
CPO FAMILY

Spring 2012

A Publication of The CPO Foundation

Vol. 22, No. 1

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation

The Correctional Peace Officers' Foundation was founded in the early 1980s at Folsom State Prison in California. If this is the first time you are reading one of our semi-annual publications, the *CPO Family* magazine, welcome! And to all those that became Supporting Members in the middle to late 1980s and all the years that have followed, THANKS for making the Correctional Peace Officers' (CPO) Foundation the

organization it is today.

The CPO Foundation was created with two goals in mind: first, to *be there immediately* in the event of a line-of-duty death; and second, to promote a positive image of the Corrections profession.

We ended 2011 tragically with the murder of C/O Buddy Herron of Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton, Oregon. Upon hearing of his death I immediately flew to Portland, Oregon, along with Kim Blakley, and met up with Oregon CPOF Field Representative Dan Weber. Through the Internet the death of one of our own spreads quickly. As mentioned in the Commander's article (inside, starting on page 10), Honor Guards from across the nation snapped to attention. Thus, Kim and I were met in Pendleton by hundreds and hundreds of uniform staff.

Kim, Dan Weber, Assistant Superintendent of



Correctional Officer Buddy Herron
Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution
EOW: November 29, 2011

Correctional Officer Tracy Hardin
High Desert State Prison, Nevada
EOW: January 20, 2012



Correctional Corporal Barbara Ester
East Arkansas Unit
EOW: January 20, 2012

Correctional Sergeant Ruben Thomas III
Columbia Correctional Institution, Florida
EOW: March 18, 2012



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

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CPO FAMILY

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*Thank you for assisting us in
"Taking Care of our Own."*

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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.* © 2012 Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Inc.

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PROJECT 2000 XXIV
Friday, June 13 - Sunday, June 16, 2013
Sparks, Nevada
Host Hotel: John Ascuaga's Nugget*



*The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation
Wall of Honor*

fied of the line-of-duty death of Corporal Ester. To quote Commander Dizmon again, he “asked his team to saddle up.” Correctional widows Jennifer Donaldson-Davis from Alabama and Debbie Stewart-Herklotz from Texas; and South Carolina Field Representative Judy Dease, joined Kim Blakley and me in Memphis and here we were joined by Kevin Murphy, Retired Administrator from the Arkansas Department of Corrections. Kevin was our escort and had set up a time for us to meet with the widower of Corporal Ester. We drove one and a half hours to meet, yet again, with a suddenly bereaved family and to assist them however we could in planning a farewell Memorial Service. Again, hundreds and hundreds of uniform staff not only from Arkansas state, but many from the Federal Bureau of Prisons and indeed from all over the United States, poured into the small (very small) town of Marianna to pay their last respects.

With the town of Marianna being so small, the funeral home was likewise small so the viewing was done in shifts. The members of the CPO Foundation Board of Directors in attendance, and of course the CPOF National Honor Guard, assisted however they could. The service for Corporal Ester was held at Lee Senior High School with a “standing room only” crowd. Afterward, Corporal Ester was laid to rest at the Gill Cemetery. Commander Dizmon’s Honor Guard gave her an awe-inspiring farewell, complete with a 21-rifle volley. Pictures of Corporal Ester’s memorial ceremonies are on page 8.

Correctional Officer Tracy Hardin from High Desert State Prison in Las Vegas, Nevada was assaulted on December 23, 2011 and died from his injuries on January 20, 2012. At the time of this writing, Officer Hardin was to be honored on May 3 in Carson City and again on May 4 in Reno, Nevada. We hope to see many of our Supporting Members in attendance.

The wonderful letter of appreciation on page 9 from Officer Adam Eich, Acting Secretary IUPA Local #11 in Indiana, gave great recognition and credit to Assistant Honor Guard Commander Dave Wedzina and the CPOF Honor Guard that attended the service for Corrections Officer Britney Muex. Many like the Lake County Sheriff’s Department do not have an Honor Guard team in place so the Lake County Sheriff’s Department was, again, very appreciative. We have many, many photographs of all these services, too many to include in this magazine, but many of them are on our website: cpof.org.

As you can see by our cover and by the time this issue went to print we already have four murders to recognize next year at **Project 2000 XXIV** being held in Sparks, Nevada. Officer Buddy Herron will be honored this year in Washington, D.C. Again, if this is the first time you are reading about the Correctional Peace Officers’ Foundation it is not too early to start planning to attend next year’s **Project 2000** four-day event taking place Thursday, June 13 - Sunday, June 16, 2013. Our host hotel will be the Nugget and, trust me, once you attend one of our **Project 2000** events you will want to return each year.

In closing, as I mentioned in the beginning one of our first goals was to promote and project a positive image of the Corrections profession. By attending all or just one of these services as uniformed Correctional Officers, Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, Majors or whatever rank you hold, you present our image admirably and lead to the profession being held in high regard by the general public.

Security Mr. Richard McGraw from the Oregon Department of Corrections, and I met with Kim Heron, Buddy’s widow. We quickly learned that there were four children now left without a father. Our hearts were all very sad, but then our work began with assisting the family in planning a Memorial Service for their dad and husband. Pictures from that service are on facing page 5.

As sadly as we ended 2011 we started 2012 just as tragically with the murder of Corporal Barbara Ester of the East Arkansas Regional Unit in Marianna, Arkansas. On Friday, January 20, we were notified

Correctional Officer Buddy Ray Herron
Oregon Department of Corrections
EOW: November 29, 2011

Correctional Officer Buddy Herron was husband to Kim Herron and father to James, Joshua, Jacob and Jenna. Buddy moved to Oregon after working eight years for the Arizona Department of Corrections. Buddy and his family settled in the small town of Helix, just outside of Pendleton, Oregon. Officer Herron worked for the Oregon Department of Corrections at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI) from 2007, until his untimely death on November 29, 2011. Officer Herron was also a Volunteer Firefighter with the town of Helix.

While working for the Oregon Department of Corrections, Officer Herron became a well-liked Officer by his co-workers and his Management team. Officer Herron worked the first shift and was always full of energy, according to his co-workers.



While reporting to work that late November night, Officer Herron saw a vehicle on the side of the road. As a Correctional Officer and Volunteer Firefighter, he stopped to assist the stranded motorist. Sadly, the “stranded motorist” had just committed a crime and was trying to escape when he had an accident. When Officer Herron (in uniform) approached the motorist, the motorist attacked and stabbed him several times. The motorist then stole Officer Herron’s vehicle and drove away. A passerby noticed Officer Herron lying on the ground and called 911. Officer Herron was transported to the local hospital in Pendleton, where he died shortly thereafter. The motorist was later stopped in the stolen vehicle, arrested and charged with murder. He currently awaits his day in court.

In May 2012, Officer Herron will be honored and his name placed on the Fallen Officer Memorial Wall in Oregon at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. Also in May, in Washington, D.C. he will be honored and his name later inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall.

In June 2012, Officer Herron will be honored at the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation’s **Project 2000 XXIII** National Memorial Ceremony that will also be held in Washington, D.C. this year.

As a fellow Correctional Officer for the Oregon Department of Corrections, it saddens me to lose a fellow Brother. To Officer Herron’s family, we say thank you for allowing us the time that we, the Oregon Department of Corrections, got to spend and work with Buddy. To Buddy, we say... “Your honor and sacrifice will not be forgotten. Rest in Peace, my Brother. Rest in Peace.”

-- Dan Weber, CPO Foundation Representative in West Oregon



Photos: Officer Buddy Herron’s Memorial Service in Pendleton, Oregon on December 5, 2011.

Correctional Officer Tracy Hardin
High Desert State Prison, Nevada
EOW: January 20, 2012



My name is Lieutenant Tania Arguello (photo at left). I have been with the Nevada Department of Corrections for 17 years and have been a Supporting Member of the Correctional Peace Officer's Foundation about just as long.

During my tenure with the department, we have had many of our staff assaulted and many needing catastrophic assistance, but the Nevada Department of Corrections had been graced and blessed not to have lost a Correctional Officer in the Line of Duty until now.

It was with great sadness to have received notification on December 29, 2011 of an assault on Correctional Officer Tracy Hardin from High Desert State Prison. Although I am currently assigned to Warm Springs Correctional Center, I have worked at four major institutions in Nevada including Southern Desert Correctional Center in Indian Springs, directly across from High Desert State Prison.

On January 20, 2012 I was notified of Officer Hardin's passing, three weeks after the assault. My heart skipped a beat to know that one of "Our Officers" had died in the Line of Duty. This is a tragic event and devastating to know that our fallen brother had died as the direct result of an inmate attack.



Officer Tracy Hardin was honored on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at the 15th Annual Nevada Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony held on the Capital grounds in Carson City. All local and state Law Enforcement agencies and officials were in attendance including: Correctional Officers and the Honor Guard from the South joining Correctional Officers and the Northern Honor Guard, along with

Gene Columbus, President of the Nevada Correctional Association and his wife Sharon; Department of Corrections Director Greg Cox; Deputy Director E.K. McDaniels; Warden Dwight Neven from High Desert State Prison; and Warden Gregory Smith and Associate Warden Wes Mattice from Warm Springs Correctional Center.

Correctional Officer Hardin was represented by his family, Devona Hardin-Patterson and her husband Kalon Patterson from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Both flew a long way to give final farewell/tribute to "their Hardin."



During the ceremony and as we honored Officer Hardin, law enforcement provided a 21-gun volley, a wreath, a baton and a riderless horse, all dedicated to recognize the ultimate sacrifice this Officer made in service to our Correctional system. In addition, the Nevada Honor Guard proudly took a picture in front of the Peace Officer's Memorial where Officer Hardin's name is etched.

On Friday another service was held at Idle Wild Park Hoff Memorial in Reno. Everyone was in attendance as stated above as well as



Correctional Officer Tracy Hardin
High Desert State Prison, Nevada
EOW: January 20, 2012



several of my co-members of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation National Honor Guard (photo at right).

I am always proud to represent the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation at a Memorial Service, but when you are honoring one of your own the pain is much worse. An awful

part of life is the loss of a fellow Officer. We as a community often forget that Correctional Officers take serious risks daily for the safety of others, which is a heavy price to pay when lives are at risk. I am grateful to our Correctional Officers and the Law Enforcement community for their selfless dedication to protecting the public.

Correctional Officer Tracy Hardin will be recognized and honored next year at the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation **Project 2000 XXIV** in Sparks, Nevada in June 2013. The host hotel will be John Ascuaga's Nugget and I highly encourage and recommend as many of my Nevada Correctional Brothers & Sisters to **PLAN NOW** to attend this ceremony to honor one of our own. Remember: The CPOF takes care of "Our Own!"



This is Glenn Mueller, Chairman of the Correctional Peace Officers (CPO) Foundation. Reading this issue as it was being put together made me want to stop and thank each and every one of you that have helped make the CPO Foundation the National Correctional Charity it is today.

On Friday, June 8, 2012 we will be honoring the 14 Corrections Professionals listed on page 29 of this publication. We will also honor a son of one of our Federal Correctional Employees who lost his life serving our great country.

At every Memorial Ceremony we say, "We hope there is a year when we will not have anyone to recognize, as we did not have any losses the previous year." Sadly, it is most unlikely that this will ever happen. As you can see by the cover of this CPO Family magazine we already have four to honor next year in Reno, Nevada at Project 2000 XXIV.

Although we now have internet we still rely on you, our "Supporting Members," to sometimes make a call to report when one of your co-workers has been assaulted or is in serious need of catastrophic assistance. Again, as I go through this publication and read about so many of our Correctional Staff that we have assisted, just this past quarter/year makes me proud that almost 30 years ago we "Founding Fathers" of the CPO Foundation had a vision.

As a retired Warden of Folsom State Prison, serving in the California Department of Corrections for over 31 years, I know the dangers each and every one of you faces daily. With that said, I, along with the entire CPOF Board of Directors, pray for your safety every day. And one more thing: please, ALWAYS watch your partner's back.

Glenn A Mueller

Correctional Corporal Barbara Ester

East Arkansas Unit, Arkansas

EOW: January 20, 2012

by Kevin Murphy, Retired Administrator, Arkansas Department of Corrections



I'm sure the day started just like any other day at the East Arkansas Regional Unit (EARU) in Brickey's Arkansas. Roll call at 6:15, work crews going out, programs starting at 8:00 and the smell of lunch already being prepared in the kitchen.

January 20th began at 8:00 a.m. for Corporal Barbara Ester, the Unit Property Officer. Barbara was in charge of accounting for all property that had been confiscated to be either sent home or for family to pick up. She had one of the most responsible and demanding jobs of many of the staff, keeping accurate inventories in an organized and efficient manner. Barbara did this very well.

Barbara was very proactive in performing her job duties. That afternoon she was on four barracks making a round when she noticed that an inmate had a pair of contraband tennis shoes in his possession. She went through the procedures of ensuring that they were in fact contraband and, once confirmed, contacted the shift supervisor on duty to say that she needed assistance with the confiscation. As she and the lieutenant were leaving the barracks the inmate approached Corporal Ester and stabbed her in the chest. She went to the infirmary for treatment and was later transferred by ambulance to the local hospital where she was pronounced dead.

I was attending a Southern States Correctional Association Board meeting when I received the call. I had to ask the caller twice to repeat what they were saying. The last time that Arkansas lost a Corrections Professional in the line of duty was November 29, 1995: Sergeant Scott Grimes, who also was brutally stabbed by an inmate. The sickness in my stomach was the same. This couldn't be true. Surely, it had to be a mistake. But it was not.

Barbara's husband Lathan also worked at EARU as the Unit Disciplinary Hearing Officer. Lathan, a Marine prior to coming to work for ADC, had previously been a lieutenant and knew exactly the location *and* the inmate involved. He was deeply in love with Barbara and called her his angel. In the photo at right, Lathan is presented with the folded flag at Barbara's funeral.



I called several people in the Department to ask what I could do to help, knowing full well that the answer would be that there was nothing anyone could do. I then thought about Lathan, the children and grandchildren, and what they must be going through. Warden Danny Burl had done a great job in the aftermath of the incident to handle the crime scene and to comfort staff, as well as the Ester family. Next I called Char to let her know what had happened. Char went into action and began notifying the CPOF Foundation "team" that would travel to Arkansas to comfort the family and the Department. Over the next few days various representatives of CPOF arrived: Kim Blakley, Debbie Herklotz, Judy Dease, Ellis Peoples and Jennifer Davis; Board Members Glenn Mueller, Larry Corby and Salvador Osuna; and the CPOF National Honor Guard.

On Thursday I took Char, Debbie and Kim over to meet the family. Lathan was doing an outstanding job of handling the arrangements under the stress of losing his life partner. Debbie in turn did a wonderful job of comforting him and relating what she had previously experienced in her loss. After realizing that all present were from the Corrections field and that the primary mission was to provide comfort and assistance, the family felt at ease in sharing their heart.

The CPOF National Honor Guard did an outstanding job in working with the Arkansas Honor Guard and the numerous others that were sent from around the state and from around the country. Steve Dizmon and David Wedzina performed to perfection in coordinating the Officers for the wake and funeral. It was overwhelming to see the support from all of the other Correction departments from everywhere from Washington State to Florida. It was obvious that "when one hurts, we all hurt."

The wake began with a three-block walk with the Honor Guard carrying the casket (uphill) to the church where the wake was held. The procession was led by various emergency vehicles from the city and followed by the Warden and his staff. The procession at the church by the Honor Guard and the Officers present was impressive to say the least.

The funeral the next day was held at the high school auditorium which is the largest building in the city. It was soon clear that the auditorium had only a third of the space needed to hold the overwhelming attendance. Arkansas Officers lined the perimeter of the inside of the auditorium (see photo above). A large delegation from the BOP Federal Prison in Forest City attended, showing support for the family. And, as I mentioned above, many other law enforcement Officers were present from all around the country.

Our thanks go to Char, the CPOF Board, the CPOF Honor Guard and all the representatives and volunteers that attended and assisted from CPOF. Thankfully, this is a rare event in our state. Nothing can prepare you for it. We are so grateful for the CPOF family and their support and assistance during such a tragic time. "Thank you" does not adequately describe our appreciation for *taking care of our own*.

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

To the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation:

On behalf of the Lake County [Indiana] Sheriff's Department Corrections Division IUPA Local #11 Union, we would like to offer a heartfelt thank-you for your representation and assistance during Officer Britney Muex's funeral ceremonies. Although few of our members had previously heard of the CPOF, the CPOF generously sent several members [of the CPOF National Honor Guard] for the funeral ceremonies who then put in an enormous amount of time training and working with our Honor Guard. The Lake County Sheriff's Department Corrections Division did not



Officer Britny Muex' funeral

have a standing Honor Guard at the time, and the CPOF's input, assistance and training was invaluable in our ability to provide a proper and respectful ceremony.

Your Officers took numerous shifts on casket watch and assisted dozens of Officers in learning proper movement on casket watch and Honor Guard activities. Your generosity and professionalism has inspired the Corrections Division to start, train and maintain a standing Honor Guard. Your Honor Guard provided a professional model to learn from.

Many Officers also have since expressed interest



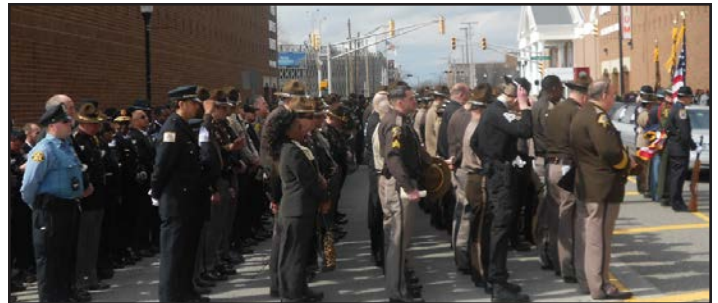
in joining the CPOF due to your Officers' presence and actions, and it was discussed at the subsequent monthly meeting.

IUPA Local #11 is forever grateful for your participation and generosity during a trying, difficult week.

Sincerely,

Officer Adam Eich, Acting Secretary, International Union of Police Associations Local #11,

Lake County Sheriff's Department, Indiana
Officer Britney Muex and three other Officers were struck by a hit-and-run driver while jogging. Officer Muex died from her injuries, while the other three Officers were transported to area hospitals and were expected to fully recover. The suspect was located and taken into custody.



This is Adrain Brewer, wife of Jerome Brewer who died in the line of duty at the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility in August 2008.

I attended the memorial service for Officer Britney Muex, as did hundreds of Corrections Personnel not only from Indiana but also from all parts of the country. I too want to give my thanks to Dave Wedzina and the members of the CPO Foundation National Honor Guard team who came to the service for assisting in giving Officer Muex such a beautiful farewell.

Officer Eich, I will be your main contact here in Indiana to assist you and your staff in learning more about the CPO Foundation and its mission. I know that Charleene Corby from the CPOF headquarters in Sacramento, California has already sent you some information; and I will contact you soon to set up a time that I can come to Lake County Sheriff's Department to share all the knowledge I have acquired since losing my husband, the father of our four sons.

We will keep the family and many friends of Officer Muex in our thoughts and prayers.

Correctional Sergeant Ruben Thomas III
Columbia Correctional Institution, Florida
EOW: March 18, 2012

by CPOF Honor Guard Commander Steve Dizmon

Upon receiving notice of an "Officer Killed in the Line of Duty" Honor Guards from across the Nation snap to attention in preparation for the Memorial Services. The following is a synopsis of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation's Honor Guard attendance in the case of Florida's Correctional Sergeant Ruben Howard Thomas III.

On Monday March 19, 2012 I received a phone call from Charleene Corby, CEO of the CPO Foundation, that Sergeant Thomas of the Florida Department of Corrections had been murdered and that I would receive further information.

Shortly thereafter I received an email with the following information:

"Sergeant Ruben Thomas was stabbed to death by an inmate at the Columbia Correctional Institution Annex. On March 18, 2012 at approximately 10:00 pm he was checking on an inmate in one of the prison's dorms when the inmate attacked him. He was stabbed in the neck several times. The inmate, who was serving a life sentence for murdering a college student, then struck another Officer in the eye with a sock filled with a heavy item before being taken into custody.

"Sergeant Thomas was transported to Shands Lake Shore Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds.

"Sergeant Thomas had served with the Florida Department of Corrections for six years. He is survived by his young daughter and fiancée, pregnant with their second child, a boy.

"Viewing would be in Lake City, Florida at Dees-Parrish Funeral Home on Thursday, March 22, 2012 and Memorial Services would be at Christ Central Church on Friday, March 23, 2012."

On the same day, emails were sent to all the CPOF Honor Guard members stating the following:

"I know, troops, that this is really getting to be hard on your time. But this is what we signed up to do – attend to murders behind the walls. For the services for Sergeant Ruben Thomas, we will fly and stay in Jacksonville, Florida, and drive to Lake City, Florida, 50 miles, to do what we have to do. We will fly on Wednesday, March 21, attend the viewing on Thursday, March 22, attend the service on Friday, March 23, and then fly home on Saturday, March 24. I realize I am asking a lot, however, do not forget this is "One of Our Own." Respond ASAP."

The CPOF Honor Guard consists of 20 Correctional Professionals who live and work in the following states: California, Oregon, Nevada, Texas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and New York. They all responded that they were ready and able to attend. Thanks to the wonderful staff at CPOF Headquarters, arrangements were made and we were on our way to Florida. Shortly, we were notified that the Rhode Island Color Guard would join us.

Before I proceed any further, I would be remiss if I did not thank Christy Szczukowski, Danielle Siebke and Ryan Day of the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront for accommodating the CPO Foundation on very short notice with room reservations. The Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront will be the host hotel for Project 2000 XXVI in June 2015.

As always, we do not know what to expect or what we will be told to accomplish until we arrive at the site of the event. Upon arriving at Dees-Parrish Funeral Home on Thursday at approximately 3:00 pm for the viewing, we were met by Sergeant Zackary Dunlap, Warden Ricky Dixon and Warden Barry Reddish who immediately



made us feel welcome and explained that we should form ranks as the people file into the service. Before we formed ranks we paid our respects to the surviving family and friends and then filed outside. The Florida Department of Corrections Honor Guard was standing in ranks, and I might add they were impressive, so we fell in beside them in front of the funeral home.

The viewing was scheduled for 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Early on there was already a steady stream of people filing in to the viewing. Florida Department of Corrections Officials started arriving, including Warden Don Davis of Columbia Correctional Institution. Again, all made us feel welcome and thanked us for coming.

At 7:00 pm the area in front of the funeral home had hundreds of people standing around and a line had formed going down the street and around the corner, disappearing behind houses. It would appear that many of the residents of Lake City had come to pay their respects.

Driving through town we noticed how much the community cared for its own. There were signs placed in front of several businesses reading, "Rest in Peace, Sergeant Ruben Thomas."

We reported at 8:00 am Friday to Christ Central Church for the Memorial Service. Upon arrival we were amazed at the number of Correctional Staff, State Troopers and local Law Enforcement agencies present. This number continued to grow to well over, the last I heard, 2000. As soon as we entered you could feel the love and grief of the staff and community that had come together to honor Sergeant Ruben Thomas III. Captain Harold Arnett was in charge of the Memorial Service. He welcomed us and explained what he wanted us to do. He utilized the CPOF Honor Guard Bag Piper, Bob Hanley. The Memorial Church Service was well organized and was conducted with respect and dignity. Department of Corrections Secretary Ken Tucker welcomed us and made sure the service was running smoothly. I have to say that Captain Harold Arnett was well prepared and his Honor Guard uniform was immaculate and worn with pride. (We Honor Guard Commanders notice this "stuff.")

The procession to the Oak Grove Cemetery stretched for miles, led by Law Enforcement motorcycles. All along the way, residents of Lake City lined the streets with flags and salutes as we drove by, very heart touching. At the cemetery Captain Harold Arnett quickly formed all the Honor Guards into a formation. The graveside service was conducted by clergy and followed with a 21-rifle volley, the playing of Taps and the folding of the American Flag. The flag was presented to Sergeant Ruben Howard Thomas' fiancée and their young daughter.

The Florida Department of Corrections Honor Guard executed the 21-rifle volley, Taps and the folding of the American Flag. They have to be one of the best I have seen. I have seen many, and their 21-rifle volley was perfect, as was the playing of Taps. The folding of the flag was flawless. It is the excellent performances of Honor Guards that help make the surviving families and friends start the long road of healing.

In closing, I must say we never want to attend another Memorial Service for a Fallen Officer Killed in the Line of Duty, but if we must the Florida Department of Corrections Honor Guard helps lead the way on how to organize and conduct an Honor Guard Funeral Ceremony.



**Above everything else, we "Take Care of Our Own"
and we will continue to pray and support the
surviving family and friends of our
Fallen Comrade
Sergeant Ruben Howard Thomas III.**

Tornadoes in Kentucky

by Ellis Peoples

We don't normally associate late winter with a lot of tornado activity, and tornadoes are even more rare in mountainous regions. The beginning of 2012 seems to be an exception and, this year, Correctional staff have been hit HARD.

I left home the afternoon of March 4, heading towards the Louisville area. When I travel, I tune my radio to local stations so I can check on weather and traffic conditions. Before I left home, I had seen news reports about a large number of tornadoes in the southeastern quadrant of the United States. At the time I didn't realize how directly Correctional staff in a number of states would be affected.

Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex is located in West Liberty, Kentucky. Late in the afternoon of March 2, an F-4 tornado touched down less than a mile from the institution in the downtown area. Fortunately, many businesses had already closed for the day, or injuries and fatalities might have been far worse than they were. As it is, many businesses, homes and historical sites had been reduced to rubble.

On Monday, March 5, I was working at Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange, Kentucky, which is at the edge of the Louisville Metro area. I telephoned Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex and spoke with Warden Gary Beckstrom to determine how many EKCC staff had been affected by the tornado. He told me that it was a little early to tell for sure, but a preliminary estimate was 20 whose homes had been totally destroyed or had been damaged to the point that the structure would have to be bulldozed and the home rebuilt.

I also contacted Warden Joe Meko at Little Sandy Correctional Complex in Sandy Hook, Kentucky. This facility is near West Liberty and many of their staff live there. Warden Meko told me that he had had one staff member seriously injured, and one whose home had been destroyed.

I asked for fax numbers for both institutions, then talked with KSR Warden Cookie Crews and asked if she could have Catastrophic Assistance Request forms sent to LSCC and EKCC so the Foundation could begin arranging for assistance. When I called Stephanie Barone, our Catastrophic Assistance Co-



Photos top to bottom: 1. The path of the tornado (Ellis took the picture while standing at the window of an upstairs bedroom). 2. Homes of EKCC families. 3. Per Ellis, "This home sustained considerably less damage than many that I visited." 4. Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex -- again, Ellis: "It's hard to imagine the devastation less than a mile away."

Tornadoes in Kentucky



ordinator for Kentucky, on Tuesday she told me she hadn't received any communication from EKCC at all. I called EKCC and learned that the tornado had caused enough damage that there was no internet service or fax capabilities -- in fact, there was only one telephone line available.

When you work in Corrections, you learn to be creative and adaptable in an emergency. By Wednesday, I was working at Roederer Correctional Complex -- still in the Louisville Metro area. I called EKCC the morning of March 8, and Warden Beckstrom's secretary gave me her personal e-mail address. The necessary forms were sent to her home, downloaded and brought into the institution to be distributed. Thanks to RCC staff and the internet -- Mission Accomplished!! The necessary forms got to the area where they were most needed.

On Tuesday, March 12, I visited Little Sandy Correctional Complex. I spoke with Warden Meko and several of the staff as I worked shift changes. They told me about how the storms had affected many of their neighbors and former co-workers: many of them had previously worked at EKCC. I learned that C/O Braden Brickey had to be hospitalized due to multiple skull fractures, and was airlifted to a trauma unit where he spent several days in a medically-induced coma. When I was at Little Sandy I learned he had been released that day to a local rehabilitation facility. I also met others who had lost their homes or had significant damage. I told the staff that the CPO Foundation was there to help in whatever way we could. I spent Tuesday evening and much of Wednesday looking at the aftermath of Nature's most recent display of power. I had seen photos and videos of the damage, but, to be honest, it didn't really prepare me for the reality of how the mountain community had been transformed. The downtown area that had boasted retail shops, service stations, restaurants and local attractions had been transformed from a quaint mountain community into a wasteland in a matter of minutes. Their 911 system was out of commission for four days, until a mobile unit could be brought in and put online. Much of the community was without phone service or electricity.

I arrived at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex on March 14 -- 12 days after Mother Nature's fury had destroyed much of a quiet mountain community. Shelters and distribution centers were set up in churches and schools throughout much of Morgan County, and those in need were receiving much-needed food, water and other supplies when I visited one of the distribution centers later that day.

continued next page

Photos top to bottom: 1. Downtown West Liberty. 2. Downtown West Liberty ten days after the tornado. 3. Says Ellis: "Four Correctional families lived in this area. They were all family members as well." 4. Residential section of West Liberty one block from downtown.

Tornadoes in Kentucky

My local “tour guide” was C/O Jimmy Cavanaugh, who not only took me to the shelter and to various locations throughout West Liberty, but also gave me a lot of the personal perspective of one who had survived this brutal storm. Like most of the EKCC personnel I met that day, Jimmy told me, “There are a lot of people worse off than we are.”

Despite sustaining substantial losses, the EKCC staff contacted the institution asking for new uniforms to be issued so that they could come in to work. Many of the staff were doing double duty, working at the institution during their regular shift, then helping at the distribution centers and shelters during their off-duty time. Many of the staff I met at residences I visited were helping co-workers try to salvage what they could. Only the most seriously affected were still off work, sifting through the debris for whatever could be salvaged.

Jimmy took me to an area where four homes had been destroyed by the storm. All four had been owned by people who were related to one another, and at least one member of each household worked for the Kentucky Department of Corrections, either at EKCC or at LSCC. Even though the tornado had come through the area over a week previously, the destruction was overwhelming. I saw neighbor helping neighbor, cleaning up the debris, making firewood out of the numerous fallen trees and doing what they could to help one another.

One of the stories I heard while visiting in this neighborhood had to do with a couple weathering the storm in the closet of their brick home. After the storm had cleared, they opened the closet door to find a **HORSE** standing in their living room. *The horse was unhurt*, and they opened the door to let him out! Next door was the “miracle dog” who had weathered the storm underneath a pile of debris in the neighbor’s home, then came out from underneath the rubble completely unscathed.

Throughout the day, I was told about staff that left their homes on foot or driving ATV’s to check on their neighbors, friends and relatives. With all the downed power lines and debris scattered all over the area, that was the only way people could get around for a while.

People who work in Corrections have a very strong sense of family, and have always come together when times are tough, and in a small community like West Liberty this is especially true. There are numerous extended families to be found throughout Appalachia -- blood kin as well as neighbors and co-workers, or some combination of the three. The term “Taking Care of our Own” went into overtime in the aftermath *continued next page*



Photos top to bottom: 1. The new Morgan County Courthouse was under construction. “Now it’s condemned,” says Ellis. 2. A closer look at what was to have been the new County Courthouse. 3. This is the house where the horse “dropped in” during the tornado. 4. Ellis: “This is all that’s left of the statue that stood in front of the 1820s era Morgan County Courthouse.”

Tornadoes in Alabama

by Jennifer Davis



April 27, 2011: The morning started at 5:00 a.m. when we

were awakened by storm sirens. The

wind was very strong and my son Jordan and I ran to the basement. The wind was coming through the windows -- it felt like being in a wind tunnel. The walls vibrated and we went to the back of the basement thinking that was the safest place. I thought we were going to lose our home, but luckily the only thing that we lost was power, unlike another little neighborhood in our community called Cahaba Heights that was hit hard, losing homes and trees.

A tornado touched down in Marion County, about five miles southwest of Hamilton, at around 3:00 p.m. later that same day, leaving massive damage in its tracks. The storm would eventually reach the Hackleburg area, leveling many structures including a large plant operated by Wrangler. Pairs of jeans reportedly fell from the sky! Well-built homes were wiped cleanly off their foundations and cars were thrown hundreds of feet. According to the Red Cross, 75% of the town was destroyed. Analysis of the damage was "Ef5."

Tuscaloosa:

The National Weather Service determined the path of the violent tornado to be 80.7 miles long, with a maximum damage path with 1.5 miles of the most intense damage. This stretch indicated that the winds were around 190 mph in Tuscaloosa. There was not much in the town that was not hit. Thank God the University was not struck.

Facts:

55 tornadoes hit Alabama during this storm.

248 people were killed.

42 counties were declared federal disaster areas.

Over 6,000 houses and 1,275 mobile homes were lost. Two hundred ninety-five apartments units were blown away.

We were out of power all day from the first tornado that hit our town.

All of the information we could get was from a battery-powered radio. Occasionally we would get a cell phone signal and hear reports from our daughter Mandy who was attending a teachers' conference in New Orleans. With no [continued next page](#)



Tornadoes in Kentucky

of the March 2 storm, and the recovery efforts that are still underway.



EKKC volunteers at one of the distribution centers in West Liberty.



Uniformed staff supervised inmate workers at the distribution centers. The inmates were all volunteers.

West Liberty will recover and rebuild. New homes will grace the mountains and valleys of Morgan County, Kentucky. Neighbors will continue to reach out to each other as long as there is a need -- long after the tornado of 2012 is nothing more than a memory.

The sense of independence, personal pride and commitment are attributes shared by both mountain people and Correctional staff. But when you combine the two, you have a double dose of pride and a real sense of family. The things I saw in eastern Kentucky last March, at least for me, redefines the term "Taking Care of Our Own."

We ARE Family.

God bless.

Tornadoes in Alabama



power and no cell phone or landline service, I was feeling helpless, panicky, and in fear of the unknown. You cry out for those who lost their lives. But then, I transitioned into my "CPOF mode," trying to think of ways that I could help.

As you all know, when Char finally got in touch with me, the first words out of her mouth were, "Are you all okay and how can CPOF help?" Well, people needed clean-up supplies in the greater Birmingham area, and in Hackleburg food and water were much needed. Rachel quickly coordinated from California with Dollar General Stores to mail me supplies since the stores here were out of all supplies and could not receive land-transported shipments intended to arrive in Alabama. Yes, you

could not travel into Alabama from the west due to all the fallen trees and destruction.

Mandy had to fly home from New Orleans because all the train rails were down and you could not get a rental car. The State completely shut down for a week.

The donations included food, water, work gloves, hand sanitizer and safety goggles. All these items were very much needed and used. I had one Officer call me stating that he needed clothes because he lost everything in his rental house. Money was running out and all the clothes he had were those on his back. Thank you, CPOF, and thank you, Rachel, who went "above and beyond," and of course Char who is always there!!!

I know that most people started putting their lives back together with, first, prayer, then hugs to their loved ones that made it, and then pushing their sleeves up and helping one another piece by piece. Alabama is still dealing with the cleanup and the trauma of that horrible day, so please keep us in your prayers.

January 2012: Nine months later a rare January tornado followed an all-too-familiar path across Jefferson County early Monday morning on January 23. "Not a way to start the New Year -- or a Monday!"

I am sad to report that two families in my neighboring communities had loved ones who were killed from these storms. One family from Clay lost their sweet 16-year-old daughter Christina Nicole Heichebech and an elderly man from Oak Grove named Bobby Sims was killed. More than 100 people were injured and 22 people were hospitalized. Roughly 500 homes were damaged or destroyed. Also, 50 businesses took a hit and one elementary school in Center Point was hit and had to be bulldozed to the ground.



A second tornado swept across Chilton County from Maplesville to Clanton. More than a dozen houses and at least one business were destroyed. Despite the extensive damage, no one was killed or seriously injured in this area of the State.

I am sure that this will not be the last "tornado report" that I do, but I hope and pray there will be no more deaths to report from these horrible storms that we Southerners have had to endure of late. I pray that everyone adheres to the warnings and has a safety plan in place for them and their loved ones.

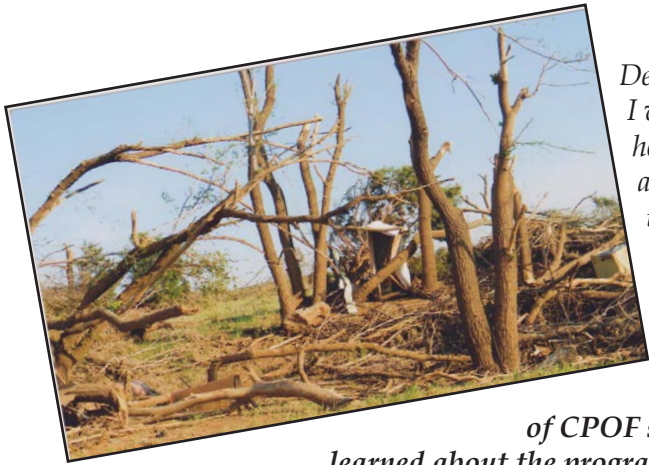
While the winds have proven to be so much stronger than we are physically, remember that the winds are not stronger than we are emotionally!

People in Alabama are strong. We love our neighbors and it is only natural that we help each other in times of need.

God bless you all.



Speaking of Tornadoes ... Camp Secretary Lisa Bright of the Federal Correctional Institution - El Reno, Oklahoma sent Kim Blakley this letter and photos of what her property and the surrounding area looked like after a tornado tore through in May 2011:



Dear Kim,
I want to say how thankful and appreciative my family and I were for the help you gave us. I have been a supporter of CPOF since I first

learned about the program. I never dreamed I would be on the receiving end. My sister and brother were amazed at what the Foundation does for Correctional staff.



Here are pictures of our farm. This is the first time my sister (70 yrs), my brother (66 yrs) and I have ever seen our house and wheat field from the road [photo at right]. The tornado not only destroyed

our house, it completely took the hay barn, milk house, cattle sheds, all of the fencing, killed some of the cattle and virtually took every tree on the farm, even out of the canyons. It is amazing what force

was behind this tornado. The grass on the pasture and canyons looked as though it had been perfectly manicured. I know there are a lot of pictures, but Teresa [Donham]* and I wanted to see the total destruction of the storm.

I look forward to seeing you the next time you are in El Reno. Again, thank you so much for your assistance, not only for me, but for every single family you help. You guys are working for such a good cause. You will always be in my family's thoughts and prayers.

Thank You,
Lisa Ann Bright and Family, El Reno, Oklahoma



Lisa noted, "This was our neighbor's house. The car was thrown into our canyon."

*Teresa Donham is an Accountant and one of the CPO Foundation's volunteer liaisons at FCI El Reno.

Seven Steps to Natural Disaster Safety

This information is excerpted from “**The Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety**” in the handbook, **Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country**: www.earthquakecountry.info/roots/index.php.

We suggest that after reading this, you carefully remove this page from the magazine and keep it where you can find it easily for reference.

PREPARE

Step 1: Secure it now!

Reducing and/or eliminating hazards throughout your home, neighborhood, workplace and school can greatly reduce your risk of injury or death following the next earthquake or other disaster. Conduct a “hazard hunt” to help identify and fix things such as unsecured televisions, computers, bookcases, furniture, unstrapped water heaters, etc. Securing these items now will help to protect you tomorrow.

Step 2: Make a plan

Planning for an earthquake, terrorist attack, or other emergency is not much different from planning for a party or vacation. Make sure that your emergency plan includes evacuation and reunion plans; your out-of-state contact person’s name and number; the location of your emergency supplies and other pertinent information. By planning now, you will be ready for the next emergency.

Step 3: Make disaster kits

Everyone should have disaster supplies kits stored in accessible locations at home, at work and in your vehicle. Having emergency supplies readily available can reduce the impact of an earthquake, a terrorist incident or other emergency on you and your family. Your disaster supplies kits should include food, water, flashlights, portable radios, batteries, a first aid kit, cash, extra medications, a whistle, fire extinguisher, etc.

Step 4: Is your place safe?

Most houses are not as safe as they could be. Whether you are a homeowner or a renter, there are things that you can do to improve the structural integrity of your home. Some of the things that you might consider checking include inadequate foundations, unbraced cripple walls, soft first stories, unreinforced masonry and vulnerable pipes. Consult a contractor or engineer to help you identify your building’s weaknesses and begin to fix them now.

PROTECT

Step 5: DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON!

Learn what to do during an earthquake, whether you’re at home, at work, at school or just out and about. Taking the proper actions, such as “Drop, Cover, and Hold On”, can save lives and reduce your risk of death or injury. During earthquakes, drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it firmly. Be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops.

RECOVER

Step 6: Check it out!

One of the first things you should do following a major disaster is to check for injuries and damages that need immediate attention. Make sure you are trained in first aid and in damage assessment techniques. You should be able to administer first aid and to identify hazards such as damaged gas, water, sewage and electrical lines. Be prepared to report damage to city or county government.

Step 7: Communicate and recover!

Following a major disaster, communication will be an important step in your recovery efforts. Turn on your portable radio for information and safety advisories. If your home is damaged, contact your insurance agent right away to begin your claims process. For most Presidentially declared disasters, resources will also be available from federal, state, and local government agencies.



Earlier this year, Parole Agent Miguel Lopez was shot in the face by a Parolee on the run. Charleene Corby, Retired C/O Tony Mosby (one of our CPOF National Honor Guard members), Retired CC I Charlie Bennett, Katherine Harris from SYRCC and I met with Ms. Maria Franco, Region Parole Administrator, at Region III

Parole headquarters to provide CPOF assistance for Agent Lopez. Ms. Franco was more than willing to personally present the check to Agent Lopez on behalf of CPOF. She has been a CPOF Supporting Member for 20 years, having signed up while in the Academy. She welcomed CPOF to visit all of her Units to provide information for all of her Parole Agents.

Agent Lopez is pictured above with his wife and their dogs in a photo taken before the shooting.

This past quarter I attended Calipatria State Prison's 20 year celebration. Warden Scott Mc Ewen's secretary, Mrs. Hernandez, solely put this event together. The event was in the parking lot of the prison at Calipatria in the city of Calipatria. It was a nice warm evening with a starting time of 4:00 pm but most of us were there at 2:00 pm. Staff and their families were there promptly at 4:00 pm. Lots of booths, food (courtesy of the prison), and a live band that was formed by their very own Officers. Plenty of attendance!

My table was situated where I had peripheral vision of everything. Warden Mc Ewen and his wife personally thanked me for attending and expressed gratitude for their attendance at this past Project 2000 XXII in San Antonio, Texas. Warden Mc Ewen was one of our guest speakers. He and his wife were deeply moved ... mentioned that all staff should be able to experience Project 2000, there is nothing like it ... totally astonishing what we do with our surviving children.

Warden McEwen's attendance at Project 2000

XXII was due to the fact that Mrs. Hernandez' husband Luis was recognized for Bravery Above and Beyond the Call of Duty at the Saturday Recognition Luncheon. It was a Godly act of him to donate the gift of life – one of his kidneys --to Officer Gaston Benjamin (someone he did not know beforehand) from California State Prison - Los Angeles County in Lancaster who was desperately in need of a new kidney. Officer Benjamin is a single dad with four children. (For more about this, and photographs, see page 30 of the Autumn 2011 issue of the CPO Family magazine.)

So, at the Calipatria event to my surprise Luis was the mascot -- a big teddy bear! Boy, I thought, and wow, not only did this family give the gift of life, they just keep giving. Mrs. Hernandez was running around to make sure all were comfortable while hubby Luis was bringing cheers to the children. As the event was coming to an end, night came and everyone was still enjoying socializing. When the sound of salsa music was heard, I thought, never, ever did I envision an Honor Guard team member dancing the salsa with grace ... It was greattttttttttt!

To CDCR throughout our wonderful State of California and to our Parole Units, regarding all of the individual meetings, conferences and conventions I have attended over the years, know that I do appreciate your invites and the help provided to the CPO Family.

With all the very best,

Connie Summers

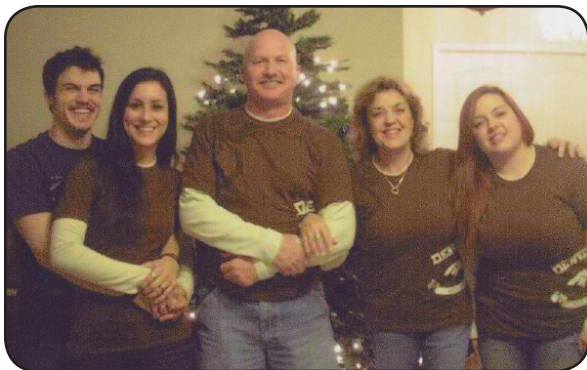
CPO Foundation Representative in California

Connie's email: socpof@gmail.com

Parole Agent I Diane Boudreaux, a strong supporter of CPOF, has just given Parole Agent Leon Thompson a CPOF assistance check. P/A Thompson was shot several times in the



leg when he was at a barbershop during an attempted robbery. As of May 14, P/A Thompson was taking things one day at a time and working on his recovery.



Dear CPO Foundation,

Please accept my deepest thanks for the gift to help out after my husband Bret's accident, and the funds you later sent after he passed away three weeks later. Having these funds to help defray funeral costs right away was a great blessing to my children and me. Honestly, the outpouring of love that we have received from the union and CCI where Bret was a Captain has been nothing short of miraculous. I have inherited a new family overnight, and I know that they are going to help my family and me through this tough time. You people are amazing and wonderful, and a great encouragement in crises. My gratitude for

what you do and how quickly you do it cannot be expressed deeply enough. God bless you for everything!

Denise, Jonathon, Deanna and Ashley Trone, Tehachapi, CA *Correctional Captain Bret Trone, a Supporting Member at California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi, died on November 13, 2011 from a blood clot caused by injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident about three weeks earlier. He is in the center of the family picture above, taken at Christmastime in 2009. The picture at right is of most of Bret's extended family that was taken on the day of his memorial service, December 3, 2011.*



Dear Charleene,

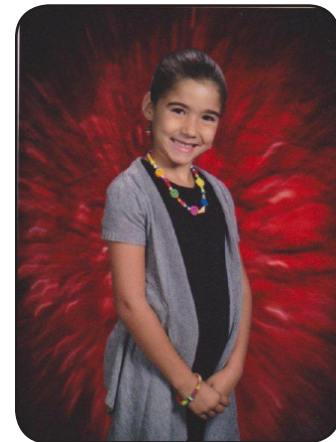
This is Christina Shallenberger. I am Derrick Rush's former wife, and the mother of his two daughters, Koree Lynn (10) and Cameron Dawn (7).

I just received your package including the very nice letter and the check. I wanted to tell you and everyone at CPOF thank you very much! You are a wonderful group of people doing a great thing.

Yes, even though Derrick and I are divorced his passing has jarred my entire life. I appreciate it so much that you recognized that in your letter. He was a great man and an even better father. He will be missed by so many of us forever.

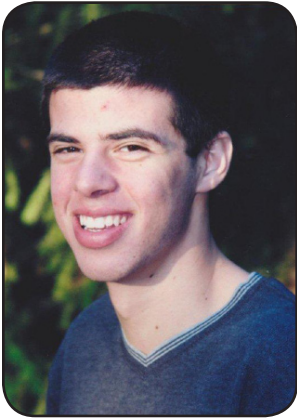
I've enclosed pictures of Koree (left) and Cameron (right).

Christina Shallenberger, Oceano, CA
Correctional Officer Derrick Rush was a Supporting Member at California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo. He drowned in a river accident in July 2011. He was only 28 at the time of his death.



Christina,

I would like to convey my gratitude on behalf of my family for your thoughtfulness and tangible expression of kindness. This past month has been especially painful for all of us, and your letter was well-timed and appreciated.

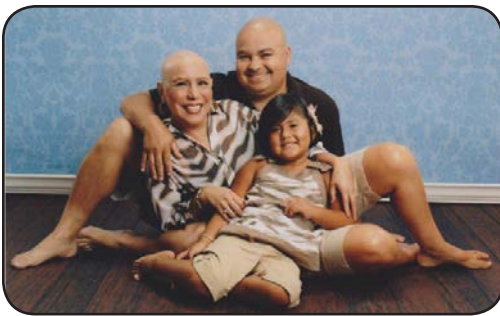


Though we've received a tremendous outpouring of support and comfort from family, friends and church, I was pleasantly surprised and thankful to hear from an organization that stands by its members in the most difficult of times.

Enclosed are pictures of Kenny and our family.

In His Grip,
Ken Rutz, Camino, CA

Correctional Officer Ken Rutz is a Supporting Member at Folsom State Prison. His 21-year-old son Kenneth died on January 7, 2012.



This is the Alcantar family of Porterville: Julie, J. Carlos and Jim. J. Carlos is a Correctional Officer at California Substance Abuse and Treatment Facility and Prison in Corcoran. Denise had to have a double mastectomy, after which came extensive chemotherapy treatments. The CPO Foundation gave the family a check to help with their extra out-of-pocket expenses incurred during Denise's treatment schedule.

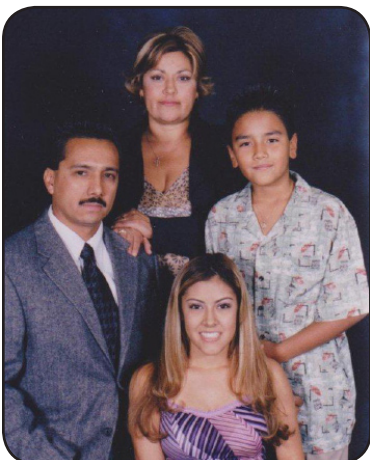
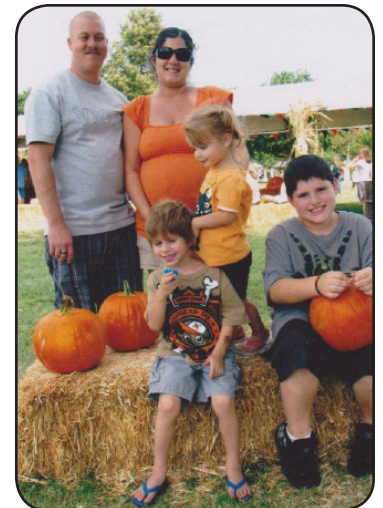
To the CPO Foundation and all members,

When our daughter Lorelei was stillborn on November 5, 2011 our family was devastated. We had been anxiously awaiting the arrival of her, our fourth child, on November 7 by a scheduled C-section. Nothing could have prepared us for her passing. We appreciate the support you and the staff at Kern Valley State Prison have extended to our family during this time of sadness. Thank you for the monetary assistance with this difficult period in our lives. Everyone's support and kindness meant a great deal to our family and will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Justin Walinga and family, Bakersfield, CA

Correctional Officer Walinga is a Supporting Member at Kern Valley State Prison. He is pictured at right with his family: wife Cristina and children Travis, Miles and Olivia. The photo was taken in October 2011 just a couple of weeks before the sad loss of Lorelei.



Left: Parole Agent Richard Sanchez, a Supporting Member, passed away on December 8, 2011. He is pictured here with his family, whom the CPO Foundation assisted with funeral and related expenses.

continued next page

Dear Ms. Labio,

It is with sincere gratitude that I write this letter. I want to thank the CPO Foundation for their kindness and generosity. I received an assistance check and a Wal-Mart gift card in December. It was a great feeling to know the Foundation would assist me in this way. In my time of need it really eased some of the financial burden I was facing.

I was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer in June 2011. I have not been able to return to work. My wife has taken a non-paid leave of absence from work to take care of me. I am now on an experimental drug at UC Irvine and my prognosis looks promising.

In closing, I appreciate what the CPO Foundation has done for me. I look forward to returning to work soon.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Ruiz, Stockton, CA

Youth Correctional Officer Gabriel Ruiz is a Supporting Member at Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility in Stockton. We wish him all the best with his treatments and hope that he will be returning to work. Officer Ruiz is pictured here with his family: wife Maria and children Gabriel, Sarah, Elena and Daniela.



Dear Ms. Labio,

Thank you so much for the check you sent us. It was a great relief and help. Gabriel was born with an intestinal problem that he will have for life. Without the proper care he has had, he would not be with us today. Thank you for all you have done.

The Sanchez Family: Jesus, Melanie, Benjamin and Gabriel, Susanville, CA
Correctional Officer Jesus Sanchez is a Supporting Member at High Desert State Prison in Susanville. Gabriel has had several surgeries and procedures to manage his intestinal disorder ever since he was first diagnosed when he was only one week old. We hope that the happy smile on Gabriel's face in this great picture means that, in spite of everything, he's enjoying life to the fullest and feeling well.

Dear Ms. Labio,

I (Jeff) and Dina Harris would like to thank you for your donation. Due to my wife's illness I miss a lot of work because I transport her to Reno three times a week for her dialysis treatments. Your donation could not have come at a better time. We appreciate all that you and the CPO Foundation have given us. Thank you again.

Jeff and Tina Harris, Susanville, CA

Correctional Officer Jeff Harris, like Officer Jesus Sanchez (above letter), is a Supporting Member at High Desert State Prison. His wife Dina suffers from Lupus and kidney failure, of which she is in the final stages, and she is awaiting a kidney transplant.

Federal Cases

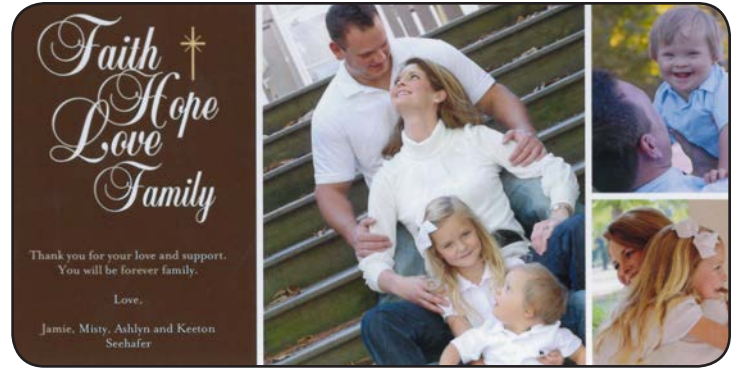
Dear Kim and the CPO Foundation,

Since August, we've grown and learned what's most important in life. We count our blessings no matter how big or small. Keeton is about to start round four of six of chemo. If all goes well, we will leave Children's Hospital in April 2012 with a happy, cancer-free two-year-old. After chemo, the doctors will keep a close eye on him, monthly for the first year and then every three months and so on. Our journey is far from over, and it has and continues to be a mental, physical and financial strain. We are so thankful and blessed to have your support, love and prayers. Looking forward to being HOME!

Thank you,

The Seehafers: Jamie, Misty, Ashlyn and Keeton, Talledega, Alabama

The Seehafers' son Keeton, who has Down's syndrome, was diagnosed with Acute Myloid Leukemia last year. His initial treatment entailed six months of daily chemotherapy at a facility 59 miles from the family's home. Correctional Officer Jamie Seehafer works at FCI Talladega. Above is the photo/thank-you card he sent to Kim.



Regional Director Geraldo Maldonado Jr., Officer Smith, FCI Forrest City Warden T. C. Outlaw, Captain Wise, Captain McDougald and FCI Forrest City Executive Camp Administrator Harding. At right, a visit to Patricia in the hospital.

Patricia Smith, wife of Correctional Officer and Supporting Member Jason Smith of FCC Forrest City in Arkansas, had emergency surgery for a brain tumor in late January 2012. She was hospitalized for over a month, causing Officer Smith to be off work for a considerable time. The CPO Foundation gave Officer Smith a check to help with some of the extra expenses he incurred during his wife's hospitalization. Pictured at left: CPOF Arkansas Volunteer Annie Norman, South Central



Correctional Officer Christopher Gill, another Supporting Member at FCC Forrest City, is pictured here with his wife Sarah and their daughter Addisyn. Addisyn was hospitalized last year after having seizures, and was found to have an enlarged liver and spleen. The CPO Foundation assisted Officer Gill with funds to help with expenses incurred by frequent trips to and from Arkansas Children's Hospital.

continued next page

Federal Cases



Megan and Dean Farnworth are pictured here with their Leo and Lucy Lions and the assistance check their father Dale received from the CPO Foundation last fall. Mr. Farnworth is a Cook Supervisor and Supporting Member at FCC Victorville in California. Mr. Farnworth was off work for some time because of an injury, and during that off time his wife Sabrina, who was pregnant with Dean, developed severe complications and gave birth at 25 and a half weeks. She and Dean were in Loma Linda Hospital for a month. That happy face on little Dean is a joy to behold, as is his sister Megan's pretty smile.

Dear Kim,

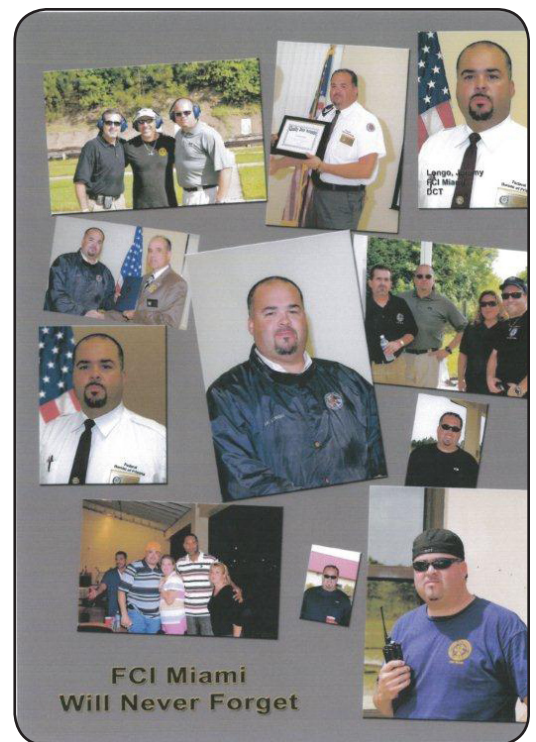
Thank you so much for your and your organization's support. It was very helpful for such a catastrophic event. Our family really appreciated the financial assistance.

Enclosed (right) are Jeremy's pictures with some of his peers who also supported and loved him so much as well. The memorial for Jeremy at FCI Miami was beautiful and brought me much comfort.

I continue to celebrate Jeremy's life and cherish the time God allowed us to have him.

Sincerely,

Teresa Hernandez (Jeremy's mother), Homestead, Florida
*Lieutenant Jeremy Longo was a Supporting Member at FCI Miami.
He died unexpectedly from a heart attack in early January.*



Dear Kim and the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation,

Thank you so much for the financial help. Gary was our main family support and we were scared about how we would take care of expenses. It takes time for retirement (six months!), Social Security

and life insurance to kick in, so it came at a time when it was dearly needed and extremely appreciated.

Hugs and much gratitude,

Lyn VanDusen, Coquille, Oregon

Senior Correctional Officer Gary Van Dusen of FCI Sheridan in Oregon was not feeling well one day last June and left work early. When he arrived home he collapsed and died. A blood clot in his leg broke free and traveled straight to his heart. His widow Lyn (Marilyn) is pictured here with one of the VanDusen's sons, Jarod, age 13 at the time.



Federal Cases



Three “BIG BROS” and their new baby brother! Pictured at left are the sons of Brian and Ashley Marr of Lewis Run, Pennsylvania: Carter (5), John Parker (4), Jackson (2) and Harrison (two months). Brian is a HVAC Foreman at FCI McKean in Pennsylvania. Baby Harrison was born two months prematurely and had multiple complications, requiring placement in the NICU at one medical center and then transfer to another. We hope that he is doing well and are sure that his “Big Bros” will assist in his continuing to thrive.

Senior Correctional Officer William Bertrand, a Supporting Member at FCC Beaumont in Texas, is pictured here (near right) with his baby daughter Elisabella. Elisabella was born last year with severe heart complications. She had to have several open heart surgeries at Children’s



Hospital in Houston, where the family had to spend many weeks and where the picture at far right was taken. The picture just below that shows Elisabella at home, feeling much better and enjoying bath time.



Also at FCC Beaumont, Senior Correctional Officer Steven Ray, a Supporting Member, received an assistance check after lightning struck his apartment building last summer, causing several units to catch fire. Officer Ray’s apartment sustained smoke, water and fire damage.

Dear Ms. Blakley:

I lost my sweetheart and best friend on November 17, 2011. Bill McDonald was a warm, bright and humorous person, and I was lucky to be part of his life for nine years. Bill and I knew each other in high school, and we exchanged e-mail addresses at a reunion in 2001. One thing led to another, and we became a couple who loved and respected each other so much.

Bill was a retired E-7 from the US Army, a graduate of Southern Missouri State University and was just starting to enjoy life as a retired baby boomer. He was “chief cook and bottle washer” at our house, and we spent our weekends and my days off as explorers of the countryside, museums and parks. Bill also took on the roles of nurse, record-keeper and chauffeur while we successfully fought the breast cancer I was diagnosed with in early 2010. During our time together, we lived in Las Vegas, Raleigh, and Dallas-Fort Worth, and Bill belonged to AVA Walking Clubs in all of those locations. He also was blessed with a namesake grandson in 2010. Bill and I were so happy when I was selected to start work at the Bureau of Prisons in February 2011 after being out of work for a year during my cancer treatments.

continued next page

Federal Cases

I lost Bill during complications from surgery during a lung transplant. We had no idea he was so sick and needed a transplant, but Bill was looking forward to getting his new lungs, recuperating, and enjoying life again. It was not to be, and he was gone at the forever young age of 63.

My wonderful co-workers and boss from India Team at the BOP Designation and Sentence Computation Center in Grand Prairie, Texas, were (and still are) so wonderful and continue to help me through this terrible period in my life. Having gone through major chemotherapy, surgery and radiology the year before, my financial situation was not very good, and Bill's medical issues had depleted any funds he had put away. Two members of my team, Veronica Hodge and Stacy Fanello, contacted CPOF regarding a donation to me during this emotional time in my life. I was so touched when the team presented me with the check and packet from your office. It was not just the money, it was the great thoughtfulness of these people who are "my team" and who cared enough to help me emotionally and financially, even though they have known me for less than a year. They are truly my BOP family.

Thanks so very much to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation for your good work in making things a bit easier for the people who work together as part of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I am forever grateful.

Kindest regards,

Roberta L. "Robbie" Davis, DeSoto, Texas



Roberta and Bill



Dear Kim,

I would like to extend my gratitude to you and to ALL of the members of CPOF for this most generous offering in what I could say has been a very difficult time in my life. Thank you so much for helping ease the burden of my worries since I have been out of work since December 28, 2011.

I have encountered several complications after my initial surgery. My journey is not over yet for I have a pending and last surgery in late March. I am looking forward to returning back to work in April. Again, thank you so much!!

Sincerely,

Joseph Augusta III, Pluberville, Texas

Senior Correctional Officer Joseph Augusta III is a Supporting Member at FCI Bastrop, Texas. He received a cochlear implant to improve the hearing in one ear; however, he developed an infection and had to have a lengthy series of IV antibiotic treatments. Officer Augusta lost many weeks of work

due to this serious medical condition. We are happy to report that he is doing much better and has returned to work!



Senior Correctional Officer Sherman Smith of FCI Williamsburg in South Carolina was hospitalized last September to have a large mass removed, after which he had treatments and many doctor appointments. He is pictured here (standing at left) with Senior Officer Specialist Daryl Heinrichs, one of our CPOF liaisons, receiving a CPO Foundation assistance check to help with his extra expenses.

continued next page

Federal Cases



Senior Correctional Officer Bill Sarabia of FDC SeaTac in Washington sadly lost his wife Evlin in January 2012. Evlin suffered a massive heart attack that resulted in an aneurysm. She was on life support for several days before passing away. Officer Sarabia received an assistance check to help with the funeral expenses. He sent us this picture of Evlin and himself with their three-year-old daughter Vivienne.

Ms. Kim Blakley,

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the check that you sent my family. I can't tell you how happy it made me feel to know that others cared enough to do something so special. We have certainly gone through a very difficult time financially over the past couple of months; as a matter of fact, my husband and I were just talking the morning before I received the check about how we were going to pay the electric bill for this month. All I can say is God is so good, and I can't thank you enough for the blessing.

As for Chloe, she is doing better after a 12-hour surgery and eight days in the hospital. She went back to school last week and can walk on her own now. The doctor said that in about a year she will be able to play sports again and start to feel more "like herself." Again, thank you so much from my family and me. God bless what your organization is doing for so many families in need of emergency help.

In Christ,

Alice McFadden, Wake Forest, North Carolina

Correctional Officer Alice McFadden is a Supporting Member at FCC Butner in North Carolina. Her 11-year-old daughter Chloe had to undergo surgery for scoliosis on October 5, 2011. In addition to the eight days off work that Officer McFadden spent with Chloe in the hospital, she had to take an additional three weeks off to care for her daughter once Chloe was home. Pictured at right: Alice, Chloe, Madison & Wayne McFadden.



Dear Kim,

On behalf of my family and myself, I want to express our deep appreciation for the monetary gifts given to us during Tanya's recent battle with Stage IV squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue. The money was most certainly helpful and has been applied toward the many out-of-pocket medical expenses that we continue to incur throughout this journey.

More than the financial assistance, we so greatly appreciate the thought behind the gifts as well as the prayers that you have lifted up on our behalf. Your considerate actions have helped lighten our burdens. For that, especially, we thank you.

Tanya will have routine scans and examinations every quarter for at least the next two years to check for new malignancies. However, we are so happy to report that the previous scan and biopsies showed no signs of cancer -- Praise the Lord! Although this has not been an easy journey, we have found God to be faithful and His strength to be perfect. It is our prayer that God will abundantly bless you and those represented by the CPO Foundation as you have been a blessing to us. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

The Mike Alsup Family, Jonesville, Virginia

Correctional Officer Michael Alsup is a Supporting Member at USP Lee in Virginia. As he describes, his wife is being treated for cancer of the tongue. We hope to hear good updates about Tanya from Officer Alsup in future.

15th Annual Memorial Ceremony held for USP Lompoc Federal Officer Scott Williams EOW: April 3, 1997



It was a picture-perfect start of the day on April 3, 2012 as the sun rose above beautiful Scott Williams Memorial Park, casting its light upon the life-

like statue of USP Lompoc Officer Scott Williams. Scott's mother, Aida; Kristy Williams' parents, Lee and Linda; and over 60 past and present staff were in attendance to once again witness the two sharply dressed Honor Guard Officers present and lay a wreath provided by AFGE Local 3048 at the foot of the statue of Officer Scott Williams.

Chaplain Greg Nelson passionately spoke of always remembering and never forgetting Scott and all the other fallen Correctional Officer heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their countries and for their fellow brothers and sisters, so that the rest



of us may carry on the mission of the Bureau of Prisons in keeping a safe and secure prison environment for both staff and inmates.

To the day, it was 15 years since the murder of Officer Scott Williams, with the inmate responsible never tried or convicted and the family never receiving the



proper justice and closure they so deserved.

As the ceremony was closed by another perfect rendition of "Taps" by a third Honor Guard Officer, we prayed for all the fallen Correctional heroes and the families that were torn apart and lost their loved

ones, and reflected upon our own lives and the people in them that we love. We must Always Remember and Never Forget.



-- Barry Fredieu

My name is Charleene Corby. When Federal Correctional Officer Scott Williams was killed in 1997, I remember receiving "that first call" that we had lost another Correctional Officer in the Line of Duty. I remember my body going limp and asking the questions "Who, where and when?"

You have to understand that this was long before the days of e-mails so we received SO many calls from all over the United States trying to confirm this loss. The Board of Directors and myself were devastated, once again, that we had yet another young widow and two more young daughters without a husband and daddy.

I contacted several Correctional Officers from Folsom State Prison and asked them, once details of the funeral were known, to make the same eight-hour drive as I would to USP Lompoc and show support from not only the CPO Foundation and but also from the entire California Department of Corrections.

The funeral was held one week after Scott was killed and I was very pleased to see many of our Correctional Brother and Sisters in attendance. They came from California Men's Colony, Salinas Valley and Correctional Training Facility; from as far south as Richard J. Donovan Facility in San Diego; and a few even drove more hours than I from way up north from Pelican Bay State Prison, proving that when we lose one of our own we all "hurt and feel the loss." I know if we had had e-mail in those days we would have had hundreds more Correctional Officers in attendance.

*Our prayers are always there for Scott's parents (dad Jim often attends **Project**); for Kristy's parents (who attended **Project XIX** in San Francisco); and especially for Kristy and her and Scott's daughters, Kaitlin and Kallee, now 21 and 16 years old.*

Officers to be honored at the PROJECT 2000 XXIII Memorial Ceremony, Friday, June 8, 2012

Warden Shirley Avent

Lunenburg Correctional Center, Virginia Department of Corrections ~ EOW: January 27, 2011

Corrections Officer Casimiro Pomaes

Eastern Correctional Facility, New York State Department of Correctional Services ~ EOW: January 28, 2011

Correctional Officer Jayme Biendl,

Washington State Reformatory Unit, Washington State Department of Corrections ~ EOW: January 29, 2011

Correctional Colonel Gregory Malloy

Holmes Correctional Facility, Florida Department of Corrections ~ EOW: February 2, 2011

District Administrator Debra Collins

District 25 Probation and Paroles, Missouri Department of Corrections ~ EOW: March 4, 2011

Safety Risk Manager John Willhite

Region V Directors Office, Texas Department of Criminal Justice ~ EOW: March 29, 2011

Senior Officer Specialist Christopher Cooper

United States Penitentiary - Leavenworth, Kansas, Federal Bureau of Prisons ~ EOW: April 7, 2011

Correctional Officer Ronald Johnson

South Dakota State Penitentiary, South Dakota Department of Corrections ~ EOW: April 12, 2011

Transportation Officer Deputy Sheriff Sherri Jones

Bowie County Sheriff's Department, Texas ~ EOW: April 18, 2011

Corrections Officer IV Craig Orrell

Connally Unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice ~ EOW: May 12, 2011

Agriculture Specialist III Michael Jensen

Wynne Unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice ~ EOW: June 2, 2011

Probation / Parole Officer II Jeffrey Settle

North Carolina Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections, NC ~ EOW: August 4, 2011

Probation Officer Tiffany Bishop

Rome Probation Office, Georgia Department of Corrections ~ EOW: August 31, 2011

Correctional Officer Buddy Herron

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Oregon Department of Corrections ~ EOW: November 29, 2011

Army Staff Sergeant Ari R. Cullers

Serving During Operation Enduring Freedom ~ EOW: October 30, 2011

From the Past:

Correctional Officer Ernest Grossguth

Maximum Security, Rhode Island Department of Corrections ~ EOW: March 26, 1995



Left: Correctional Officer IV Eric Rodriguez is a Supporting Member at Allred Unit. His daughter Brinley was born with a congenital heart defect and had to have two open-heart surgeries during the first few months of her life. Officer Rodriguez is pictured here receiving his CPO Foundation assistance check. Joe Ponder, one of the Foundation's Representatives in Texas, is at far left.

Right: Correctional Officer III Naomi Young is a Supporting Member at Dalhart Unit. Her 15-year-old daughter Amber was diagnosed with a heart abnormality that can cause her to go into sudden cardiac arrest. Amber requires an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) with her at all times. An AED, which can cost at least \$800, is not covered by Officer Young's insurance, so the CPO Foundation provided an assistance check to go toward the cost of purchasing the device. Officer Young is pictured here receiving the check.



Right: Correctional Officer III Naomi Young is a Supporting Member at Dalhart Unit. Her 15-year-old daughter Amber was diagnosed with a heart abnormality that can cause her to go into sudden cardiac arrest. Amber requires an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) with her at all times. An AED, which can cost at least \$800, is not covered by Officer Young's insurance, so the CPO Foundation provided an assistance check to go toward the cost of purchasing the device. Officer Young is pictured here receiving the check.



Dear Stephanie:

On December 15, 2011 I was pleased to present your generous gift to my Correctional Officer Joe Churchill. He was very pleased. The Daniel Unit would like to express our appreciation to the CPOF for your kindness and generosity. As you requested, here is a photo of Major M. Hooten (on the right) and me (left) presenting the check to Officer Churchill.

Personally, I can't thank you enough for all you have done and continue to do for all of our Correctional family. Assistance such as the Foundation provides gives not only financial but emotional support to families in times of crisis. We sometimes feel alone in our difficulties, but the Foundation is a way of showing that we are all part of one large, caring family.

Thank you again for the assistance to Officer Churchill. Nothing can make up for the loss of a family member, but your assistance has helped ease some of the financial as well as emotional burdens that he and his family have suffered.

Sincerely,

William Gray, Senior Warden, Daniel Unit, Snyder, TX

Officer Joe Churchill is a Supporting Member at Daniel Unit. His son passed away suddenly from meningitis. Joe's remaining family consists of his wife and three daughters.



Right: Correctional Officer III Destiny Broussard, a Supporting Member at Darrington Unit, was in an auto accident in August 2011. She is shown here receiving a CPOF assistance check to help with extra expenses incurred as a result of the accident.

Dear Stephanie.

Enclosed is the requested picture of Daisy Vann, the wife of Kevin Vann. Officer Vann passed away in December 2011 after an extended illness. I know that this check to Mrs. Vann will be very helpful, and she was touched by your generosity. The loss of a loved one can be devastating from a financial and emotional standpoint.

Thank you so much for the support that the CPOF has provided to Ellis Unit employees, families and the TDCJ agency. The CPOF's financial assistance goes a long way in helping a family through difficult times. The Ellis Unit will continue to support this worthy organization.

Sincerely,
Richard Morris, Senior Warden, Ellis Unit, Huntsville, TX



Left: Correctional Officer V Guadalupe Villarreal Jr., a Supporting Member at Garza East Transfer Facility, had a heart attack in mid October 2011 and underwent surgery. He is pictured here receiving a CPOF assistance check to help with various out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Also from Garza East Transfer Facility, Correctional Officer III Monica King felt ill one day last June at work, lost consciousness and was rushed to the hospital. Sadly, she was pronounced dead on arrival, possibly from a brain aneurysm. Her mother, Lupe Morales, received a CPOF assistance check to help with burial and other expenses resulting from her daughter's sudden death.



August 2011 he was attacked by three inmates who punched him repeatedly in the face. Officer Wonsiak suffered facial lacerations that required 26 sutures to close, and bruising to his head and neck.

He is pictured here (center) receiving a CPO Foundation assistance check to help with out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Right: Correctional Officer IV Wendell Wonsiak Jr. is a Supporting Member at Hughes Unit. In



continued next page



Also at the Hughes Unit:



Ms. Barone,

On behalf of the Hughes Unit and Sgt. David Foret, I would like to thank you and Debbie Herklotz for the assistance provided to Sgt. Foret and his family. Debbie got the ball rolling upon hearing about the tragic circumstances, and the help was very timely and much needed.

Sgt. Foret was recently promoted and looking forward to the birth of his child at any moment. He was attending the Sergeant Training Academy in Huntsville, Texas when he received the news. He rushed to the side of his wife, but ultimately the baby was lost. The emotional rollercoaster that is experienced at these

times is certainly difficult, but the assistance provided helped offset the burial cost and medical bills.

As a longtime member of CPOF, I gather great strength in knowing that the CPOF will always be there for our staff; all of you are truly worthy of the praise for all the good you do. Keep up the good work, and thank you very much.

Enclosed is a photo of Assistant Warden Ronald Fox (on the right) presenting the CPOF assistance check to Sgt. Foret.

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

Sergeant David Foret is also a Supporting Member of the CPO Foundation. Debbie Herklotz has been a Representative of the CPOF in Texas since June of 1995.

And here's the lovely letter that David Foret wrote:

Ms. Stephanie Barone,

We would like to sincerely thank you for the help that you and the CPO Foundation have provided to us. As you mentioned in your letter, money doesn't take away the pain of losing a loved one. But it did help us provide her with a beautiful service and closure for us in putting her to rest.

Hannah was our surprise baby. She was the little flutter that we couldn't wait to meet. At week 17, my wife's water broke. The doctors gave us two options, terminate or "wait and see." My wife and I both agreed that as long as Hannah agreed to fight, so would we. We only had to make it to week 23 before the doctors could start a treatment plan. With six weeks to go, we buckled down for the hard road ahead. We made it to week 19. Hannah Elise was born January 7, 2012. Because she came so early, she was underdeveloped; this didn't stop her from fighting for breath after breath. As painful as this experience was, we felt honored and blessed to know that our little girl was such a fighter. She passed that same day.

This was our first baby, a little girl, a blessing now in heaven. Giving her a proper burial and service is and was of the utmost importance, and thanks to you we have been able to do just that. We are extremely thankful for the amazing support and kindness we have received. Again, thank you and the CPO Foundation for your generosity.

Sincerely,

David and Silvia Foret, Copperas Cove, TX

As of May 2012, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation had over 14,000 Supporting Members in the State of Texas.

A third assist at the Hughes Unit:

Ms. Barone,

Thanks once again for your swift assistance to aid our employees in need. Officer Timothy Weber and his wife Shaina (a clerk in the Unit mailroom) recently had a baby. However, the birth had complications and the baby had to have extended medical care. Both parents are recent employees of the Department and have limited benefits. Shaina is still off work [as of January 27, 2012]; the medical and daily expenses of the hospital stay had caused a hardship. The assistance check was well received – thank you for such a quick response.

Both sets of grandparents are employees with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Institutional Division. Your aid is deeply felt. The CPOF has been a blessing to the Correctional profession throughout the nation; I have been a member for nearly 20 years and take pride in knowing that this organization is dedicated to helping our staff.

We are proud to say that the baby and momma are doing well. Please find enclosed a photo of me presenting the check to Officer Weber (on the left). And again, thank you very much for the support.

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



Dear Ms. Barone,

Over the past number of years, several of my co-workers have suffered illness or tragedy that has significantly affected the quality of their lives and those of their families. In their darkest moments, I have watched the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation and their members step forward to quickly assist those people in need both financially and emotionally. This was evident most recently when the CPOF provided a check for one of our employees, Mrs. Deborah McCance, due to the recent loss of her husband, TDCJ Lieutenant David McCance.

The loss of Lt. McCance was very hard on Mrs. McCance and on our little family at the Johnston Unit. David was a good husband and father, and a hardworking man. He enjoyed being around people and was very likable. He had a dry sense of humor and was known to pick a guitar exceptionally well.

Enclosed you will find a picture where I am presenting the assistance check to Mrs. McCance on December 21, 2011 at the Johnston Unit in Winnsboro, Texas.

On behalf of the Johnston Unit and Mrs. Deborah McCance, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the support provided by the CPO Foundation.

I want to officially thank you for a job well done and for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of such a worthwhile endeavor. Your efforts are truly a blessing.

Sincerely,

Kevin Wheat, Warden, Johnston Unit, Winnsboro, TX

continued next page



Stephanie,

On behalf of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice LeBlanc Unit and Correctional Officer Jeffrey Davis, please accept our deepest thanks for the assistance check provided to Officer Davis. As reported earlier Officer Davis' son, 22-year-old Corporal Kannon Davis, US Army, was seriously injured in Afghanistan when his truck hit an IED. One leg had to be amputated, and he has had multiple skin grafts in an attempt to save the other. Officer Davis reports that Kannon has good days, and not so good days (of course), but he is fighting to recover. Officer Davis also expressed his gratitude to the CPOF for your assistance.

Unfortunately, we were not able to deliver the assistance check in person due to Officer Davis being in San

Antonio with Kannon. They were gracious enough to send a photo of them together, which I am passing along to you.

Thank you again to the entire CPOF organization; may God bless you in the New Year.

Misty Ponder, LeBlanc Unit, Beaumont, TX

Officer Jeffrey Davis has been a Supporting Member for over six years. The CPO Foundation was gratified to assist him with his airfare to Germany to be with his son until Kannon was stable enough to be flown home to Texas. We love this photo for Kannon's smile and "thumb up" gesture!

Right: Warden Todd A. Foxworth of Michael Unit presented a CPOF assistance check to Correctional Officer IV Karen Harshe following the death of her husband Ronald on September 17, 2011.



Left: Ms. Sherril Wilcox, an Administrative Assistant at Stringfellow Unit, received a CPOF check in October 2011 shortly after the death of her husband Douglas. Ms. Wilcox was on medical leave without pay at the time. Warden Frankie Reescano, who recommended the bereavement assistance for Ms. Wilcox, presented the check.

Right: Food Service Manager II Dianne Austin, a Supporting Member at Torres Unit, was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2011 and scheduled for a chemotherapy and radiation treatment program of 18 months' duration. She is pictured here on October 25, 2011 receiving a CPO Foundation assistance check from Warden Joseph Wilson (far right). Also pictured are Major Alfredo Trejo and Assistant Warden Juan Garcia.





Dear Correctional Peace Officers Foundation,

Words cannot begin to express our thanks for the check you gave to our family. This has truly been a devastating time in our lives. It has been hard to come to terms with watching 26 years of our lives destroyed. We will use the check as we try to rebuild our life one day at a time.

Thanks for the support and offers of hope.

The Dzierzanowski Family: Keith, Holly, Alexa and Griffin, Bastrop, TX

Lieutenant Keith Dzierzanowski of Travis County Correctional Center and his family lost their home and everything they owned in the wildfires that raged over many regions in Texas last year. Written on the back of this photo are these words: “What is left of our home, car, garage, life.”



Left: Correctional Officer Willie Davila, a Supporting Member at Wallace Unit, and his wife lost their home, pets and everything they owned in a house fire last year. Officer Davila is shown here with the CPOF assistance check that he received at the recommendation of Assistant Warden Mary Miller (also pictured).

Supporting Member Sergeant Joe Childress of the Skyview/Hodge Complex lost his home and all belongings in a fire. He is pictured here (center) receiving his CPO Foundation assistance check. Also pictured: Major Nemier Herod (left) and Senior Warden Tommie Haynes.



Correctional Officer III Richard Hestilow is a Supporting Member at Jordan Unit. His wife Patricia was diagnosed with cancer. The CPO Foundation assisted Officer Hestilow with medically-related travel expenses. From left to right in this photo: Senior Warden Michael D. Savers, Officer Richard Hestilow and Joe Ponder.

Georgia



Left: Correctional Officer Gregory Page of Augusta State Medical Prison in Grovetown, Georgia was diagnosed with colon cancer in November 2011. He had to undergo radiation and chemotherapy and needed help with extra expenses incurred thereby. In this photo, Augusta Warden Dennis Brown (right) has just presented Officer Page with his CPO Foundation assistance check.

Right: Correctional Officer II George Brown is a Supporting Member at Dodge State Prison in Chester, Georgia. He is pictured here with his wife Debora. Because of various medical problems Debora had to have four surgeries over a period of two years, all at hospitals at considerable driving distance from the couple's home. The CPO Foundation assisted Officer Brown with a check to help with the many extra expenses incurred by medically related travel.



Left: Correctional Officer II Ernest Williams of Calhoun State Prison in Morgan, Georgia passed away on August 7, 2011 from a heart attack. At the recommendation of Judy Dease, CPO Foundation Representative, and Calhoun SP Warden Joseph Baden, the Foundation assisted Ernest's widow Joyce, pictured here, with some of the expenses resulting from her husband's sudden death.

Right: Also from Calhoun State Prison, Correctional Officer II Sheneal Glover lost her home and all possessions in a house fire on October 11, 2011. Again at the recommendation of Judy Dease and Warden Baden, the Foundation gave Officer Glover an assistance check to help with immediate and vital needs following the fire. Officer Glover is pictured here receiving her check from Calhoun Deputy Warden of Security Christopher Railey.



Left: Correctional Sergeant David Smith of Emanuel Women's Facility in Swainsboro, Georgia had a house fire last year that caused considerable damage. He is pictured here receiving a CPO Foundation assistance check to help with the immediate out-of-pocket expenses he incurred right after the fire.

Georgia

Correctional Officer Marty Phillips is a Supporting Member at Georgia State Prison. His daughter Naomi was diagnosed at a very early age with hind foot valgus (outward displacement) and hypotonia (abnormal muscle slackness). Officer Phillips' insurance did not cover the cost (\$1,024) of a special boot that would have helped Naomi with her condition. Naomi's physical development was impaired as a result, and as of mid September 2011 at the age of two and a half she was still unable to walk. Georgia SP Warden Bruce Chatman and Judy Dease recommended Officer Phillips for an assistance check to use toward expenses incurred taking Naomi to and from numerous visits to the doctor or toward the cost of the boot. Fortunately, Officer Phillips and his wife

Neilia (also a Supporting Member at GSP) had a head start on the boot cost with \$150 they received from a fund at the prison. Note: We will try to provide an update on this case. Officer Phillips is pictured above right receiving his check from Warden Chatman.



Another Georgia State Prison Supporting Member assisted by the CPO Foundation is Correctional Officer Theresa Allen-king, pictured at left with Warden Bruce Chatman. Officer Allen-king lost everything in a house fire.

Dear Christina,

Thank you so much for the monetary gift. It is very much appreciated. They are starting an endowment at Tiffany's old college and we plan to contribute the money to help get it going. Thank you and the CPO Foundation for your kindness.

Sincerely,

The Bishop Family, Stockbridge, GA

Probation Officer Tiffany Bishop of the Rome Probation Office died as a result of an accidental gunshot wound during training. The CPO Foundation provided an assistance check to her immediate family.

Right: Dental Technician Renee Jennings of Smith State Prison in Glennville, Georgia received a CPO Foundation assistance check to help with medically-related travel expenses incurred while taking her son Jacob to and from frequent doctor visits.



Left: Correctional Officer Latrese Hille, a Supporting Member at Valdosta State Prison, lost the majority of her furniture and possessions in a fire that caused partial damage to her house. Judy Dease and Valdosta Warden William Danforth recommended Officer Hille, pictured here with Warden Danforth, for assistance.

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South Carolina

Correctional Officer Pamela Jones, a Supporting Member at Leath Correctional Institution, is pictured here receiving a CPO Foundation assistance check from Leath CI Warden Catherine Kendall. Pamela was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and had to travel to Nashville, Tennessee for her treatments.

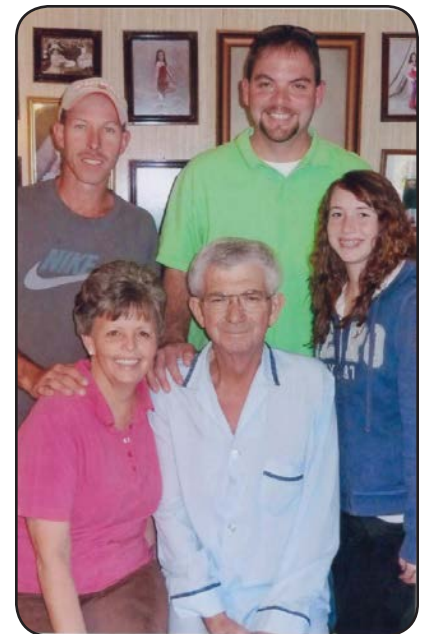


Correctional Officer Robert Grubb is pictured at left with his wife Angela and son Robert Jon-Luc. Officer Grubb, a Supporting Member at Wateree River Correctional Institution, had back surgery in mid May 2011. Complications ensued, requiring more surgery and resulting in Officer Grubb's being unable to work for many months. He received a CPOF check to help with the many medically related expenses he incurred.

To the CPO Foundation,

Thank you for the gift of money for Glenn Sherbert. With our many expenses it will certainly be put to good use. We are proud to be members of such a worthy organization. Please continue to remember us in the days ahead. Thank you again.

The Family of Glenn Sherbert, Buffalo, SC
Program Administrator Glenn Sherbert of Tyger River Correctional Institution was hospitalized for some time due to complications from lung cancer. He is pictured at right with his family. We are very sad to report that Administrator Sherbert has passed away.



Correctional Officer Gloria Terry is a Supporting Member at Allendale Correctional Institution. She lost everything in a house fire that occurred while she was at work. She is pictured at left receiving a CPO Foundation assistance check from Allendale CI Warden John Pate. Also pictured are Gary Evans, CPO Foundation Representative in South Carolina, and Major Walter Worrock.

South Carolina



Brandi Weaver, RN at Tyger River Correctional Institution, was in a very serious auto accident in early 2012. She was trapped in her car for four hours and suffered a broken pelvis, right hip, right hand and left hand. She also had radial nerve damage that cost her the use of her right hand. RN Weaver is pictured here with her CPO Foundation assistance check.



Correctional Officer Pamela Taylor, a Supporting Member at Turbeville Correctional Center, was off work for several months undergoing rehabilitation from surgery. Turbeville CI Warden Gregory Knowlin recommended Officer Taylor for assistance from the CPO Foundation. Officer Taylor is pictured here with Warden Knowlin (right) and Gary Evans.

Georgia *continued from page 37*



Left: Mr. Perry Schmidt, a contracted nurse at Walker State Prison in Rock Springs, Georgia is pictured here receiving a CPO Foundation check. In April 2011 a tree fell on Perry's home during a tornado, and CPOF Volunteer Debbie Jackson at Walker SP recommended Mr. Schmidt for some assistance.

What's Wrong with this Picture?



*Plenty! Way too pinky-purple, bad exposure, poor contrast, fuzzy detail, wrong -- well, you get the idea. It's all that a photograph shouldn't be for use in the **CPO Family**. To all of you wonderful people who send us photos for publication, we love them and want them, but please do your best to submit only **sharp, clear** images with good color contrast and proper exposure. We want your pictures -- they tell your story! -- to look their best. Don't you? **THANK YOU!***

P.S. Sorry: We simply cannot use color photocopies.

P.P.S. Thanks to the gentlemen in this photo for allowing me to "doctor" it to make my point!

-- Pat

New York State

Dear Christina and the CPO Foundation,

Thank you for the money and gift card. It was very thoughtful and kind of you. It helped us out greatly in our time of need. It is people like you that make the world a better place.

Thank you again for everything.

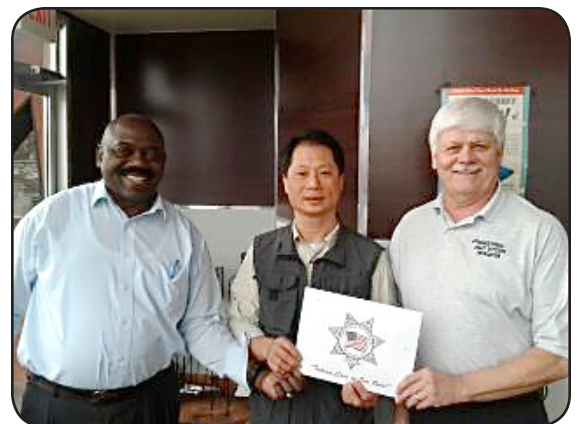
Paul Switzer and Family, Ogdensburg, NY

Correction Officer Switzer works at Ogdensburg Correctional Facility in New York. After he underwent a series of CAT scans and MRIs, a brain tumor was discovered. He had surgery at a hospital in Burlington, Vermont and afterward had to make numerous trips to and from the hospital for follow-up examinations. Officer Switzer was expected to be able to return to work in mid March 2012. Here he is with his family: wife Dolora; and children Emily, Hope, Benjamin and Harold.



Left: New York State CPOF Representative Jay West (at far right) presented an assistance package to Upstate Correctional Facility C/O Tim Arquitt who sustained a house fire, with a total loss of structure and all possessions, in early February. Also pictured are Tim's wife Penny and Upstate CF's CPOF contact C/O Leo Palmer. The CPOF extends their best wishes to the Arquitts during their rebuilding process.

Right: NYS Representative Jay West presents an assistance check to C/O Steve Chung, a Supporting Member at Greene Correctional Facility. Steve lost his wife Annie to cancer. Also in the picture is C/O Brinsley Arthurton, CPOF contact at Greene CF, who initiated the assistance process. We of the CPOF will keep C/O Chung in our thoughts and prayers.



Left: Jay West presents an assistance check to Bare Hill Correctional Facility C/O Conrad Degon who suffered a house fire in February, losing everything. Also in the photo is Conrads' lovely wife Gladys. The CPOF wishes them much luck in their rebuilding process.

Florida

Visit to Avon Park CI

by Terrasa Wood, CPO Foundation Florida Representative



In February, Florida Representatives John Williams, Don Almeter and I were invited to Avon Park Correctional Institution POD training. At this training we observed four different institutional squads practice different scenarios. All three of us were excited to see these young men and women in action, since all three of us once worked in Corrections. Once the

POD exercises were over, we were treated to a home-cooked barbeque dinner. After everyone had finished eating John, Don and I began our portion of the program. We introduced ourselves and showed the CPO Foundation **Project 2000 XXII** and Attica Riot of 1971 DVDs to the 60 attendees. After that we spoke more about the CPOF. We answered a lot of questions and signed up 14 new Supporting Members.

When we had finished our presentation, Assistant Warden Mr. Fred Trespalacios and Colonel Johnson presented John, Don and me each with a Certificate of Contribution and Participation in POD Training.

It was a very enjoyable and productive day, and we thank everyone at Avon Park CI for their hospitality.



Pictured here (third from left) is Ms. Chrishanna Ritter, daughter of Lieutenant Katherine Bryan of Walton Correctional Institution in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Lt. Bryan was killed in an auto accident in September 2011. Sergeant Mark Forehand recommended that Ms. Ritter be given a CPO Foundation check to assist with expenses incurred as a result of her mother's untimely death.

Pennsylvania



This is the family of Corrections Officer John Kelley of Pennsylvania's Cumberland County Jail. Wearing their "Team Heaven" T-shirts are the three Kelley children, Tayven, Olivia and Heaven (seated center front in cap and sunglasses); wife and mother Jamey; and John. Heaven was diagnosed last year with a rare and aggressive form of cancer called CNS-PNET. She had to undergo a radiation and chemotherapy treatment session of 13 weeks in a hospital in Tennessee. The CPO Foundation assisted Officer Kelley with expenses incurred by his periodic travels to and from the Tennessee medical facility to be with his family during Heaven's treatment.

Corrections Officer Gary Crable of SCI Greene is pictured here (left) with his son Jared. Jared, nicknamed "Mongo," passed away unexpectedly on August 9, 2011 at the age of 30. Officer Crable was responsible for the funeral expenses, and was assisted with these at the recommendation of Pennsylvania Representative Wendy Baur.



Corrections Officer Earl Pritts Jr., a Supporting Member at SCI Laurel Highlands, is pictured here with his family: children Bailey, Colby and Dara; and wife and mother Wendy. For several weeks beginning last March, Bailey was in and out of Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh three times with symptoms that at the time suggested several possible diagnoses. The CPO Foundation assisted the family with medically-related travel and incidental expenses.

Dear Christina,

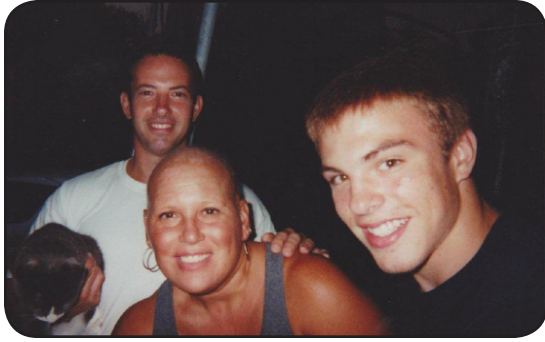
I would like to thank you for the monetary gift from the CPOF. It will definitely help as I am going to have to start paying for my benefits since I am out of time for pay purposes. I would like to acknowledge all that the Corrections community (especially my co-workers at SCI Mahanoy) has given me since I was diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. Thank you just doesn't say enough for how I feel about the help and support that I have received financially, emotionally and spiritually from everyone.

Thanks again,

Arnold Lutz, Corrections Officer, SCI Mahanoy

Officer Lutz, a Supporting Member, was diagnosed with terminal cancer in late September 2011. At the time, he was not expected to live for more than a few weeks. We are exceedingly happy to report that as of mid March 2012 he was very much alive.

Pennsylvania

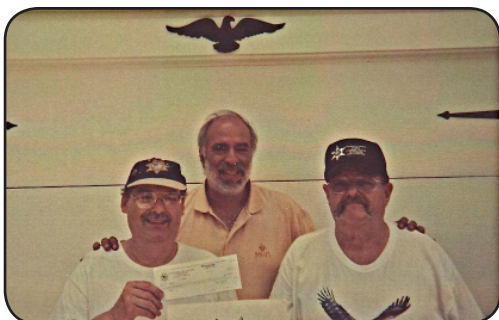


Teacher David Wolk is a Supporting Member at SCI Pine Grove. His wife Shannon was diagnosed with breast cancer in early 2011. She underwent a lumpectomy and two rounds of chemotherapy, after which she had a double mastectomy. Shanna is pictured above with David and their son Jakob.



Above is a photo of Mrs. Bessie Persing, mother of our former Sergeant Matthew Persing, along with Lt. Robert Procopio and our Superintendent David A. Varano. Matthew was killed in a vehicle accident on his way to work in January, 2012.

Thank You So Much,
Jane Hinman, Secretarial Supervisor 2,
SCI Coal Township



Left: Corrections Officer Alan Cox (standing at left), a Supporting Member at SCI Graterford, was assaulted by an inmate in April 2010. C/O Cox received a CPOF check to help with the many extra expenses he incurred during recovery from surgeries and treatment for the multiple injuries inflicted by the inmate. While C/O Cox was recovering, his wife was undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Also pictured are family friend Vincent Cirillo Jr. and another friend, George Busch, who retired from Graterford after 30 years.

June 2011

Hello,

In December of 2010 our two-year-old daughter was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (a lethal genetic disorder) and we were four months pregnant with her brother, Cole, at the time. We endured months of stress and scary testing, but we were so happy to learn that Cole did not have SMA and that he was healthy so we could concentrate on our daughter's care and a stress free pregnancy.

I woke when I was 37 weeks pregnant, just 10 days shy of a scheduled C-section, with extreme pain. Apparently, the placenta had torn, taking the nutrients and oxygen our son needed to survive. He died on May 18, 2011 and we are simply heartbroken and devastated. My husband and I are 34 years old and now we had to purchase cemetery plots and monuments for our family. Since our child was stillborn, we had no insurance. We never expected that something like this would happen.

We had little hope for the future until we were bombarded with unbelievable support from friends, family and, most of all, my employer and the CPOF. Lieutenant Ray Stender recommended our family for support from the CPOF and your generous gift helped us to bury our son and start the healing process. We are amazed at the continuing support of my co-workers, and we wanted to let you know that we deeply appreciate all you have done for our family and all you do for other families. We hope you continue this important work far into the future.

The Bognatz Family: Heather, Joseph and Masie, Carbondale, PA

Corrections Counselor Heather Bognatz of SCI Waymart began as a Corrections Officer in 2005.

Oklahoma

Dear Ms. Stevens:

I want to personally thank you for your assistance to Bill Johnson Correctional Center's Food Service Manager I Peggy Burk that she received on December 23, 2011. Your expeditious response



to our request was sincerely appreciated, and she was surprised and overwhelmed. Even with health insurance, one cannot always anticipate or budget for medical expenses, and with your assistance FSM I Burk was able to enjoy a more peaceful Christmas with fewer financial pressures.

Your organization has been so supportive of Oklahoma's Peace Officers, and I am proud to be a part of it. I appreciate the great job that CPOF does in always seeking ways to support Correctional Staff across the country. This is yet another example of how you reach out to offer a "hand up" to one of our committed Staff members. You are such a pleasure to work with.

Once again, thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Janice Melton, Warden, Charles E. "Bill" Johnson Correctional Center, Alva, OK

We thank Warden Melton very much for her gracious letter. She is pictured here (at left) with FSM I Peggy Burk and FSM II Renae Stewart. FSM I Burk incurred many medical expenses from treatment and hospitalization for a heart condition and diabetes. She is also caregiver to her mother.



Ms. Stevens:

I personally presented the check to Lieutenant Thomas Frazier on January 4, 2012. I will forward a picture to you. He was very thankful and appreciative of the generous gift. I also appreciate being included as part of the process to help this family.

I can't say enough about how nice it is to have an organization that does nothing but assist and care about Correctional employees. The presentation Richard Loud showed at our annual meeting was a positive topic among staff and the basic theme of the conversation was "those are the good guys."

Please accept this as my sincere thanks, and please continue these actions that really help people.

Sincerely,

Brian Thornburgh, District Supervisor
Southwest District Community Corrections,
Lawton, OK

Lieutenant Thomas Frazier of Lawton Community Corrections Center had a serious medical condition that required partial amputation of his left leg and foot. Pictured here left to right are: Stephanie Frazier (daughter); Southwest District Supervisor Brian Thornburgh; Chief of Security Billy Johnson (behind Brian); Mary Frazier (wife); Assistant District Supervisor Jeff Woody (in back, wearing tie); (far right) Steven Frazier (son) and Thomas Frazier in the wheelchair holding his 7th grandchild.

Richard Loud is the CPO Foundation Representative for Oklahoma.

Oklahoma

Ms. Stevens:

On behalf of the employees of James Crabtree Correctional Center, Corporal Randy Caywood and myself, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for the help that the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation gave to our Officer in need.

Corporal Caywood has made some progress in his recovery and we are hopeful that he will once again be able to fulfill his duties here at JCCC. The help your organization provided was very much needed and appreciated. It is good to know that there are others across the nation willing to lend a hand to a fellow Correctional Officer when needed.

Again, thank you. If we can ever be of service to your organization, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Janet Dowling, Interim Warden,
James Crabtree Correctional Center,
Helena, OK

Corporal Randy Caywood suffered a stroke right before Christmas 2011 and another in mid January 2012. He is a widower with four children under 13 years old.

Dear Ms. Stevens,

On behalf of Sergeant Ryan Graham, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation for the monetary assistance you provided Sgt. Graham. He was humbled and grateful for the check during this tragic time.

The Graham family is still trying to put their lives back together with a sense of normality, and your kindness and generosity is helping them with their tragic loss.

Again, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the monetary assistance that the CPO Foundation gave to Sgt. Graham during his time of need.

Sincerely,

Anita Trammell, Warden, Mack Alford
Correctional Center, Stringtown, OK

Landyn Graham, the 16-month-old son of Sergeant Ryan Graham and his wife Amber, died unexpectedly during the night of February 29, 2012. No specific cause of death was determined. The Grahams also have a daughter, Madilynn. Our hearts go out to the family on this very sad loss.

To Theresa Stevens,

We want to thank you again for your assistance. You and your organization have been so kind to us. We are still doing okay. Lane starts his next round of chemo tomorrow in Oklahoma City (Friday, Nov. 4). He will be in the hospital between three and seven days depending on how he handles the chemo.

Lane said he would like for you to have pictures of us, so that you can put faces with the names. Again, we thank you and appreciate all you

have done and the prayers you have prayed. We firmly believe that is the best medicine.

God bless you and those you work with.

The Putman Family: Lane, Debora, Lana & Zack



CSO IV Delton "Lane" Putnam works at Jim Hamilton Correctional Center. He was diagnosed with Stage IV Mantle Cell Lymphoma on September 15, 2011. Earlier in the summer of 2011, Lane suffered severe (2nd and 3rd degree) burns to both arms in an accident that occurred at home. His right arm required skin grafts. We are pleased to have assisted the Putnam family at that time and again more recently after Lane's lymphoma diagnosis.

Lane and Debora are pictured in the first photo. Above are their children Zack and Lana.

Letters and Photos from States "All Over"

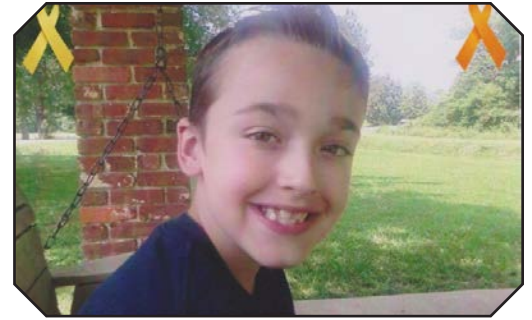
Alabama

To the CPOF Family,

On behalf of my family and me, we would like to thank you for the support you have given through these most difficult times with our son Logan. I am truly grateful to belong to such a great organization. So, thank you again for the money you have sent and the thoughtful letters and kindness you have shown.

William Pledger and family, Clanton, AL

Correctional Officer William Pledger is a Supporting Member at Bibb County Correctional Facility in Brent, Alabama. Officer Pledger's young son Logan (pictured above) was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) in January 2011. For the next several months Logan underwent radiation treatments. Because of various complications he was unable to have a bone marrow transplant. In November a blood clot developed in Logan's brain; it burst and emergency surgery was performed. We are very sad to report that Logan went into a coma and passed away on December 2, 2011.



Arkansas



Thanks so much to the CPO Foundation for the generous gift we received on behalf of Colton. Colton is doing well and continuing to gain weight and grow. Even though he will be on the ventilator for breathing assistance, we hope to have him home soon. We still have a lot of challenges and a long road ahead, but your gift has made it a little easier.

I have enclosed a picture of Colton taken last month [June] when he was four months old. The other picture is of

our family: John and Kelli, and sons Kadon (four) and Colton.

Again, thank you so much for the gift and your prayers.

John W. Morton III and family, Malvern, AR

Corporal John Morton is a Supporting Member at Quachita River Correctional Unit in Malvern, Arkansas. His son Colton was born with breathing difficulties owing to a genetic defect. We are pleased to hear that Colton is doing well and send good thoughts his way as he continues to thrive.



Colorado



Pictured at left are Warden John Davis of Buena Vista Correctional Complex, Correctional Officer Stephen Jones and Captain Guy Edmonds. Officer Jones, a Supporting Member at BVCC, received a CPOF assistance check to help with extra expenses after his wife Lynda suffered a spine fracture and required surgery.

Note from Lynda: ***"Dear Shanna, I just want to say thank you so much for your help. It means a lot to know that there is someone who cares."***

Letters and Photos from States "All Over"



Note from Stephen: *"Thank you for assisting with our medical expenses."*

Mr. Herbert Clark, pictured here (red-checked shirt), is the widower of Correctional Officer Jamie Clark who formerly worked at Colorado State Penitentiary. Sadly, Jamie and the Clarks' newborn daughter died on September 4, 2011 from complications that took place during the birth. The CPO Foundation provided Mr.

Clark with a check to assist with burial and other related expenses.



CPO Foundation Colorado Representative Bob Kahanic is with Mr. Clark in the picture at left; Shift Commander Lisa Jaros is with him in the other.

Idaho

Administrative Assistant I Joyce Grant is a Supporting Member at North Idaho Correctional Institution. AA I Grant was diagnosed with cancer last year and had surgery in July. She is pictured here (center) with her CPOF assistance check. At left is NICI Warden Lynn Guyer; at right is Sergeant Mary Strang.



Illinois

Hi, Shanna.

Here are a couple of pictures of Mellissa when a few co-workers and I presented her with the check you sent her. The one at left shows myself, Angela Caudill; Mellissa Hitzler; Debra Pierce; and Renny Campbell. We all work with



Mellissa at the Correctional Center. The other picture is of Renny Campbell and Mellissa, in her new pink "doo-rag." Many thanks again to the CPO Foundation.

Angela Caudill, Executive II, East Moline Correctional Center, IL
Correctional Counselor Mellissa Hitzler was diagnosed with Stage II breast cancer last fall. She underwent a mastectomy, followed by chemotherapy and radiation treatments. The treatments require traveling to and from a medical facility in Iowa. Counselor Hitzler, who has four children, was hoping to be able to return to work in May 2012.

continued next page

Letters and Photos from States "All Over"



Maryland

Shanna,

Here is a picture for the CPO Foundation to use in the magazine. The Officers in the picture are as follows: Left, Lieutenant Anthony Caudo, a very close friend and co-worker of Sgt. Sellers; middle, Sergeant Robert Sellers, accepting the check sent from the CPOF; and right, myself, Captain Timothy Manuel, supervisor, friend and CPOF Volunteer at MCIH, presenting the check.

Sgt. Sellers was extremely appreciative of your assistance.

His daughter did not have any insurance for her son Logan, so

Sgt. Sellers paid for a lot of the costs from his pocket and there are still many bills unpaid at this time. He could only read a little (first few lines) of the poem that was included before he broke down and said he would read it at home.

Again, thank you so very much for helping in this time of need. These types of hard times are especially hard and, as friends, we wish we could do more than just comforting them. We wish we could give them back their special treasures that were taken from them. But as life goes, at least we will have the opportunity to see and be with our passed loved ones again. We give thanks to our almighty God.

Thank you again,

Timothy Manuel, Captain, Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown, MD

Sergeant Robert Sellers' two-year-old grandson Logan died from injuries inflicted by a male friend of Logan's mother.

Massachusetts

Dear Charleene and members of the CPO Foundation,

Thank you so much for your sympathy at this very difficult time. We still cannot believe this has happened, but hearing stories about Ken, all the people he helped and the lives he touched has helped. Your letter meant so much to us, as did that beautiful poem. It just reminded the kids what a loved and respected man daddy really was. We also wanted to thank you for your generous gift. Ken would be honored by all the support and thoughts of him, and for all the help extended to our family. Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

Mary, Anthony, Kenny and Angelina Ferullo, Everette, MA

Corrections Officer Kenneth Ferullo of Boston Pre-Release Center was walking in a park when he was struck by lightning. He was on life support at Massachusetts General Hospital for three days before the support was removed; he died shortly thereafter. Mary is his widow and Anthony, Kenny and Angelina are the Ferullo children.

Michigan

To the CPO Foundation,

My family would like to thank the Foundation for the help it gave during our time of need. Corey was in a car accident that left him a paraplegic. He has spent over three months in the hospital. Here he is pictured at home with our family during a day pass.

Thank you,

Matt Davis and Family, Garden City, MI

Corrections Officer Matthew Davis works at Woodland Center Correctional Facility. His CPO Foundation check was to help with



Letters and Photos from States "All Over"

expenses incurred by frequent travel to and from the hospital in Indiana where Corey was being treated, a 160-mile trip each way.

Pictured at lower right on page 48 : Matthew; his wife Shelley; and children Tanner, Corey and Savannah.

Mississippi

Dear Correctional Peace Officers Foundation,

I, Le Tresia Stewart, Correctional Investigator at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, and my family would like to convey our deepest gratitude to everyone at the prison and with the CPO Foundation for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. The generosity that you have shown my family and me is greatly appreciated. It has been very challenging emotionally and physically; however, through God's Grace and Mercy, my husband is doing so much better. It is heartwarming to be a part of such supportive organizations. Please accept my sincerest thanks for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Le Tresia Stewart, Jackson, MS

Investigator Stewart's husband, Jermaine Kirton, suffered a heart attack from congestive heart failure and was hospitalized at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Surgery was performed to implant an internal heart defibrillator that acts as a pacemaker as well. Mr. Kirton is on eight daily medications and has a home device that monitors his condition.

Investigator Stewart, a Supporting Member, is pictured above right receiving her CPO Foundation assistance check. On the left in this photo is Vanessa Lee, CPO Foundation Representative in Mississippi (and a member of the CPOF National Honor Guard). On the right is CMCF Superintendent James Holman. In the photo at immediate right is Le Tresia's family: Jermaine and daughters Lila and Stacy.



Field Officer III Ronda Brock of Region I, Area III Community Corrections lost everything in a house fire. Region I, Area III Community Corrections Associate Director William A. Brand requested assistance from the CPO Foundation for Field Officer III Brock, and he is shown in the photo at left presenting Officer Brock with her check.

Nevada

Dear Shanna,

I would like to take this time to express my sincerest gratitude to the CPO Foundation for the generous monetary gift and heartfelt message in the tragic loss of my son Justin.

The kindness and outpouring of support from everyone has been overwhelming! I would like to especially thank Warden Robert LeGrand and Officer Tamara Bartel for recommending me for this special gift. These are two extremely exceptional people.

continued next page

Letters and Photos from States "All Over"

At 18 years old Justin was a State Champion athlete, student and role model. He was very active in his community and was loved by all who knew him. Justin was looking forward to starting college in the fall [of 2011] and had an active modeling career when his life was cut short by a tragic accident. Justin leaves behind his younger brother, Dylan.

Best regards,

Desiree Hultenschmidt, Lovelock, NV

Desiree is a Dental Assistant II at Lovelock Correctional Center in Nevada.

Virginia



Dear Ms. Bredeson,

Hello, my name is Angie Branch. I'm currently with Buckingham Correctional Center in Dillwyn, Virginia. I was diagnosed with breast cancer on December 15, 2011 and I had surgery on January 11, 2012. I had to return to the hospital on January 29 because of an infection and was discharged on February 1. I am doing OK for now. I just wanted to say "thanks, CPOF," for all you do, and may God continue to bless each and every one and their families. God is so good, because I can say I'm a survivor and I can beat this.

Thanks,

Angie Branch, Prospect, VA

Correctional Officer Angie Branch [pictured], a Supporting Member for many years, received a CPO Foundation check to help with her various medically related expenses.

Washington

CPO Foundation,

Thank you so much for your generous donation. With your support we were able to pay for my husband's funeral costs and memorial. Thanks again.

The Brown Family, Shelton, WA

Correctional Officer Scott Brown of Washington Correctional Center passed away on January 7, 2012 from a heart attack after being in the hospital since December 26, 2011.

West Virginia

Shanna,

Here is a photo of the CPOF check presentation that occurred on February 1, 2012. From left to right are MOCC CPOF Representative Lt. Scott Rogers, Warden David Ballard and Correctional Officer I Bobby Drennen.

Lt. Scott Rogers, Mt. Olive Correctional Complex, Mt. Olive, WV
On August 23, 2011 Officer Bobby Drennen, a Supporting Member, was involved in an altercation with an inmate in the MOCC segregation unit. He suffered a broken femur and was off work for a considerable time.



Letters and Photos from States "All Over"



Wisconsin

Stephanie Spicer (photo at left) was a Social Worker at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institute, Plymouth, Wisconsin. She was a wife and young mother with three children. In March 2005, Stephanie had a mole removed that tested positive for melanoma. After five years of no recurrence, the melanoma returned in September 2010. Stephanie was diagnosed with melanoma of the lymph nodes and lungs. Aggressive treatment cleared her system of all tumors and put her very close to remission, but in mid December 2011 it returned with a vengeance, this time invading the fluid around her brain.

After a month at St. Luke's Hospital ICU in Milwaukee, Stephanie could fight no more.

Stephanie loved life to the fullest. Family and friends were her world and to say she went through all this with dignity is an understatement. Her faith was extremely strong and she always said, "God has a plan, we just don't know what it is." The staff at KMCI has been outstanding in their support of her during this entire time Stephanie loved working there and was excited for the day she could return. She believed fully in the CPO Foundation, and for her husband and children to receive this monetary gift is very much appreciated.

In the photo above right is one of Stephanie's best friends and coworker, KMCI Social Worker Jan Guse, presenting the check to Stephanie's husband, Monte Spicer. Also in the picture are the Spicer children: Alexander, 9; Isabella, 7; and Maxwell, 3.

Thank you, CPO Foundation, for the generous donation.

Mrs. Stephen (Deborah) Feider (Stephanie's mother) and Monte Spicer, Sheboygan, WI



AN APOLOGY



Central Mississippi Correctional Facility is the featured facility for September in our 2012 Correctional Calendar. One sentence in the caption states that "All female felons in the State of Georgia are processed at CMCF." The sentence should read, of course: "All female felons in the State of Mississippi are processed at CMCF."

Our sincere apologies for this error go to Ms. Jasmine Cole; to Mississippi DOC Commissioner Chris Epps; and to all staff at CMCF.

Speaking of calendar photos, we are now accepting submissions for the 2013 Correctional Calendar. We need good quality, CLEAR color* aerial photographs of your prisons or jails, with a brief description of the facility's history, capacity and/or programs. Email your photo, if you can, to pat@cpof.org. Or mail a hard copy to Pat Bjorklund at the CPOF headquarters in Sacramento, CA. Please: *No color photocopies* --they will look "muddy" and washed out in the Calendar, and we simply can't use them.

Thanks. We look forward to your excellent entries for the 2013 Correctional Calendar!

**Unless you've got a nice, crisp, clear b/w photo!*

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

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- Heman G. Stark School (YTS), Chino, CA
- Central California Womens' Facility, Chowchilla, CA
 - California Medical Facility, Vacaville, CA
 - California Rehabilitation Center, Norco, CA
 - Calipatria State Prison, Calipatria, CA
 - High Desert State Prison, Susanville, CA
- Valley State Prison for Women, Chowchilla, CA
- Sumter Correctional Institution, Bushnell, FL
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- Hamilton Correctional Institution, Jasper, FL
- Columbia Correctional Institution, Lake City, FL
- Snake River Correctional Institution, Ontario, OR
 - Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, OR
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Each Lifetime Sponsor receives a Gold Jacket and a special Plaque from the CPO Foundation.

We hope that your institution, corporation or business -- or you individually, if feasible -- will decide to support us in this way. Call us at 916-928-0061, or

send an email to char@cpof.org, and one day, perhaps quite soon, a Plaque will be on the wall at your facility or headquarters that identifies you as a proud Lifetime Sponsor of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation. (Many of our "Lifers" have the Gold Jacket framed and display it as well!)

Note: A Lifetime Facility Sponsorship does not equal or replace Supporting Membership in the CPO Foundation by an individual Correctional Officer or Corrections Professional. Nor does a \$5,000 donation to the CPOF (e.g., at a fundraising event) by a corporation, business or other entity equal or apply to a Lifetime Corporate/Organization Sponsorship.

LIFETIME SPONSORS of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Lifetime Facility Sponsors

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 - Dalhart Unit
 - Daniel Unit
 - Darrington Unit
- Dominguez State Jail
 - Duncan Unit
 - Eastham Unit
 - Ellis I Unit
 - Estelle Unit
 - Ferguson Unit
 - Formby State Jail
- Garza East Transfer Facility
- Garza West Transfer Facility
 - Gist State Jail
- Glossbrenner SAFPF
- Goodman Transfer Facility
- Gurney Transfer Facility
 - Halbert Unit
 - Havins Unit
- Hightower Unit
 - Hilltop Unit
 - Hobby Unit
- Holliday Transfer Facility
 - Hughes Unit
 - Huntsville IPO
 - Huntsville Unit
- Hutchins State Jail
 - Jester I SAFPF
 - Jester III Unit
 - Johnston SAFPF
- Laundry & Food Service Division
 - Lewis Unit
 - Lopez State Jail
 - Luther Unit
 - Lychner State Jail
 - McConnell Unit
 - Michael Unit
- Middleton Transfer Facility
- Montford Psychiatric Unit
- Mountain View Unit
 - Pack Unit
- Plane State Jail
- Polunsky Unit
- Powledge Unit
- Ramsey Unit
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 - Roach Unit
 - Robertson Unit
- Rudd Transfer Facility
 - Sayle SAFPF
 - Smith Unit
- Stevenson Unit
 - Stiles Unit
 - Telford Unit
 - Terrell Unit
 - Torres Unit
 - Vance Unit
 - Wallace Unit
 - Ware Unit
- Wheeler SAFPF
- Woodman State Jail
 - Wynne Unit

Did you know...?

The CPO Foundation now produces State- (or County-) specific Newsletters for our Representatives to use in their respective States and Regions. These Newsletters are intended to convey the CPO Foundation's message in a particularly personal way to the targeted audience of Corrections Professionals in a certain State or area of the country.

The *CPO Family* magazine is published twice a year, first in the spring and second -- the "Project" issue -- in autumn. The CPO Foundation Correctional Calendar, a separate publication, continues to be bundled with the autumn "Project" issue for more efficient mailing purposes.

Be sure to visit our website -- cpof.org -- for news, forms, photos and updates. Thanks to ALL for your support!

NOTE: The CPO Foundation is not a political action group or committee of any kind, nor is it affiliated with any political action group or committee of any kind, nor is it involved in any collective bargaining issues with any employee groups, associations and/or administrations whatsoever.

Annual Correctional Facility Sponsors

- AFGE Local 720, FCC Terre Haute, IN
- AFGE Local 817, FMC Lexington, KY

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

Find a mistake?

It is our policy to include something for everyone. Since some people like to find errors, we regularly include a few in our publications to meet this need.

Mr. and Mrs. David A. Reeves are one of our newest Lifetime Individual Sponsors (see page 52). Here is the letter that accompanied their \$5,000 check:

We can never express our deepest heartfelt thanks for all the support and caring we received from the entire CPO Foundation family.

*In memory of our son, SSG Jason A. Reeves who gave his life on December 5, 2010 and was honored by the CPOF at **Project 2000 XXII** in San Antonio, Texas [June 2011], we would like to become a Lifetime Sponsor of CPOF. We wish that this [sponsorship] be made in honor of our son, SSG Jason S. Reeves. We hope we are able to support CPOF as much or more than they have supported us in our time of need. No family should ever have to endure the loss of a child or other family member, but CPOF makes sure they do not have to go through that difficulty alone. As long as we are able, we will continue to participate and be part of the Project 2000 program. From the first time we heard from Kim Blakley we have had nothing but full and caring support from everyone we came in touch with. This has meant so much to us that CPOF will be forever in our hearts as part of our family. All we ask is that if our donation is printed on anything such as a plaque or in the CPO Family publication that it be shown as seen below:*

*David and Ruthie Reeves
"In Memory of SSG Jason A. Reeves"*

*Thank you again for being there for us.
David and Ruthie Reeves
Apple Valley, California*

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The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation would like to thank and recognize those Corrections Professionals taking a leave from their Correctional duties and now serving our Country. Please stay safe and know your service is appreciated. We hope this publication was forwarded to you from your family.
God Bless you
and
God Bless the United States of America

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS?

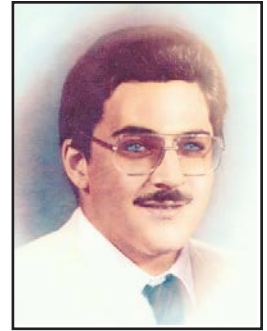
If this magazine was forwarded to you, PLEASE take the time to email Theresa@cpof.org with your current address.

If you are PLANNING to move and know your new address, please email Theresa NOW and provide her with that new address. *This applies even if all you are doing is moving to a new unit in your apartment building.*

The **CPO Family**, now issued twice a year, is a bulk mail (third class) publication, so it will **NOT** be forwarded by the Post Office. It's so easy just to email Theresa@cpof.org and give her your current, or soon to be, address -- you'll be glad you did! **THANK YOU.**

Alabama Medal of Valor presented to Mandy Donaldson

In assuming duties as Warden of William E. Donaldson Correctional Facility, I began to research the name change from West Jefferson Correctional Facility to William E. Donaldson Correctional Facility. I knew an Officer was killed but had many questions about how, why and the Officer's family. All the questions were answered quickly except for the family. I was saddened to learn that William "Bill" Donaldson had a wife and four-year-old daughter at the time of this tragic incident. I learned of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation's generosity and support during this search for answers. But the most amazing information learned was about the lives of Jennifer Donaldson Davis and Mandy Donaldson. Jennifer had dedicated her life to serving other Correctional families faced with tragedy and death of a loved one. Mandy was an outgoing teenager



**William E. Donaldson
EOW: 1/12/1990**



**Mrs. Doris Donaldson,
Bill's mother; Mandy; and
Warden III Gary Hetzel**

when I first met her. She was full of life with a dedication to assist children through the process of losing a loved one in the line of duty. Mandy was amazingly dedicated to these children and their well-being. I was truly proud, as Bill would be, that this child had fought adversity to become a loving, giving, caring young lady.

As time passed, I realized that Bill and the family had not been honored for his ultimate sacrifice. When the opportunity arose to make application for the Medal of Valor for Bill, I quickly completed and submitted the application. The application was approved and the ceremony was set in the BJCC in Birmingham, Alabama. The event was special with honor guards, fireworks, bagpipe band and ceremonial speakers. Bill's entire family was present and seated in special seating for Medal of Valor recipients. Unbeknownst to me, I was designated to present Mandy with the Medal of Valor in honor

of her father. As I placed the medal around Mandy's neck, I knew Bill was looking down and proud of his amazing daughter. I told Mandy how proud her Dad would be of her life and accomplishments.

Time went by quickly and then came the realization that twenty years had passed since Bill's End of Watch. Char Corby contacted me concerning a Memorial Service to honor Bill and his family. I was privileged to coordinate the Memorial Service. On January 12, 2010, a Memorial Service was conducted to honor the sacrifice of William "Bill" Donaldson and his family. The Service was held at the institution with many dignitaries from the Legislature, Judges, ADOC Commissioners, CPOF, media and Correctional personnel. Family members were presented with a flag by the Honor Guard, painted portraits of Bill, and flowers. This Memorial Service was the first in ADOC history for a fallen Officer.



**Alabama DOC Honor Guard
members at Bill's 2010
Memorial Service**

I discovered the true meaning of a "blessing" when I attended the CPO Foundation's PROJECT 2000 XXII in 2011. I visited the Kids' Room and watched as Mandy lovingly interacted with the children. I observed the patience and kindness with the children at the barbecue and dance, the bonding at movie night, the excitement during Teen Night Out, the sharing at the children's presentation and the heartfelt song Mandy presented at the PROJECT Memorial Service for the families and attendees in front of the Alamo. She has become a school teacher, an accomplished singer and a very special young woman.

Bill, my fallen Correctional Officer, be proud. Your daughter has followed in your footsteps and has demonstrated your same traits: love, caring, patience, dedication and service.

-- Gary Hetzel, Warden III, William E. Donaldson Correctional Facility, Birmingham, Alabama

See back cover for more

CPO Foundation

P. O. Box 348390 Sacramento CA 95834-8390

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



At Project 2000 XXII in San Antonio, June 2011, W. E. Donaldson Correctional Facility Warden III Gary Hetzel presented Mandy with a specially commissioned portrait.



*At the entrance to W. E. Donaldson Correctional Facility, Bessemer, Alabama. **We are always proud when an institution is renamed after a Fallen Officer.***

As mentioned on the previous page, Mandy was just four when her daddy, William E. Donaldson, was killed in the line of duty at what was then West Jefferson Correctional Facility. Now a young woman of 26, Mandy is a teacher, "giving back" and continuing to give back.

At Project 2000 each year, as Warden Hetzel said so kindly, Mandy is the current "Kids and Teens" Coordinator. She assists the new kids and teens who have just lost a loved one in the line of duty to cope with their loss and to talk about their feelings with the other young people who have suffered the same life-changing tragedy.

The CPO Foundation Board of Directors thanks Mandy for all she has done for the Foundation and indeed for the Corrections Profession.

And, yes, they ALL agree with Warden Hetzel that Bill is "looking down and proud of his amazing daughter."