Guard, and many staff from Putnam CI. The new memorial was unveiled, and Officer Robinson gave a brief overview of how the memorial came to be. Thanks were extended to the staff and inmate workers that brought the memorial to life. I am pretty certain I saw a tear or two in John's eyes when the memorial was unveiled - it is absolutely beautiful. The morning of, and in the days leading up to the Memorial Ceremony, several people

had reached out to me and shared thoughts about Jerome. Two are friends and former coworkers of mine: one was a classmate of Jerome's, and the other the instructor of the block of training Jerome was in at the time of the incident that caused his death. Even 26 years later these two spoke fondly of Jerome, his big heart, and his character.

At the request of my dear friend, John Williams, I served as the keynote speaker and shared the following words:

"Wednesday, July 26, 1995. For many this was just another day, but for others it was a day that we will never forget.

Jerome Antuan Williams was born June 29, 1974. While growing up he watched his father as he performed his duties as a Correctional Officer for the Florida Department of Corrections. When Jerome was a little boy he made up his mind that he would also serve the State as a Correctional Officer. (John told me once that when he came home from work Jerome often would be standing in the house wearing one of his uniforms.)

At the young age of 21, Jerome was living his dream. Jerome was employed with the Department of Corrections and attending the Corrections Academy, working toward his

certification at the Academy in Raiford. Jerome and his classmates went to lunch one day at Sonny's in Starke. After lunch, while in the parking lot, an encounter between one of his classmates and her ex-boyfriend occurred. The encounter escalated and Jerome came to his classmate's aid and attempted to de-escalate the

situation. Jerome's character took over. We all have an internal mechanism that governs our instinct of "fight or flight." Do we turn our back and ignore, or do we come to the aid of one in need? Jerome chose to come to the aid of his classmate, putting service before self.

The incident escalated further and Jerome ended up getting shot and losing his life. Jerome died a hero.

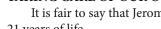
The traditional definition of a "hero" is someone that is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. A hero is someone who does something we couldn't do, don't want to do, or don't think we could possibly do. A true hero is constantly thinking about how they can take action and help others. In my eyes, Jerome exemplifies the definition of a hero."

John then spoke about Jerome, sharing how as a young boy Jerome wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. John extended thanks to everyone who took time out of their day to honor Jerome's life. John also extended thanks to the CPOF for ALWAYS being there and TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN.

It is fair to say that Jerome had a huge and memorable impact on many individuals during his -- Jim Freeman, CPOF Florida Field Representative 21 years of life.



Jim Freeman, Jim's granddaughter Ramsey Kay, John Williams and Putnam CI Warden Jeff Howell



Florida

We were very pleased to hear from four first-time attendees from Florida's Sumter CI Honor Guard who shared their thoughts about experiencing Project 2000 XXXII.

I was very honored to have been able to attend Project 2000 XXXII. As I am a new member of the Sumter CI Honor Guard it was my very first CPOF event. I was very impressed with the preparation and coordination of the event. I look forward to many more such events to attend and to honor our Fallen brothers and sisters. Thank you again for the time and effort involved in organizing such an amazing event.

Officer Robert Laubenheimer



I had heard of what CPOF does for Fallen Officers and their families. But to actually be there and be a part of it was definitely an amazing experience. Everyone was so helpful and welcoming, especially when it came to the coin exchange -- it was great.

Officer Leticia Chavez

Left to right: Sgt. K. Costeira, C/O R. Laubenheimer, C/O M. Thompson, CPOF Florida Field Representative Jim Freeman, Sgt. D. Bedgood, Sgt. J. Eaton and C/O L. Chavez

It was a privilege and an honor to attend the CPOF's Project XXXII. From beginning to end it was an event full of purpose, respect, and brotherhood. I was beyond grateful to attend and I hope to be at Project next year to again dignify the Fallen Officers and survivors.

Officer Matthew Thompson

Sumter Correctional Institution's Honor Guard was pleased to represent the Florida Department of Corrections this year at the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation's Annual National Memorial Ceremony at Project 2000 XXXII in Columbus, Ohio. For the last 31 years, CPOF has honored our Fallen Officers as well as Officers who have been injured in the line of duty. Not only does the Foundation honor the brave men and women who gave their all, they also have a wide-ranging Catastrophic Assistance Program to assist Correctional Staff and/or their immediate families in times of crisis, medical emergency, or other dire need.

Six members of Sumter's Honor Guard team attended the Fallen Officers Memorial Ceremony and the Memorial Luncheon afterward. The team members were: Sergeant D. Bedgood, Sergeant J. Eaton, Sergeant K. Costeira, Officer M. Thompson, Officer L. Chavez, and Officer R. Laubenheimer. During the entire Project 2000 XXXII event, they were able to connect with several different Honor Guard teams from throughout the country and to build valuable partnerships. They also received some valuable training seminars, such as Staff Suicide Awareness. Most important, they were able to support and pay their respects to the families of our fallen heroes.

To be able to attend the CPO Foundation's Annual National Memorial Ceremony is a blessing. Sergeant Krystal Costeira

Florida



I (Jim Freeman) was honored to present an assistance check to Captain Jim Godwin of the Department's Intelligence Unit. Capt. Godwin incurred damage to his home from a fire. At left: Reception and Medical Center Asst. Warden Beth Mallard, Capt.

Godwin and CPOF Florida Field Representative Jim Freeman (holding his granddaughter Ramsey Kay).

Jim Freeman
presented an
assistance check to
New River CI
Sergeant, and
Supporting
Member, Fredrick
Burch Jr. when his
wife, Tiffany,
unexpectedly passed
away. Pictured:
Major Michael Kelly,
Sgt. Burch and Jim.





C/O William Connor is a Supporting Member at Columbia CI. His son, Dustin, has dealt with a number of serious medical problems for all of his life and has had several surgeries. Most recently, Dustin had to be air lifted to Shands Hospital in Jacksonville

(approx. 81 miles one way) due to loss of blood and being in an unresponsive state. He underwent two surgeries during this hospitalization. C/O Connor received an assistance check to help with the out-of-pocket expenses incurred. Above: C/O Connor with his wife, Jennifer, and Dustin.

Mr. Freeman:

I wanted to reach out to you and express my appreciation for the generous support that the CPOF has provided for Officer Masterson. As she manages this difficult time in her life due to the tragic loss of her son, it is comforting to know that the CPOF is always available to assist our staff. In this case, the timing of receiving the assistance was on point, as she is traveling to Illinois to conduct a Memorial service for her family.

I again want to say thank you for the support.

Respectfully,
John Kolodziej, Warden
Century Correctional Institution
Officer Kristen Masterson's 17-year-old son,
Steven, was struck by a car and suffered fatal
injuries.

Marion CI Captain Charles Day, a Supporting Member, received an assistance check after his son, Dreyton, lost his life from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident. Above: Assistant



Warden Timmy J. Robinson, Colonel Mikel Anne, Captain Charles Day, Warden Shannon T. Varnes and Assistant Warden Frank Freihofer.



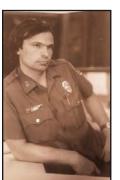
C/O Derek
Shepherd, a
Supporting Member
at Cross City CI,
had been battling
medical issues and
recently passed
away due to
complications. His

widow, Cassandra, received an assistance check, as pictured here. With Cassandra are Assistant Warden Josh Lynn and Warden William Malloy.

Rhode Island



Congratulations to the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers (RIBCO) on 50 years of service, demonstrating unity, strength and leading the way for those that walk the toughest beat, not only those working in Rhode Island Department of Corrections, but setting an example nationally.



Additionally, we would like to thank RIBCO for the 35 plus years of friendship and support shown to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation.

Pictured at left: Ken Rivard, when he was president of RIBCO. Ken was instrumental in bringing CPOF into Rhode Island. He is currently one of the longest standing RIBCO representatives and RI DOC employees.

The two pictures at right are from CPOF's **Project 2000 XXXII** Memorial Ceremony held on June 25, 2021, in Columbus, Ohio. *Top:* The RIBCO Honor Guard team. *Bottom:* Joe Menezes, RIBCO

Executive Board Member; Dave Mellon, RIBCO 1st Vice President; Richard Ferruccio, RIBCO President; Manny Leander, RIBCO Grievance Coordinator and CPOF Volunteer Representative; and Ken Rivard, RIBCO Grievance Chairman, with the RIBCO Honor Guard team.





CPO Foundation Scholarships, presented by Manny Leander and Ken Rivard, to Rhode Island Staff for their Children



Gary Clark, father of Jeremy Clark



Mario Souza, father of Alyssa Souza



Luc Carpentier, father of Kaitlin and Nicholas Carpentier



Robert Machado, stepfather of Jaidyn De Jesus



Neil Theroux, father of Abby Theroux



Mike Dove, father of Allison Dove

A Road Warrior for the CPOF

by Richard Loud

It's been 14 years for me on the road educating Correctional staff on the benefits of being a Supporting Member of the CPOF. My travels have taken me to AZ, CT, MA, ME, NY, ND, NH, RI, VT and numerous County Jails within these states. In many of these areas I visited, I was able to acquire payroll deduction status for the CPOF in both state and county.

Over the last several years I was asked to prioritize the Northeast Corridor, specifically the New England states. During the onset of the whole COVID pandemic I spent time reaching out to my state and county contacts, asking them for weekly updates on their Correctional staff that were COVID positive. I made sure I reiterated that even with this pandemic we were still here to "Take Care of Our Own" with a hand up for those suffering hardships. I bring this up because many of my contacts were Commissioners, Directors and

Superintendents who I developed personal relationships with by demonstrating genuine concern for their troops.

Angel Quiros is the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Corrections who granted me permission to visit CT Facilities during the summer of 2020. Many staff commented on seeing me either standing in front of their facility with an EZ-UP tent or set up in the reception area with CPOF promotional items. I referred to this as the Summer of COVID and continually told the troops that we Take Care of Our Own. I believe that when they saw me it gave them an incentive to join or continue being a Supporting Member.

Coming into 2021 I thought that this membership drive would be exceptional due to things getting back to normal and allowing me once again to address roll calls at the CTDOC. Unfortunately, the avenue through which the employees can donate funds to the CPOF came to a screeching halt. The Connecticut State Employees Campaign decided to "pause" the

campaign which basically meant that hundreds of charities wouldn't be able to receive any donations. However, with that said, I am still able to visit the Prisons and explain what is going on and ask that they continue their memberships through PayPal or Bank Draft.

On November 16, 2010 Senior Correctional Officer John (Packy) Paskewicz died from a heart attack after participating in CERT training at Maine Correctional Center. His son, John Jr., also worked at the Prison. Char and Glenn tasked me with reaching out to John and inviting him to Project XXII in June 2011 because at that time no one had been able to locate him.*

I am going to fast forward at this point to May 28, 2019 when I was scheduled to present at the Correctional Administrators Meeting at Maine Department of Corrections by invitation of Commissioner Randall Liberty. As I was waiting for my turn to go into the meeting Sgt. John



* John Paskewicz Jr. is the son of Senior Corrections Officer Paskewicz Sr. who suffered a fatal heart attack while participating in a training exercise on "Defending against attacks with edged weapons." Officer Paskewicz Sr. had just completed one of the scenarios and was speaking to several Officers including his son, Corrections Officer John Paskewicz Jr., when

he suddenly collapsed. Officer Paskewicz had served with the Maine Department of Corrections for 20 years. Officer Paskewicz is survived by his son, Corrections Officer John P. Paskewicz Jr., and two daughters, Wendy and Kellie Paskewicz.

Kim Blakley, CPOF Research Analyst

Photo: Richard Loud and Sgt. John Paskewicz Jr.



Mike Haley and Richard Loud

Paskewicz Jr. (like his dad, also called "Packy") showed up. When he saw me, he laughed and said, "Now I know why I'm here."

When we entered the meeting, I spoke about the CPOF and showed a video. John Jr. was asked to speak on behalf of us and he said in part, "I recall very little in the weeks after his [father's] passing; it was surreal. I was in a dark place. As Corrections professionals, you can understand how alone you feel. I didn't know who to talk to, yet I didn't want to talk to anyone. The Department sent two Officers to help me for a week. On one of those days one of my companions received a call and handed me the phone. It was Richard Loud. He said he was with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF). I asked Mr. Loud how he had found me, and he said, 'I have my ways'."

After that meeting Commissioner Liberty granted me access to all Maine prisons. I have developed a close relationship with the Commissioner and his Director of Operations, Gary LaPlante. We were all in the Army and all stationed at Fort Polk, and whenever I visit Maine Correctional Center and talk with Packy, he still asks me how I found him and I still tell him, "I have my ways."

Worcester County Jail in Massachusetts is another area in which we have payroll deduction. Way back in 2001 we assisted Officer Christopher Brothers due to an injury. At that time Captain Mike Haley was our "eyes and ears" there. Here we are 20 years later and Cpt. Haley has retired and continues to work closely with me. Chris Brothers is the Worcester County Jail Superintendent. Whenever I reach out to Chris, he always welcomes Mike and me to the Jail. Even during the height of the pandemic, he allowed us to set up on the grounds. As with most of my work areas it's hard to address roll calls, especially now with the Delta Variant. Mike and I will be setting up shop, so to speak, for CPOF recruitment before the weather gets too cold.

In closing, I would encourage all the CPOF Road Warriors to develop relationships with the upper echelons of the Jails and Prisons you are visiting. With all the restrictions with the COVID pandemic and other issues, such relationships may well open doors for you.



Left to right: Hartford Correctional Center, Connecticut Deputy Warden Linen, HCC Deputy Warden Long, CPOF Representative Richard Loud, Officer Hetrick, Officer Muir and HCC Warden Ned McCormick

In this photo, via Hartford Correctional Center, Connecticut Richard Loud is receiving a donation to the CPOF on behalf of the family of HCC Correctional Nurse Nicole Beaulieu. Nurse Beaulieu succumbed to Stage IV breast cancer in October of 2020, despite having undergone aggressive chemo/radiation treatment and surgery. She left behind two children, ages one and three at the time. The family received a bereavement check from the CPOF, and later the HCC staff held a fundraiser to further assist the Beaulieu family. The family was so grateful for the strong support provided by the CPOF, both before and after Nicole's passing, that they requested the HCC staff to donate the proceeds from the fundraiser back to the CPOF. What a beautiful gesture from the Beaulieu family!

Connecticut



Good morning,

Here is the photo of the presentation of the CPOF's bereavement assistance check to Officer Tyrone Shaver's wife, Michelle, and his two daughters that he left behind. Michelle was very emotional and grateful.

From left to right:

Captain Valentin, Officer Meggett, Abbey Shaver, Chloe Shaver, Mrs. Michelle Shaver, Officer Williams, Officer Quinones and Officer Silva Thank you,

Captain Edwin Valentin, 1st Shift Commander Osborn Correctional Institution

C/O Tyrone Shaver passed away after a long battle with colon cancer.



To the CPO Foundation,

On behalf of my family and me, we would like to thank the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation for the support they gave us and the donation we received to help us get back on our feet and to rebuild for our future.

I am a Correctional Officer at Garner Correctional Institution in the state of Connecticut. On June 25, 2021 our home burned down and we lost everything. It doesn't matter where you live or what your title is in the Department of Correction, when it's time to come

Good morning, Kim,

As pictured here, I presented the bereavement assistance check to Luiza Miranda, wife of Heitor Miranda who passed away unexpectedly. She was very appreciative of CPOF and their generous help. She is noticeably still overwhelmed, but I



explained CPOF and their

mission, of which she was unaware. She seemed very thankful for the Foundation's mission and it seemed to really help her through this difficult time.

Thank you once again! C/S Brian Stanley, Intelligence Coordinator MacDougall-Walker C.I.



C/O Edison Clarke of Bridgeport CI was in a motorcycle accident in early July of 2021. Sadly, he died from his injuries. At left: C/O Clarke with his wife, Shamaya, and daughter, Trisia.

together and to help a fellow brother or sister out we are there for one another.

Again, thank you for your support through rough times. The CPOF stands by their word and **takes care of their own!** We appreciate the support from the CPOF very much.

Michael Rehm

Officer Rehm is a 12-year veteran of the Connecticut Department of Correction. Concerning this loss, fortunately, no one, including the family's two dogs, was injured as a result of the fire.

Tracy Osteyee, Administrative Assistant Warden's Office, Garner CI

NEW YORK

The 50th Anniversary of the September 13, 1971 Attica Correctional Facility Prison Riot

The Spring-Summer 2021 issue of the *CPO Family* featured two notable and deadly prison riots that took place in 1971. A riot at San Quentin State Prison in California occurred in August, and in September an uprising took place at Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York. Now-retired Attica Corrections Officer Donny Almeter was among those taken hostage; thankfully, he survived the ordeal and wrote the Attica riot story for that issue.

Those who were killed in the Attica riot are remembered in a ceremony held every year on September 13. Here we present photographs of this year's 50th Anniversary observance.



Three Attica Corrections Employees stand guard over the photos of those who were killed in the 1971 Attica riot.



Donny Almeter, John Stockholm, Mike Smith, Raymond Bogarts and Larry Lyons: Five of the six living survivors of the 1971 Attica riot. The sixth survivor is Ron Kozlowski who was not able to attend this year's observance.



Saluting CERT teams from surrounding Correctional Facilities

NEW YORK

Attica Prison Preservation Foundation Inc.

by Rachel Lee, CPO Foundation Office Administrator

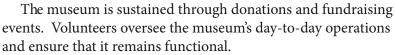


In 2011, in the Village of Attica, New York, a building known as the "Old Tippery" was acquired through an auction and a dream became a reality. The building was in very bad condition and was in need of many upgrades and renovations. Most of the work was completed by volunteers and members of the Board of Directors of the Attica Prison Preservation Foundation.

I first visited the building in September 2012 while renovations

were still underway. When I returned in September 2015, the building had been

completely transformed into a true museum.



As you walk through the museum, you will notice many artifacts that have been donated over the years. And there is a unique viewing room where newsreels of the Attica Prison Riot in 1971 can be viewed.

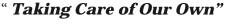
I visited the museum once again this year during the 50th Anniversary of the Retaking of the Prison. I was able to witness firsthand the incredible work that is being poured into

this project. Since my last trip, a new sign has been added as well as the new Monument.

If you would like to learn more about the Attica Prison Preservation Foundation Inc, check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Attica-Prison-Preservation-Foundation.

In closing, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Attica Prison Preservation Foundation Board of Directors and to the volunteers that make this possible: Patrick Gallaway, President; Jim Conway, Vice President; Bill Stranahan, Treasurer; Jim Griffin, Recording Secretary; and Board Members Donny Almeter, John Stockholm

and Todd Kibbler. As we at the CPO Foundation know well, we owe so much to our volunteers. I would also like to recognize Kathy Gallaway for keeping everything running smoothly, and Craig Yackeren, Jason Ziolkowski, Chris Summers and Ernie Emmenger as well for all their hard work and dedication.







NEW YORK



CPO Foundation National Honor Guard Team Members Robert Dunn, Bill Stranahan, Pat Gallaway, Brian James and Howard Dowdell at the new Monument on the Attica Prison Museum grounds.



The Memorial Walkway and Monument center pavers honor all those who have worked behind the tall gray walls of Attica Prison.

Outer red walkway pavers (seen in the photo at left) are dedicated to all who support them.

If you are interested in dedicating a paver please call the Attica Prison Museum 1-585-708-4388

A couple of assistance cases in New York State



At left: C/O Brandy Smith, CPOF contact for Upstate CF, presented an assistance check to Sergeant Cory Soucia whose son, Landon, was hospitalized in a Burlington, Vermont facility for a ruptured appendix. The surgery was successful; however, Sgt. Soucia incurred considerable medically-related travel expenses while Landon was in the hospital for over a week.



Above: C/O Jesse Uppstrom, a
Supporting Member at Bare Hill CF,
suffered from a house fire that destroyed his
house, garage and vehicles. He is pictured here
holding his CPOF assistance check. Also pictured:
Jay West and CPOF contact at Bare Hill CF
Richard O'Hare.

California



Dear Charleene,

On behalf of Morris Ross Taylor's children, grandchildren, great-grandchild and myself, I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for the generous gift from the CPO Foundation. It really helped to defray expenses at the time.

I know that Morris thought very highly of this organization and that he personally worked to promote interest and support for CPOF even after his retirement. Morris did not misplace his trust in CPOF. He knew that one day, when his family would need comfort and support that you would be there. And you were!

I also want to thank CPOF personally for providing the National Honor Guard's Lt. Tony Mosby to attend Morris' services. Lt. Mosby impressed our family, friends and all watching on Social Media, with his military precision and attentiveness to his duty. I received many favorable comments and compliments on the impressiveness of Lt. Mosby.

Charleene, you also have a jewel in Connie Summers! She contacted me almost every day after Morris' passing to reassure me that she was there for me and would support me in any way within her and/or the CPOF's power. Her guidance through this difficult time was something that I will never forget and will always appreciate.

Finally, I am enclosing copies of Morris' memorial program for you and others on your staff who could not attend. Thank you for everything, especially living up to your motto Taking Care of Our Own. CPOF took care of my family, and we are grateful!

May God bless and keep you all, Gwendolyn Venters-Taylor

Morris Ross Taylor was a Counselor with the California Youth Authority and a Supporting Member for many years. He passed away on July 9, 2021. Before his death he wrote his own eloquent obituary, including these words: "I experienced a valued career as a Correctional Peace Officer with the California Youth Authority at the Norwalk Southern Reception Center. In addition to my official duties, I was a Union Representative, assisting with educating members (representing them when needed) and working on labor contracts. Although I retired from the Youth Authority in 2006 after 26 years of service, I never stopped caring about the officers who continue to "Walk the Toughest Beat in the State." I happily remained active in the Retired Chapter of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) and with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF). I genuinely cared about and worked for California's correctional employees."



2021 CDCR Medal of Valor Award and 2021 CDCR Gold Star, Silver Star and Bronze Star Awards*



Medal of Valor Luis Cardenas, Parole Agent 1, Div. of Adult Parole Operations



Gold Star Medalist Tracy Master, Parole Agent I, Div. of Adult Parole Operations



Gold Star Medalist Greg Williams, retired IT Specialist formerly with CCWF



Silver Star Medalist Carlos Garcia, Correctional Supervising Cook, Calipatria SP



Silver Star Medalist Randy Turner, Correctional Sergeant, San Quentin SP



Silver Star Medalist Earl Cooper, Correctional Officer, CSP Solano



Silver Star Medalist Veronica Cantu Correctional Sergeant, Valley SP



Bronze Star Medalist Cody Greer, Correctional Officer, California Medical Facility



Bronze Star Medalist Jennifer Howard-Hammer, Correctional Officer I, CSP Sacramento



Bronze Star Medalist Ricardo Urrea, Correctional Sergeant, Richard A. McGee Correctional Training Center, Galt, CA



Bronze Star Medalist Kimberly Silva, Statewide Transportation Central Unit



Bronze Star Medalist William Mayfield, Correctional Officer, Valley SP



Bronze Star Medalist Joseph Jasso, Correctional Food Manager, CCWF



Bronze Star
Medalist
Jim Liptrap,
now-retired
Superintendent,
Pine Grove
Youth
Conservation
Camp
(now closed)



Bronze Star Medalist Paul Ford, Parole Agent I, Div. of Adult Parole Operations



Bronze Star Medalist Dustin Morrison, Correctional Officer, California CC



Bronze Star Medalist Elias Rodriguez, Correctional Officer, California CC



Bronze Star Medalist Michelle McKee, Registered Nurse California CC



Bronze Star Medalist Steve Oschner, Correctional Sergeant, California CC



Bronze Star Medalist Stephen Harkness, Correctional Sergeant, California CC

*The Medal of Valor is the Department's highest award, earned by employees distinguishing themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of correctional service.

The Gold Star medal is awarded for heroic deeds under extraordinary circumstances.

The Silver Star medal is awarded for acts of bravery under extraordinary or unusual circumstances.

The Bronze Star is awarded for saving a life without placing oneself in peril.

California continued on page 37

Federal News



Dear Kim:

The Catastrophic Assistance packet for Officer Anthony Franks was delivered yesterday. He was quite thankful and wanted me to express his deepest appreciation. Attached is a photograph of Officer Franks (FCI Beckley) with his CPOF assistance check and his two children, Josie and Ryder. Thank you again for everything.

J. McMillion

Lieutenant, FCI Beckley

C/O Franks' wife, Emily, was hospitalized for several weeks starting in July of 2021 due to complications with her pregnancy. Anthony exhausted almost all his time on the books and needed help with med/travel expenses.

At left: Photo, as described.



C/O Curtis Glasgow, a
Supporting Member at FCC
Forrest City, suffered a house fire
that started in the fuse box and
spread to the kitchen and
laundry room. The fire burned
out electrical wiring throughout
the house, causing major damage.
At right: C/O Glasgow with his
CPOF assistance check, CPOF
Federal Field Representative
Annie Norman and
Mrs. Glasgow (Sandra).



Dear Kim,

After 22 years at the Federal Bureau of Prisons and 18 in Beaumont, TX, I thought I had seen everything. Earlier this year I was with my younger brother in Louisiana, and we were in a head-on collision. I don't know how

we are here but through God. I want to thank CPOF for remembering me. I never thought I would need help. But I am glad I had you in my life. I have been in rehab vigorously working to regain use of my legs.

Thank You, CPOF, and God Bless

Anthony W. Simon

Correctional Treatment Specialist, FCI Seagoville, Texas

CTS Anthony Simon is a Supporting Member at FCI Seagoville. As noted, he was in a head-on vehicle collision in February of 2021. He suffered two broken legs and ankles and has been unable to return to work since the accident. As of July 21, Anthony was still unable to return to work as he was still in rehab to learn to walk again. Above: CTS Simon.

Federal News

The CPO Foundation is proud to offer academic scholarships to qualifying Correctional Staff and their immediate family members. For qualification, criteria and more information about the Scholarship Program visit cpof.org. Here we present scholarship recipients from FCC Forrest City (AR) and FCC Oakdale (LA)



FCC Forrest City:

Far Left - John P. Yates, Complex Warden Back Left - Eric Kessel, Associate Warden Back Middle - Jennifer Clemons-Abdullah, Associate Warden

Back Right - Timothy Taylor, Associate Warden

Recipients: Roberto Ortiz with his son, Liam Ortiz, Kevin Brazile with his daughter, Elise Brazile, Boris Hunt with his daughter, Madison Hunt, and Andrea Brooks-Smith with her son, Jaysen Smith In Front: CPOF Federal Field Representative Annie Norman



At right:
FCC Oakdale Left to right:
Gerri Melder,
Lauren Holmes,
Vanessa Gautreaux,
Abby Reed, James
Reed and Teddy
Deshotel

Above: FCC Oakdale - Carl Davis on behalf of his daughter, Carley Davis, with CPOF Louisiana Liaison Vanessa Gautreaux



Don't forget: **YOU** are our "Eyes and Ears" inside the prisons. If you know of a staff member dealing with a catastrophic situation, please contact us.

Your contacts for the Federal System are:

Main Contact: Kim Blakley, Federal Coordinator kim@cpof.org

916-928-0061 ext. 1318 ~ Fax: 916-928-5893

South Central Region: Annie Norman adcobbnorman@gmail.com

North Central/North East Regions: George Meshko gmeshkocpof@aol.com Mid-Atlantic/South East Regions: Wayne Bowdry wbowdrycpof@yahoo.com

Taking Care of Our Own!

COLORADO



Mr. Edmonds,

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to thank you and the CPO Foundation for your support and generosity during this most difficult time in our lives. The loss of my husband Dustin has been life changing. Each and every day we are working toward reconciling our deep sadness with peace and understanding.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you again for the professionalism and respect you have shown to my family as well as to others during difficult times. We are forever grateful.

Monica Eckley and Family, Avondale, CO C/O Monica Eckley is employed at Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility. Her husband, Dustin, a retired C/O, had been battling health issues for over a year and passed away on April 18, 2021. Dustin had been a CPOF Supporting Member from 2007 to 2019 when he had to take a medical retirement.



Hello! This is State Teacher I Karen Engelker from Sterling Correctional Facility. Thank you so much for the financial support!

Teacher Karen Engelker suffered an injury in December of 2020 and underwent surgery. After two months she was able to return to work on part time duty. On May 13, 2021 during a follow-up video appointment with her doctor he noticed that she wasn't looking well and recommended she immediately go to the hospital. Once there Karen was diagnosed as having a heart attack. She had to undergo emergency quintuple bypass surgery. Karen received a CPOF check to help with the expenses she faced during the months she once again had to be off work. Above: Karen and husband Jerry.

Parole Agent
Justin Whited
is a Supporting
Member. His
wife, Kristen,
was diagnosed
with breast
cancer. She
had surgery
and then
underwent
treatments.
Kristen was
unable to work



for many weeks while recovering. The Whiteds received financial assistance to help with their medically-related travel expenses and out-of-pocket medical bills.

Above: Kristen and Justin.

COLORADO



C/O I Obie Goodwin is a Supporting Member at the Denver Complex. On June 17th Obie was hit from behind by a semi truck. He suffered major back injuries and neck trauma/injury. He has not been able to return to work and is undergoing treatments for pain. It was hoped that he would be able to return by October. He has exhausted all time on the books and is struggling with living expenses. He is pictured at right with his CPOF assistance check.



To the CPO Foundation:

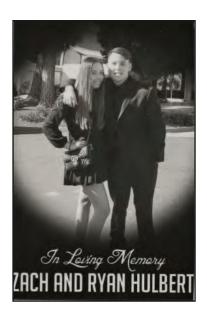
I would like to start off by giving a huge thank you to Kim Blakley, Guy Edmonds, Pam Fillmore, Warden Patsy Hartley and all of my CPOF family! My family and I truly can't thank you all enough for your generosity and support. We will use these funds for Vance's three-week intensive therapy. I'm honored to be a Supporting Member of this great organization and all the great people I've been privileged to meet along the way. Thanks for your unwavering help and support!

Sincerely,

The Davis Family: Mark, Jenn, Presley and Vance Several years ago, C/O I Davis' son, Vance, was diagnosed with a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy called Ullrich Cogenital MD. There is no known cure. The Davis family traveled out of the U.S. to see doctors who specialize in this type of disease. In July of 2016, Vance suffered a bad fall, landing on his face and hitting his head. This caused a brain bleed that required surgery. The family continued to travel out of the country every few months for Vance's stem cell treatments.

In mid-May of this year, Guy Edmonds reported that as Vance gets older complications with the Muscular Dystrophy continue to cause walking/breathing issues. This has meant that the family must continue to travel out of the country for treatments every three to four months. They have received assistance from the CPOF to help with the many expenses incurred by travel and paying out-of-pocket medical bills not covered by insurance. Above: The Davis family

California continued from page 33



C/O Donald Hulbert is employed at California Substance Abuse and Training Facility. His 20-year-old daughter, Ryan and 18-year-old son, Zachary, tragically were murdered by Ryan's former boyfriend.

Above: Ryan and Zachary's "Loving Memory" card.

Oklahoma



Sergeant Kwame Nketiah works at Mabel Bassett CC. Earlier this year he lost everything in an apartment fire which started in the apartment below his own. Above: Captain Christopher Burchett, Sgt. Nketiah with his CPOF assistance check and Warden Aboutanaa Elhabti.



CSO II Hannah Pearson of Oklahoma State
Prison was in a car accident earlier this year when another driver hit her head on. She suffered multiple injuries and was off work for several months recovering. She incurred many medically-related out of pocket and travel expenses. Debbie Moore recommended CSO Pearson for assistance, and she is pictured here receiving her CPOF check. Above: OSP Warden's Assistant Nanci Battles, CSO II Pearson and Debbie Moore.



Probation & Parole Officer I Officer Evelyn Bull's husband, John Gibson, passed away after suffering a stroke and complications with epilepsy. PPO Bull received a CPOF check to help with funeral expenses. Per CPOF Oklahoma Volunteer Debbie Moore, "Officer Bull was overwhelmed by the gift. She is quite happy for the help."

Above: Assistant Regional Supervisor Mary McDonald, PPO Evelyn Bull and

Team Supervisor Julie Free.





Region I PPO IV Jerald Custar Jr.'s wife, Carla, passed away unexpectedly. PPO IV Jerald (Jay)

Custar received a CPOF check to assist with funeral expenses. Jay is the Team Supervisor for Woodward and Guymon. Chris Frech is his ARS. Above left: PPO IV Jay Custer Jr. and Chris Frech; above right: Carla Custar.

Oklahoma

C/O Misty Posas is a Supporting Member at Oklahoma State Reformatory. She is married to Gilberto. Misty and Gilberto's son, Tyler, was in a car accident last April and was life flighted to an Oklahoma City hospital (120 miles away) where he was admitted to an ICU. He was put into a drug induced coma and was on a ventilator for several days. Once he was off the ventilator he had to remain in the ICU to be treated for a brain injury. Misty and Gilberto were staying in a hotel near the hospital and taking turns being bedside. Debbie Moore and OSR Warden Dwayne Janis recommended assistance for C/O Posas, and she is pictured at right receiving her CPOF check from Interim Warden Tisha Williams.



Montana



Records Analyst Amy Maki of Montana State Prison underwent surgery to have a mass removed behind her left eye on May 28, 2021. Her recovery from the surgery was approximately two weeks and Amy fell into a LWOP status. CPOF Montana Representative Lisa Hunter recommended Analyst Maki for assistance, and she is pictured above with her CPOF check.

Per Lisa: "Amy works at the MSP Records Department so most of the Department crew joined us. Amy was so thankful to get the CPOF assistance that she even shed some tears of joy and relief." Left to right: Kristin Maki, Marie Curie, Susan Menicucci-Schimming, Renee Reistad, Carla

Martinson, Kathy McElderry, Amy Maki, Donna Zawada, Warden Jim Salmonsen and Lisa Hunter.

TEXAS



C/O III Victor Hadnot of Lewis Unit and his wife lost their home and all belongings in a house fire. HRS IV Jeannie Handley referred C/O III Hadnot for assistance, and he is pictured at left receiving his CPOF check from Warden Heather Glover.

Good morning, In February C/O V Officer Omar Chavez, a Supporting Member of the CPO Foundation, was hospitalized and diagnosed with leukemia. Officer Chavez remained hospitalized until he gained his wings on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at the young age of



43. He left behind a wife and three young children. He dedicated 17 years of service to the State of Texas. He will truly be missed by many. His wife, Maria Morales, would like to thank Michael Unit and the CPOF for assisting in their time of need.

Here is a photo of me presenting a CPOF check to the family of Officer Omar Chavez.

Again, I want to thank the Foundation for the job you do.

Garvernet R. Durham, ACA Coordinator C.R.I.S.P Team Leader Mark W. Michael Unit

ACA Coordinator Garvernet Durham is a longtime Supporting Member.



Clerk III Felicia Smith works at the TDCJ Region III Training Academy. Her husband, Travis, had to undergo five brain surgeries due to a shunt that had broken in several places. This caused swelling of the brain and spinal fluid leakage. Travis provides the majority of the household income, but owing to the surgeries and recovery times he was unable to work for months. At the request of Lieutenant Britney Wilcox, Felicia received a CPOF check to help with living expenses while Travis was off work.

Above: Lt. Britney Wilcox, Mr. Travis Smith, daughter Sidney, Clerk III Smith, CPOF Texas Representative Kelli Forrester and Major Darryl Sanders.



C/O V Carrie Jupin is a Supporting Member at Eastham Unit. Her husband, Ron, died earlier this year from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Eastham Unit HRS IV Teri Swanson recommended C/O Jupin for assistance, and she is pictured at left receiving her CPOF check.

Also pictured: Asst. Warden Kurtis Pharr, CPOF Texas Representative Cathy Stokes, Carrie Jupin and Asst. Warden Adan Enrriques.

TEXAS

CPO Foundation Scholarships Awarded to Applicants from Texas Correctional Families



Region II Director Garth Parker; Oluwatoyin Alade, mother of Samuel Alade; and Cathy Stokes.



Alexis Mackey, daughter of Michelle Mackey of Choice Moore Unit.



Carlie Rutledge, daughter of Georgia Rutledge of Ferguson Unit.



Nevaeh Hopkins, daughter of Esperanza Hernandez of Stevenson Unit.



Region II Director Garth Parker, Jason Wheat, Katy Wheat and Cathy Stokes.



Riley Pittcock, daughter of Jim Pittcock of Eastham Unit.



Region II Director Garth Parker, Juan Garcia, Sr. Warden Coffield, Vanessa Gyabaah and Cathy Stokes.



Chadrick English, son of Tamanekia English of Estelle Unit.



Riley Molnes, daughter of Brandi Molnes of TDCJ-ID.

Texas continued next page

TEXAS

CPO Foundation Scholarships awarded to Applicants from Texas Correctional Families



Kayla Cooper, daughter of Sophia Hicks of Huntsville Unit.



Tracy Hutto, mother of Madison Hutto of Estelle Unit.



Kristasia Polk, daughter of Christine Alfred of Ferguson Unit.



Joanna Alford, mother of Rebecca Alford-TDCJ-PF.



Dylan Dickerson, son of Daniel Dickerson of Polunsky Unit.



Kristi Stewart, wife of James Stewart of Wynne Unit.



Kara Kuykendall, daughter of Julie Kuykendall-TDCJ-PF.



Keegan Wilson, son of Leah Wilson of Ferguson Unit.



William Saumell, son of Jill Saumell of Walker County Juvenile

Oregon

My First CPOF Oregon Institution Tour by Tom Donaldson

I am very thankful for the opportunity to not only be part of CPOF but to be able to get more involved and get out promoting CPOF and sharing with the staff here in Oregon.

The end of August into September I spent two weeks visiting nine of the state's institutions. The first week started with Oregon State Penitentiary, Oregon State Correctional Institution, Santiam Correctional Institution, South Fork Forest Camp and ending the week at Shutter Creek Correctional Institution.

The next week started at Powder River Correctional Facility, then onto Eastern Oregon Correctional Institutions, Two River Correctional Institution and ending my two-week tour at Deer Ridge Correctional Institution.

Considering that this was my first trip in the field on my own I was very thankful for the support from the Superintendents and their staff who made sure that I had everything needed to make my visit a success. Some even stuck around and helped to promote CPOF. I was able to sign up some new members and look forward to visiting the rest of the institutions in the near future.

Oregon End of Watch Memorial Foundation 13th Annual Golf Tournament

Corporal Tony Ruvalcaba Reporting

On August 21st, 2021, we of the Oregon End of Watch Memorial Foundation held our **13th Annual End of Watch Memorial Golf Tournament** at Chehalem Glen Golf Club in Newberg, Oregon. We had 34 teams registered and raffled off a Scotty Cameron Special Select Squareback 2 Titleist Putter among other wonderful raffle prizes.

We raised enough to donate \$5,000 to CPOF and \$1,000 to go toward the CPOF Kids' Room set up at our annual Project 2000 gatherings.

Thanks to our sponsors:

• Platinum:

Association of Oregon Corrections Employees

• Silver:

Dave and Paige Smith of Peak Real Estate (and Long Drive Hole Sponsor) AFSCME Local 405

• Hole Sponsors:

Tennessee Cable (and the Scotty Cameron Putter raffle prize)

Dixon Golf

Dupont Financial

Caliber Home Loans

• Thanks to Amber Donaldson Beauty for sponsoring the Helicopter Ball Drop!

Looking forward, we are hosting our inaugural Central Oregon End Of Watch Memorial Golf Tournament at Meadow Lakes Golf Club in Prineville, Oregon on September 17, 2022. We are working as well on an Eastern Oregon Golf Tournament in Pendleton, Oregon also to take place in 2022.

You will be able to register on our website at orendofwatchmf.org

Arkansas

Arkansas Board of Corrections Chairman Benny Magness presented the 2020 Meritorious Service Award to Dr. Charles Allen (center), at the Division of Correction Pinnacle Awards banquet, held on July 9, at Little Rock's Pleasant Valley Country Club. Dr. Allen faithfully served as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Arkansas Corrections School System from 1994 until his retirement last year. Chairman Magness credited Dr. Allen for the program's success and also recognized his wife, Anne, for

the great support she provided to her husband throughout the years.

Pictured: Board of Corrections Chairman Benny Magness, Dr. Charles Allen and wife Anne Allen.





We thank Mr. Kevin Murphy (pictured at left), Vice President of the U.S. Deputy Wardens Association, for sending us this news item and photo. Mr. Murphy and his wife, Karen, have been active volunteers for the CPO Foundation for many years. At every **Project 2000** event, on behalf of the U.S. Deputy Wardens Association Mr. Murphy gives wheeled "backpacks" filled with toys, games and various other fun things (including a stuffed animal) to each of the children of the fallen Corrections professionals being honored that year.



Earlier this year, HR Manager Rodney Ford, a Supporting Member at the Arkansas Maximum Security Unit, had moderate deterioration of his right hip. He also had three bulging disks in his lower back. He underwent surgery, after which he had follow-up treatments. CPOF Arkansas Representative Annie Norman presented a CPOF assistance check to Rodney.

Oregon continued from pg. 43

Dear Kim [Blakley],

Kim, this is the best picture to use for Sergeant Shawna Bronson. Her daughter, Reiley, has Autism and building awareness was very important to Shawna. On behalf of Mr. Bronson and the family, thank you, CPOF, for the generous check to help with Reiley's care.

Kimberly Hendricks, Superintendent Santiam Correctional Institution Sgt. Shawna Bronson, a Supporting Member at Santiam Correctional Institution, passed away unexpectedly on August 13, 2021. Her father, Charles, received a CPOF check to help with funeral expenses.



Virginia

The CPO Foundation Scholarship Program in Action!



Capt. Steve Franklin, Madison Swiney and Unit Manager Greg Swiney (Madison's father).

CPOF Scholarships are awarded to the daughters of FIVE Red Onion State Prison Employees.

Congratulations to All!

"The ROSP family thanks CPOF for all their support and for the scholarships for these students.

> Lieutenant Drew Fleming Red Onion State Prison"



Laura Duncan, Rylee Duncan, Madison Swiney, Haley Sykes and Kaley Sykes.



Nurse Supervisor Beverly Witt of Red Onion SP was unexpectedly out of work in July of 2021 due to a mass in her brain. She had to go to Duke for a cancer metastasis workup. Travel and lodging expenses created a great financial hardship for her. CPOF Virginia Rep Wendy Baur referred Nurse Witt for assistance.

Tennessee



From Warden Jason Clendenion of Turney Center Industrial Complex (TCIX):
On September 23, 2021 we gathered four of our employees at TCIX that were victim to the floods in Waverly, Tennessee in August. The middle Tennessee Prisons, along with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation and the Tennessee Executive Association, raised a total of \$9,044 that was divided among the four. Several household items along with food, toys and furniture were donated as well. The staff at TCIX are very grateful and appreciative of the efforts of our fellow employees to lift them up in their time of need.

Pictured: Officer Kelsey Booth, Officer Jennifer Hughbanks, Officer James Black and Nurse Joy Mallard holding their CPOF assistance checks; and various TCIX staff.

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 Natural Disaster House Fire Bereavement

LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFIT

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Applicant: * 3.0 GPA * Full Time Student

* Application period opens in
January and closes in April every year

Sponsor: * Must be a Supporting Member for at least One Year

www.facebook.com/CorrectionalPeaceOfficersFoundation

cpof.org

"Taking Care of Our Own"

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

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

The sword - symbolizes honor.

*The single red ros*e - 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.



Former Commander of the CPOF National Honor Guard Steve Dizmon.



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 shed 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."