

CORRECTIONAL PEACE  
OFFICERS FOUNDATION

# FAMILY

## MAGAZINE



TAKING CARE OF  
OUR OWN

The only national nonprofit for correctional family,  
by correctional families.

Spring | 2025

CPOF.ORG

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## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**DON DEASE**  
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**CHEVI AMREIN**  
**NATIONAL  
DIRECTOR**

**JEFF WASHINGTON**  
**NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

# CP *Board of*

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First, a big shout out to all of you wonderful people who support CPOF. My name is Bill Hutto, and I am a National Director on the CPOF Board. After graduating from High School, I enlisted in the US Army and was part of the Army Corp of Engineers. My enlistment was during the latter part of the Vietnam conflict, and since the troop strength was being reduced, I was reassigned to a European Command in Karlsruhe, Germany with the 249th Engineer Battalion where I worked with my unit to complete numerous construction projects operating heavy equipment in areas throughout Germany (e.g. small aircraft take-off and landing strips, soccer fields for small German villages, and many road building projects throughout Germany.) On occasion I was also assigned to transport convicted US Soldiers to Mannheim, Germany where there was a major military stockade.

Once discharged from the military I attended Sierra College and studied Administration of Justice. At that point I applied at Folsom State Prison for a position as a correctional officer. I was hired and worked in different units throughout the prison where I met and worked for the majority

of the CPOF founding fathers (Don Novey, Glenn Mueller, Larry Corby and Sal Osuna).

These individuals were great mentors and instrumental in my success in the Department. I observed their tireless efforts to improve the working environment for correctional staff throughout the State of California, and with a desire to set a precedent for the entire nation for the improvement of staff safety and working conditions in a profession that was essentially forgotten.

I would also like to mention Char Corby who has always stood out to me since the early days of CPOF. Char has been highly committed and dedicated to this organization and those in corrections who experienced tragedies, not only in California where CPOF started but nationwide as we have grown to serve correctional employees across the country. Her compassion supporting fallen families and growing CPOF nationwide is honorable.

I also want to mention Former National Honor Guard Commander Dizmon who I worked with in the prisons as well as in the Statewide transportation unit. As a proud veteran, I appreciate our National Honor Guard and their professional representation of CPOF honoring

the fallen. Commander Dizmon provided the leadership that initially built the team and set the tone with high standards and professionalism.

Commander Gonsalves continues this standard of excellence, and the team represents CPOF with the utmost in professionalism.

I love our motto "Taking Care of Our Own" because I remember correctional staff and their families who had suffered tragedies without the benefit of this organization. As this wonderful organization has grown over the years, even prior to me serving on the board, I have seen firsthand how we have been "Taking Care of Our Own" repeatedly. I am so proud of what we do to help others in our field.

In closing I want to thank my colleagues on the board, our members, each of our staff members in our Sacramento office, and all field representatives that are throughout the country serving this great organization. Your hard work and commitment are directly associated with our success as an organization. I appreciate each of you and I'm very excited to see us continue to grow and serve those in our profession.

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**Bill Hutto | National Director**



# OF *Directors*

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Don Dease began his correctional career in 1974 as a Recreational Coordinator at MacDougall Youth Institution in South Carolina. From 1976 to 1980, he held key roles including Deputy Warden and Administrative Assistant. In 1980, he was named Warden of the Dutchman Correctional Region and promoted to Regional Director in 1983, overseeing 10 facilities for 14 years before retiring as Institutional Division Director with the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Throughout his career, Don was active in several professional organizations, including the South Carolina Correctional Association, American Correctional Association, Southern States Correctional Association, and the South Carolina State Employees Association. He also played a leading role in NAAWS and was a founding member of the Make-A-Smile Foundation, committed to bringing joy to children in need.

A graduate of The Citadel, Don earned a BS in Education, a Master of Arts in Teaching, and a degree in Criminal Justice. He was inducted into The Citadel Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997 for his outstanding football career.

Don became involved with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) in 1997 after attending PROJECT VIII in Washington, D.C. Deeply moved, he

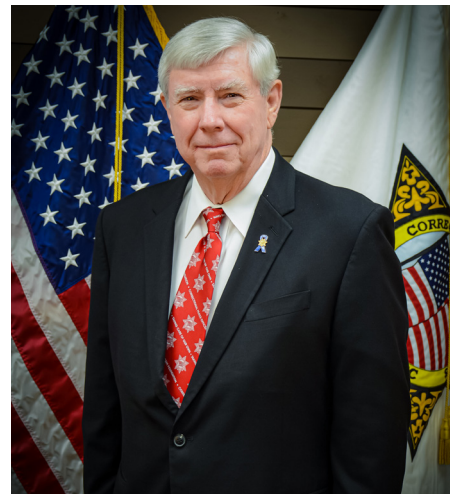
remained active with CPOF following his 2002 retirement. The very next day, he attended PROJECT XIII in Tampa, FL, and later served as a Field Representative for South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia alongside Char Corby. Don and his wife, Judy, were instrumental in establishing CPOF payroll deduction in Georgia.

Appointed to the CPOF Board in 2010, Don took a leave in 2011 to serve as an advisor to the Afghan Correctional System, returning in 2012. Following Larry Corby's passing in 2014, Don was named Secretary, serving until 2022 before becoming Vice Chairman.

In his 15 years on the Board, Don has been a tireless advocate for correctional families affected by tragedy and disaster. His hands-on efforts—such as driving supply trucks into areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina—showcase his deep commitment to CPOF's mission.

Don Dease is retiring from the CPOF Board effective the final day of PROJECT 2000 XXXVI. As an Emeritus Board Member, his legacy of compassionate leadership will continue to inspire. We thank him for his exceptional service, unwavering support, and heartfelt dedication.

Enjoy your well-earned retirement, Don—you have truly made a difference.



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**Don Dease | Vice Chairman**

# CPOF

## *Membership*

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### Standing Strong Together: The Mission and Impact of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation

At the heart of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) lies a mission that is both simple and profound: to stand beside the families of our nation's correctional officers—especially during times of deep loss and hardship.

The chief purpose of CPOF is to provide financial assistance to the surviving families of CPOF members who lose their lives in the line of duty. These brave men and women serve with integrity, dedication, and quiet strength. When tragedy strikes, CPOF ensures that their families are not left to face the future alone.

But CPOF's support extends far be-

yond this. Through a wide range of meaningful programs—from emergency assistance to scholarships, from national memorials to local outreach—the Foundation touches the lives of correctional professionals across the country.

When you join CPOF, you become part of a nationwide brotherhood and sisterhood of correctional peace officers. Our members share more than just a profession—they share a purpose. A calling. And most importantly, a commitment to look out for one another.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we are family.





## Catastrophic Assistance Program

When illness, injury, or a life-changing event leads to financial hardship, CPOF is there. Our Catastrophic Assistance Program helps members facing medical crisis, natural disasters, or other personal emergencies. It's one of the many ways we live out our commitment to "Taking Care of Our Own."



## CPOF Scholarships

Each year, CPOF awards scholarships to members and their families who are pursuing higher education. We believe in supporting the next generation and easing the financial burden of college for those who serve—and their children.



## PROJECT 2000

Held annually, PROJECT 2000 is a solemn and moving tribute to correctional professionals who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Members from across the country come together to honor the fallen, support their families, and reaffirm the bonds of the corrections community. For many, it is a life-changing experience that embodies the heart of our Foundation.





# *The Nation* Honor Guard *A Tribute of Respect and D*





*onal*  
*Duty*

## About CPOF's National Honor Guard Team

Since its founding in 2007, the CPOF National Honor Guard has served as a powerful symbol of respect, dignity, and remembrance. Traveling across the country, these dedicated members participate in memorial ceremonies honoring corrections professionals who have lost their lives—whether in the line of duty, through tragic accidents, or from natural causes.

The presence of the Honor Guard at these solemn events offers a visible and moving reminder that the sacrifices made by corrections staff will never be forgotten.

These men and women represent the best of the corrections profession, chosen not just for their conduct but for their commitment to honor and service.



**Douglas Abbott**  
**SCI Somerset**

After a nationwide search, CPOF National Honor Guard Commander Raymond Gonsalves is proud to welcome Captain Douglas Abbott of SCI Somerset, Pennsylvania, as the newest member of the Honor Guard.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Captain Abbott has served in corrections since leaving the military. He joined the SCI Somerset Honor Guard in 2008 and has led the team as Commander for the past five years.

Captain Abbott brings strong leadership, dedication, and deep respect for the mission of honoring fallen correctional officers.

Congratulations and welcome, Captain Abbott. Thank you for selflessly stepping into this vital role.







# Catastrophic Assistance Program

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When life takes an unexpected turn, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation is here to help. Our Catastrophic Assistance Program supports CPOF members facing severe financial hardship due to injury, illness, or other life-altering events.

## **Who Qualifies?**

"Catastrophic" is defined as an event causing serious financial strain—such as a major illness, injury, or personal crisis affecting a correctional officer or staff member.

## **Verification Required**

Because our resources are limited, each case is verified by CPOF's catastrophic coordinator and local contacts. Assistance is meant to help, not replace an entire paycheck.

## **Travel for Treatment**

We may provide support for medical travel expenses if extensive travel is needed for treatment or therapy for the member, their spouse, or dependent children.

## **Bereavement Support**

Assistance may be available in bereavement cases when there's a dire need and no other financial resources or insurance are available.

## **Natural Disasters**

The CPOF Board also considers assistance for staff affected by natural disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, or tornadoes.

## **Documentation**

Applicants may be asked to provide documentation such as medical reports, fire records, or a financial worksheet outlining living expenses and income.

Apply now and let CPOF be there when it matters most.

*Correctional Officer Reggie Abraham, who passed away on March 1, 2025. CPOF was there for the Abraham family to assist with burial expenses.*



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## *CPOF Steps In to Support Officer Boyd Simpson IV of FCC Tucson and his family*

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For Correctional Officer Boyd Simpson IV (above) of FCC Tucson, 2024 was a year of challenge and pain. Following a serious car accident, he endured ongoing back issues that ultimately required surgery in February 2025. While the procedure was necessary for his recovery, it also meant time away from work during a critical period—time without a paycheck for a family depending on him.

Officer Simpson is the primary provider for his household, which includes his wife and their three young children. As medical bills mounted and income stopped, the family faced a difficult reality. What should have been a period focused on healing quickly became overshadowed by growing financial stress.

That's where the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation stepped in.

Through the Catastrophic Assistance Program, CPOF was able to provide meaningful financial support to the Simpson family—ensuring that while Officer Simpson focused on recovery, his family had help covering essential needs. The assistance served as a lifeline, relieving some of the burden during a time when they needed it most.

This is exactly why the Catastrophic Assistance Program exists—to stand beside correctional professionals in moments of unexpected crisis and help them regain their footing.

To Officer Simpson, we send our heartfelt wishes for a full recovery and continued strength. To his family, we offer our ongoing support and admiration for their resilience. And to our members, thank you for making this kind of impact possible.



In October 2023, Steve Martinez, a dedicated correctional professional with the Colorado Department of Corrections, was required to take a medical retirement due to a serious health condition. After years of service, stepping away from the career he loved was not only emotionally difficult, but it also marked the beginning of a long and challenging medical journey.

Since retiring, Steve has continued to undergo treatment, with he and his wife Natalie facing mounting medical expenses. Like so many families in the corrections community, they have met these challenges with strength and perseverance—but the financial strain has been real.

Through our Catastrophic Assistance Program, CPOF was honored to offer support to Steve and Natalie to help ease the burden of some of their ongoing medical costs. This assistance is made possible by the generosity of our members and supporters, and it reflects CPOF's enduring mission: to be there for correctional officers and their families when they need it most.

*Correctional Officer Natalie Martinez*  
*La Vista Correctional Facility, Colorado*



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## ***CPOF's Catastrophic Assistance Program is there for ALL Correctional Professionals during their time of need!***

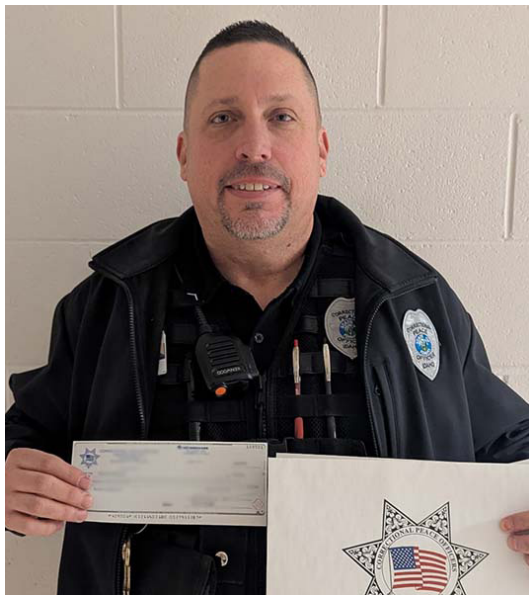
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*Correctional Officer Ronald Chesterman*  
*Idaho State Correctional Institution*

In an unimaginable tragedy, Correctional Officer Ronald Chesterman faced the heartbreaking loss of his 15-year-old son, Noah, who lived in California with his mother. While visiting his girlfriend, a fire broke out at the residence. Noah and the 14-year-old girl were unable to escape and both lost their lives.

In the wake of this devastating event, Officer Chesterman was confronted with not only overwhelming grief but also the urgent need to travel and make arrangements to honor his son's life. During this time, CPOF was honored to assist through the Catastrophic Assistance Program—helping cover travel expenses to attend Noah's services and contributing toward burial costs.

While no amount of support can ease the depth of this loss, we hope our assistance helped Officer Chesterman feel the strength and compassion of the corrections community standing beside him. Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers remain with both families, their friends, and the communities affected by this tragic loss. May Noah and the young girl who perished with him be remembered for the joy they brought to the lives of those who loved them.



# Taking Care Of Our Own

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## Oklahoma State Reformatory



*(L) to (R): Warden William (Chris) Rankins, Beverly Emswiler (wife), Sophia Emswiler (daughter) and Merrick Emswiler (son in neck brace, recovering from accident)*

Corporal Landreth Emswiler, who served with dedication at the Oklahoma State Reformatory, tragically lost his life in a head-on collision on February 6, 2025. Also in the vehicle were his daughters, Carissa (17) and Elise (11), who sadly did not survive the crash. His 8-year-old son, Merrick, sustained critical injuries and was airlifted for emergency medical care.

The Emswiler family was referred to the Catastrophic Assistance Program by CPOF Field Representative Debbie Moore, Warden William Rankins, and Human Resources Manager IV Denise Webb. The CPOF Board of Directors and its supporting members were honored to extend assistance to the family during this time of profound loss.

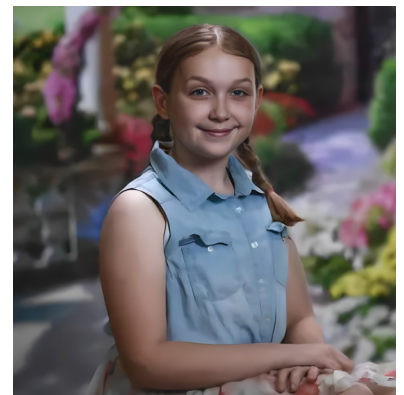
We extend our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the Emswiler family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Beverly, Sophia, and Merrick as they endure unimaginable grief and face the difficult days ahead. May they find strength and comfort in the support of those around them.



*Corporal Landreth Emswiler*



*Carissa Emswiler*



*Elise Emswiler*





*Left to Right:  
Associate Warden  
Joesph Werts  
Warden Curtis Earley  
Lt. Bobby Samples  
South Carolina Field Rep-  
resentative Gary Evans*

## **Perry Correctional Institution | South Carolina**

We extend our deepest condolences to Correctional Officer Bobby Samples of Perry Correctional Institution on the heartbreaking loss of his beloved daughter, Olivia Samples, who passed away on January 30, 2025.

In the midst of this unimaginable tragedy, the Samples family faced the heavy burden of funeral expenses. Officer Samples was referred to our Catastrophic Assistance Program by CPOF Field Representative Gary Evans, Associate Warden Joesph Werts, and Warden Curtis Earley. It was our honor to offer financial support during this incredibly difficult time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Officer Samples and his family as they continue to grieve the loss of Olivia.

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## **Morgan County, Tennessee**

Our hearts go out to Correctional Officer Richard Williams, who endured unimaginable loss and injury when a devastating tornado struck his community in Tennessee. Officer Williams suffered multiple broken ribs and other injuries, and his wife was also hurt. Tragically, his ex-wife and daughter, who lived on the same property, lost their lives in the storm.

Referred to our Catastrophic Assistance Program by Warden Shawn Phillips and Correctional Administrator Bradley Trate, Officer Williams received support from the CPOF to help him begin the long road to recovery. On behalf of the CPOF Board of Directors and our dedicated members, we were honored to present him with an assistance check.



*Pictured left to right: Warden Shawn Phillips, Tina Williams, Richard Williams, and Fiscal Director Bobby Jones.*



## *Columbia Correctional Institution – Florida* *Correctional Officer Walter Bullard*

Correctional Officer Walter Bullard of Columbia Correctional Institution was participating in the Basic Recruit Academy, when an unexpected medical emergency suddenly changed the course of his training. During the academy, Officer Bullard suffered a serious health event and was immediately transported to a nearby hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery. Doctors determined that the implantation of a defibrillator was necessary to support his recovery and ongoing cardiac health.

Recognizing the urgency of Officer Bullard's situation and the strain it placed on him and his family, CPOF stepped in to provide support. On behalf of the Board of Directors and its many supporting members, we were honored to present an assistance check to Officer Bullard to help offset the financial challenges brought on by this sudden medical crisis.

Despite the severity of the incident, Officer Bullard remains in positive spirits and is hopeful for a full recovery. He looks forward to resuming his duties and continuing his service in the Florida Department of Corrections.

At CPOF, we are proud to stand behind brave men and women like Officer Bullard who dedicate themselves to serving and protecting others. His determination and resilience in the face of adversity are a testament to the strength and character of our correctional professionals.



*L to R: CO Bullard and Volunteer  
Field Representative Jim Freeman*

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## *Taking Care of Our Own*

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### *Okaloosa Correctional Institution – FL* *Correctional Officer Travis Barrow*

In early 2025, Correctional Officer Travis Barrow of Okaloosa Correctional Institution received a devastating diagnosis: neuro plasma of the brain. The news came as a heavy blow to Officer Barrow and his young family. As he was placed on leave without pay to focus on treatment and recovery, the financial and emotional toll quickly began to mount.

Thankfully, Associate Warden David Jacobs and CPOF's Florida Field Representative John Kolodziej recognized the urgency of Officer Barrow's situation. Understanding the seriousness of his condition and the strain it placed on his household—including a 2-year-old son and a wife expecting their second child in March 2025—they quickly referred him to our Catastrophic Assistance Program.

We were honored to step in and provide financial assistance to help ease the burden during this incredibly challenging time. Officer Barrow's courage and determination are an inspiration, and the strength of his family and colleagues speaks volumes about the bonds within the correctional community.



*L to R: Assistant Warden David  
Jacobs, Officer Barrow, Florida Field  
Representative John Kolodziej*

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# Weathering the Storm: CPOF Responds to the Impact of Hurricane Helene on Corrections Staff

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When Hurricane Helene made landfall September of 2024, it left a trail of destruction across several southeastern states, with devastating consequences for many—including those serving in the corrections profession. Correctional officers and staff, many of whom worked around the clock to ensure the safety and security of inmates and facilities during the storm, faced staggering personal losses of their own.

Homes were damaged or destroyed. Families were displaced. And in some tragic cases, lives were lost. Amidst the chaos, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation



(CPOF) mobilized quickly to assess needs and provide emergency assistance to affected members.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, CPOF Field Rep-



resentatives worked closely with wardens, administrators, and state corrections departments to identify officers and staff in critical need. From temporary housing support to replacing essential household items, the Foundation's Catastrophic Assistance Program delivered aid where it was needed most.

"Our mission has always been to stand with the correctional community during its most difficult moments," said a CPOF representative. "Hurricane Helene tested that commitment—but it also reaffirmed the strength and resilience of our members."

Many in Western North Carolina completely lost their homes while on duty helping to coordinate emergency facility lockdowns. Despite losing nearly all of their belongings, they remained dedicated to their posts and later

received financial aid from CPOF to help rebuild.

Whether it was providing assistance checks, connecting families to local resources, or simply offering a compassionate presence, the CPOF team remained committed throughout the disaster response.

As the long recovery continues, the stories of sacrifice and solidarity among correctional professionals during Hurricane Helene serve as powerful reminders of the community's strength. And as always, CPOF will be there—ready to help correctional officers and their families get back on their feet.

To all who were affected by Hurricane Helene: your courage has not gone unnoticed, and your CPOF family stands with you.





For Corrections, by Corrections

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# CPOF

## *Founded in 1984*

In the early 1980s, five correctional officers—Larry Corby, Glenn Mueller, Salvador Osuna, Dick Waldo, and Don Novey—saw a need that could no longer be ignored. While other law enforcement branches had established “widows and orphans” funds, Correctional Officers, often overlooked and undersupported, had little to fall back on in times of crisis.

Each of the five founders had experienced something that sparked this calling. A widow’s letter detailing her desperate situation. The in-line-of-duty death of a friend. The emotional and financial devastation families faced when tragedy struck. They had all passed the hat before, collecting funds from coworkers to help families in need. But they knew families deserved more than hand-me-down solutions.

From garage meetings and hand-typed letters to full-time dedication and tireless outreach, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) was born. Four of the founders worked at Folsom State Prison; the fifth, Dick Waldo, worked for the California Youth Authority. Veterans, family men, and public servants, they were united by a commitment to honor their fallen

and protect the living.

Sal Osuna poured his heart into fundraising, never asking what he’d get in return. Larry Corby used his words to galvanize support across the nation. Glenn Mueller brought bold ideas and relentless action, serving as Chairman for more than 35 years. Dick Waldo ensured that funds were always available when tragedy struck. Don Novey—while later focusing on strengthening the union—was instrumental in the formation of the Foundation and its mission.

Behind the men were equally dedicated women. Char Corby navigated California’s remote prisons with a road map and a mission. Barbara Burchfield, widow of Officer Hal Burchfield, became the Foundation’s living testament—sharing her story for decades, reminding all what CPOF stands for

From those early days to now, the Foundation has given more than \$30 million in assistance to correctional staff and their families. What began as five determined officers in a garage has become a national movement of over 80,000 members—united by a simple but powerful creed: Taking Care of Our Own.

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*“Among a number of others back in the early ‘80s, we were five working officers who knew that we in Corrections had to create something for our officers: a concrete and established organization and fund that would be there immediately for the surviving families in the terrible event of one of our own meeting death in the line of duty.”*  
– Larry Corby, 1996

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Four of the founding 5 and long time board member Ed Barcliff



Mr. Don Novey at one of the first PROJECT 2000 Events



Mr. Larry Corby with his daughter Camie and wife Char.



Long time volunteer Joe Vega with Char and Barbara.



CPOF Board of Directors with the Forgotten Victims of Attica



Mr. Dick Waldo, Mrs. Barbara Burchfield, Mr. Sal Osuna



# *Stand Up for Those Who Stand Guard*

## **Become a Volunteer with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation**

Every day, correctional staff across the country face challenges that most can't imagine—both in and out of uniform. And when crisis strikes—whether through injury, illness, natural disaster, or death in the line of duty—the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) steps in to help shoulder the burden. But that vital support doesn't happen by accident. Behind every assistance check, every family comforted, every Project 2000 tribute, and every story told, there is a network of dedicated volunteers who make it all possible.

## **Volunteers are the beating heart of CPOF.**

From the early days of the Foundation—when outreach was done by hand, visits were coordinated with paper maps, and shift changes were attended in person—volunteers have helped carry the mission forward. Today, with over 80,000 members nationwide, CPOF's reach is larger than ever. But so is the need.

## **That's why we're calling on YOU to get involved.**

What It Means to Volunteer with CPOF. Volunteering with CPOF isn't just about giving your time—it's about standing in solidarity with the correctional family. It's being there when a colleague loses their home in a hurricane, when a family mourns a fallen officer, or when a young spouse is left to raise children alone. It's about turning compassion into action.

## **Our volunteers serve in many ways:**

*Institutional Outreach: Helping connect staff with CPOF services, especially during crises.*

*PROJECT 2000 Support: Assisting with our annual memorial honoring those lost in the line of duty.*

*Family Assistance: Comforting families, helping with logistics, and delivering emergency aid.*

*Membership Growth: Encouraging new membership.*

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## *Volunteering with CPOF*

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*Volunteers Marlon and Debbie Moore with Field Representative Annie Norman at conference representing CPOF.*



*Nebraska Volunteer Jill Edelman with the Honor Guard Team Wellness Fair at the Nebraska State Penitentiary*

## **Spreading the Word: Sharing the mission of CPOF and encouraging others to join or donate.**

Whether you have five hours a month or five hours a year, every contribution of time helps us “Take Care of Our Own.”

### **Why It Matters**

Ask any long-time volunteer and they’ll tell you—it’s more than a role. It’s a purpose.

When Sergeant Debby Graham’s home was damaged by Hurricane Helene, it was a CPOF volunteer who helped coordinate assistance. When families like the Donaldsons—who lost Officer William Donaldson in the line of duty—found themselves devastated, it was CPOF volunteers who sat with them, cried with them, and walked beside them in the days and years that followed.

CPOF volunteers help restore hope in the middle of heartbreak. They help transform tragedy into community.



*Washington Volunteer Bridgett Bolinger with volunteers Connie and Koree Edmonds at PROJECT 2000 getting attendees from the airport to the hotel*

## **Who Can Volunteer?**

Anyone with a heart for service.

You don’t have to be a current officer. Spouses, retired staff, adult children, and community members are all welcome. Many of our volunteers are current officers looking for a way to give back outside their shift. Others are family members of those helped by CPOF who now want to pay it forward.

All you need is a willingness to serve—and the desire to be part of something bigger.

## **Ready to Join Us?**

Volunteering with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation is more than a good deed. It’s a way to honor, to heal, and to help. It’s a way to say, “You matter. Your service matters. And we will stand with you.”

If you’re ready to make a difference, visit [www.cpof.org](http://www.cpof.org) or call 800-800-CPOF. We’ll help you find the best way to get involved—on your schedule, in your region, and at your comfort level.

Together, we are the Foundation.  
Together, we are Taking Care of Our Own.



# PROJECT 2000

## Honoring Our Fallen, Supporting Their Families

Each year, correctional professionals from across the nation gather with heavy hearts and open arms for an event unlike any other—PROJECT 2000, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation's (CPOF) annual memorial and family support gathering. What began as a heartfelt promise among five correctional officers in the 1980's has evolved into a powerful tradition of remembrance, unity, and healing.

The idea behind PROJECT 2000 was simple but profound: no correctional officer who dies in the line of duty should ever be forgotten, and their families should never have to walk the path of grief alone. It is this commitment that birthed PROJECT 2000, and it is that same spirit of service that has sustained it for more than three decades.

At the heart of PROJECT 2000 is the Roll Call of Honor, a solemn tribute to those we've lost in the previous year. Families of the fallen are honored with a personalized plaque, and their loved one's name is read aloud as part of a moving ceremony. This moment—shared in silence, tears, and applause—is where grief meets grace.

But PROJECT 2000 is more than a memorial. It's a lifeline. Throughout the event, surviving family members find comfort in grief support ses-



sions, children's activities, and private networking with other survivors who understand their journey. It is where families become part of a larger family—the CPOF family—and lifelong bonds are forged.

The gathering also serves as a rare and sacred time for correctional officers themselves. Officers from around the country attend on their own time and dime, many wearing Class A uniforms, some in teams, all in solidarity. They come to

honor their fallen brothers and sisters and to reaffirm their commitment to "Taking Care of Our Own."

PROJECT 2000 has become the soul of CPOF's mission. It's where the Foundation's assistance becomes personal, where names become faces, and where stories of bravery and sacrifice are preserved with dignity.

As we move forward each year, the message remains clear: while the dangers of our



# ***PROJECT 2000 Series***

## **r Families**



profession may be real, so is the love, support, and honor that surrounds every correctional officer, every family, and every loss. Through PROJECT 2000, we remember. We stand together. And above all, we never forget.

PROJECT 2000 is livestreamed every year on our website at CPOF.org. This year's memorial ceremony, held in Bloomington, Minnesota takes place June 5 - June 8, 2025.

2000 I	June 21-24, 1990	Washington D.C.
2000 II	June 20-23, 1991	Washington D.C.
2000 III	June 18-21, 1992	Washington D.C.
2000 IV	June 17-20, 1993	Washington D.C.
2000 V	June 09-12, 1994	Washington D.C.
2000 VI	June 15-18, 1995	Washington D.C.
2000 VII	June 20-23, 1996	Sacramento, CA
2000 VIII	June 12-15, 1997	Washington D.C.
2000 IX	June 11-14, 1998	San Antonio, TX
2000 X	June 10-13, 1999	Washington D.C.
2000 XI	June 08-11, 2000	Colorado Springs, CO
2000 XII	June 07-10, 2001	Reno, NV
2000 XIII	June 13-16, 2002	Tampa, FL
2000 XIV	June 19-22, 2003	Charleston, SC
2000 XV	June 17-20, 2004	Washington D.C.
2000 XVI	June 23-26, 2005	Portland, OR
2000 XVII	June 22-25, 2006	St. Louis, MO
2000 XVIII	June 21-24, 2007	Philadelphia, PA
2000 XIX	June 12-15, 2008	San Francisco, CA
2000 XX	June 18-21, 2009	Colorado Springs, CO
2000 XXI	June 24-27, 2010	Buffalo, NY
2000 XXII	June 09-12, 2011	San Antonio, TX
2000 XXIII	June 07-10, 2012	Washington D.C.
2000 XXIV	June 13-16, 2013	Reno, NV
2000 XXV	June 05-08, 2014	Seattle, WA
2000 XXVI	June 18-21, 2015	Jacksonville, FL
2000 XXVII	June 09-12, 2016	Pittsburgh, PA
2000 XXVIII	June 15-18, 2017	San Francisco, CA
2000 XXIX	June 14-17, 2018	Houston, TX
2000 XXX	June 06-09, 2019	Louisville, KY
2000 XXXI	Sept 03-06, 2020	Bloomington, MN
2000 XXXII	June 24-27, 2021	Columbus, OH
2000 XXXIII	June 16-19, 2022	Reno, NV
2000 XXXIV	June 15-18, 2023	St. Louis, MO
2000 XXXV	June 13-16, 2024	Seattle, WA
2000 XXXVI	June 05-08, 2025	Bloomington, MN
2000 XXXVII	June 11-14, 2026	Salt Lake City, UT
2000 XXXVIII	June 10-13, 2027	Omaha, NE
2000 XXXIV	June 08-11, 2028	Providence, RI



# CPOF Thanks Our

## **ARIZONA**

Arizona Corrections Association

## **ARKANSAS**

Benton Unit  
Cummins Unit  
Grimes Unit  
Maximum Security Unit  
Tucker Unit  
Arizona  
Arizona State Prison Complex  
AFGE – Council of Prison Locals – 33

## **CALIFORNIA**

California Medical Facility  
California Rehabilitation Center  
California State Prison, Corcoran  
California Substance Abuse  
Treatment Facility & S.P.  
Calipatria State Prison  
Central California Womens' Facility  
Heman G. Stark School (YTS)  
High Desert State Prison  
Mule Creek State Prison  
Pelican Bay State Prison Honor  
Guard  
San Quentin State Prison  
Valley State Prison for Women  
Wasco State Prison  
Retired Chapter of CCPOA  
AFGE – Local 3969. FCC Victorville

## **COLORADO**

Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility  
Colorado Corrections Training  
Academy  
Denver Complex  
Colorado Department of  
Corrections  
Limon Correctional Facility  
Sterling Correctional Facility

## **CONNECTICUT**

Connecticut Honor Guard  
North District Office  
Osborn Correctional Institution  
CT DOC Commissioner Golf Cup

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Fraternal Order of Police Labor  
Committee, DOC, Washington, D.C.

## **FLORIDA**

Baker Correctional Institution  
Central Florida Reception Center  
Columbia Correctional Institution  
Hamilton Correctional Institution  
Orange County Corrections  
Sumter Correctional Institution  
AFGE – Local 506, FCC Coleman  
AFGE – Local 4036, FCI Marianna  
Florida Council on Crime and

Delinquency (FCCD)

## **GEORGIA**

Floyd County Corrections  
Georgia Honor Guard Team  
Georgia DOC Headquarters  
Georgia Prison Wardens  
Association

## **IDAHO**

Idaho Maximum Security Institution

## **ILLINOIS**

AFGE – Local 701, FCI Pekin  
AFGE – Local 1304, FCI Greenville

## **INDIANA**

AFGE Local 720, FCC Terre Haute

## **KENTUCKY**

Northpoint Training Center  
AFGE Local 817 FMC Lexington, KY

## **LOUISIANA**

AFGE – Local 1007 & 3957  
FCC Oakdale  
AFGE Local 1034 FCC Pollock, LA

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

Massachusetts Correctional  
Officers Federated Union

## **MINNESOTA**

Minnesota Corrections Association

## **MISSOURI**

Chillicothe Correctional Center  
Crossroads Correctional Center  
Fulton Reception and Diagnostic  
Center  
Crossroads Correctional Center  
Western Reception, Diagnostic  
& Correctional Center  
Southeast Correctional Center  
Northeast Correctional Center

## **MISSISSIPPI**

Mississippi State Penitentiary  
South Mississippi Correctional  
Institution

## **MONTANA**

Montana State Prison  
Montana Women's Prison

## **NEBRASKA**

Nebraska Correctional Youth  
Facility  
Community Correctional Center  
of Omaha  
Work Ethic Camp  
IMO Warden Morello  
Lincoln Corr Institution  
IMO Warden Fred Britten  
Nebraska Correctional

Center for Women  
Nebraska State Penitentiary  
Omaha Correctional Center  
Community Corr Ctr Lincoln  
IMO Cpl Austin Howard  
Tecumseh State Correctional  
Institution  
NDCS Nebraska  
Staff Training Academy

## **NEVADA**

Nevada Corrections Association

## **NEW JERSEY**

New Jersey State Policemen's  
Benevolent Association Local 105  
AFGE Local 2001 Fort Dix, NJ  
AFGE – Local 2001, Fort Dix

## **NEW YORK**

Attica Correctional Facility  
Livingston Correctional Facility  
NYSCOPBA – Green Haven  
Correctional Facility  
Gowanda Correctional Facility  
Wyoming Correctional Facility  
Honor Guard  
Suffolk County Correction Officers  
Association, NY  
New York State Correctional Offi-  
cers & Police Benevolent  
Association (NYSCOPBA)

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

Division of Community Supervision  
District 24  
DCS IMO William Alden Elliott  
DCS IMO Linda Kropp  
DCS IMO Samuel Poloche  
DCS In Memory of William Jenkins  
NCDAC Honor Guard IMO Helen  
Mae Smith  
Davidson Correctional Institution  
Forsyth Correctional Center  
Gaston Correctional Institution  
Lincoln Correctional Institution  
Alexander Correctional Institution  
Anson Correctional Institution  
Caldwell Correctional Center  
Catawba Correctional Center  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 17  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 19A  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 19B  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 20  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 22  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 23

NCDAC – Community Supervision  
Division III  
Craggy Correctional Center  
NCDAC DAC – Community Super-  
vision  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 21  
NCDAC – Honor Guard  
NCDAC – Honor Guard, IMO Meg-  
gan Callahan, Justin Smith, Wendy  
Shannon, Veronica Darden &  
Geoffrey Howe

NCDAC – Honor Guard, IMO Keith  
Smith – Harnett Correctional In-  
stitution  
NCDAC - Honor Guard IMO NC Of-  
ficers Lost to Covid-19  
NCDAC – IMO PPO Jim Matty Surry  
County  
NCDAC – IMO PPO Jeffery Settle  
Iredell County  
NCDAC – Western Region Office  
Foothills Correctional Institution  
Mountain View Correctional Insti-  
tution  
Rutherford Correctional Center  
Western Correctional Center for  
Women  
Wilkes Correctional Center  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 18  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 25  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 26  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 28  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
Division IV  
Piedmont Correctional Institution  
Avery Mitchell Correctional  
Institution  
NCDAC – Honor Guard – IMO CO  
William Wright  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 25 – IMO Martin Lane  
NCDAC – DCC –IMO PPO Rick Bren-  
ner Cabarrus County DCC  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 29  
Marion Correctional Institution  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 30  
NCDAC – Community Supervision  
District 27  
Tabor Correctional Institution

## **OHIO**

Chillicothe Correctional Institution  
AFGE – Local 607, FCI Elkton, OH

## **OKLAHOMA**

AFGE Local 171 El Reno, OK & FTC

# *r Lifetime Sponsors*

Oklahoma City, OK

## **OREGON**

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility  
Columbia River Correctional Institution  
Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution  
Mill Creek Correctional Facility  
Oregon DOC Transport Unit  
Oregon State Correctional Institution  
Oregon State Penitentiary  
Powder River Correctional Institution  
Santiam Correctional Institution  
Shutter Creek Correctional Institution  
Snake River Correctional Institution  
South Fork Forest Camp  
Warner Creek Correctional Facility  
Deer Ridge Correctional Institution  
Oregon AFSCME Corrections Local 974 Two Rivers Correctional Institution  
AFGE – Local 3979, FCI Sheridan  
End of Watch Memorial Foundation  
Association of Oregon Corrections Employees  
Dome Building, Regional Office, Oregon Department of Corrections, OR

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

Norristown State Hospital  
Torrance State Hospital  
SCI Smithfield  
Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility – Philadelphia Prison System  
Detention Center – Philadelphia Prison System  
House of Correction, Philadelphia Prison System  
Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center  
Philadelphia Prison System  
Riverside Correctional Facility, Philadelphia Prison System  
Quehanna Boot Camp  
SCI Albion  
SCI Benner Township  
SCI Cambridge Springs  
SCI Camp Hill  
SCI Chester  
SCI Coal Township  
SCI Dallas  
SCI Fayette  
SCI Forest  
SCI Frackville  
SCI Greene

SCI Houtzdale  
SCI Huntingdon  
SCI Laurel Highlands  
SCI Mahanoy  
SCI Mercer  
SCI Muncy  
SCI Phoenix  
SCI Pine Grove  
SCI Rockview  
SCI Somerset  
SCI Waymart  
Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association (PSCOA)  
AFGE – Local 148, USP Lewisburg  
AFGE – Local 307, USP Allenwood  
AFGE – Local 3020, FCI Schuylkill

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Kirkland Correctional Institution  
Perry Correctional Institute

## **TENNESSEE**

Shelby County Sheriff's Office  
Turney Center Industrial Complex  
IMO Marshall Sanders

## **TEXAS**

Allred Unit  
Beto Unit  
Boyd Unit  
Briscoe Unit  
Byrd Unit  
Carole Young Medical Facility  
Central Region Transportation  
Choice Moore Transfer Facility  
Clemens Unit  
Clements Unit  
Coffield Unit  
Cole State Jail  
Connally Unit  
Crain Unit  
Dalhart Unit  
Daniel Unit  
Dominguez State Jail  
Duncan Unit  
Ellis I Unit  
Estelle Unit  
Ferguson Unit  
Formby State Jail  
Ft. Stockton Unit  
Garza East Transfer Facility  
Garza West Transfer Facility  
Gist State Jail  
Glossbrenner SAFPF  
Goodman Transfer Facility  
Goree Unit  
Gurney Transfer Facility  
Halbert Unit  
Hamilton Unit  
Havins Unit  
Hightower Unit  
Hilltop Unit  
Hobby Unit  
Hodge Unit  
Holliday Transfer Facility  
Hughes Unit  
Huntsville IPO  
Huntsville Pardon & Parole Office  
Huntsville Unit  
Hutchins State Jail  
Jester I SAFPF  
Jester III Unit  
Johnston SAFPF  
Laundry & Food Service Division  
Lewis Unit  
Lopez State Jail  
Luther Unit  
Lychner State Jail  
Lynaugh Unit  
Marlin Transfer Facility  
McConnell Unit  
Memorial Unit  
Michael Unit  
Middleton Transfer Facility  
Montford Psychiatric Unit  
Murray Unit  
Neal Unit  
O'Daniel Unit  
Pack Unit  
Plane State Jail  
Polunsky Unit  
Powledge Unit  
Ramsey Unit  
Region I Director's Office  
Region II Director's Office  
Region VI Honor Guard  
Roach Unit  
Robertson Unit  
Rudd Transfer Facility  
Sanchez State Jail  
Sayle SAFPF  
Segovia Unit  
Skyview Unit  
Smith Unit  
Stevenson Unit  
Stiles Unit  
Stringfellow Unit  
TDCJ Correctional  
Training Staff Development  
TDCJ Department of Classification and Records Staff Development  
TDCJ Western Region  
Transportation  
Telford Unit  
Terrell Unit  
Torres Unit  
Travis County State Jail  
Vance Unit  
Wainwright

Wallace Unit  
Ware Unit  
Wayne Scott Unit  
Wheeler SAFPF  
Woodman State Jail  
Wynne Unit

## **RHODE ISLAND**

Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers (RIBCO)

## **VIRGINIA**

AFGE – Local 1405, UPS Lee  
Zoom-A-Lube of Chester

## **NATIONAL**

NONE Southern Folger Detention Equipment Company  
Sierra Steel Company  
Trussbilt, Inc.  
Union Supply Company & Food Express  
USA United States Deputy Wardens Association  
The Nakamoto Group, Inc.  
National Major Gang Task Force  
American Correctional Association  
ACoin ARAMARK Buford Satellite Systems  
CenturyLink  
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Metrasens  
Norix Group, Inc.  
Norment Security Group

## **LIFETIME INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS**

Carolyn and Makayla Kelley – IMO  
Correctional Officer Rodney Kelley  
David & Ruthie Reeves – In honor of  
SSG Jason A. Reeves  
Donna Davis – IMO CO  
Christopher Davis  
John and Carey Mendiboure  
Kelsey Allee, Karley Burbridge and  
Kaleb Burbridge – IMO Deputy Mark  
Burbridge  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Mary  
Pritchard  
Mr. Dan M. Reynolds and Family  
Mr. Eric Spierer  
Mrs. Lucile G. Plane  
Ms. Brenda Ewing  
Ms. Jessica Duran – IMO Sergeant  
Iris Smith  
Ms. Pamela Omelson  
Ray and Lisa Stender  
Raymond and Esther Gonsalves  
The Eric Autobee Family and Ms.  
Yolanda Floyd  
The Garcia Family – IMO Correctional  
Officer Eligio Garcia, Jr.



# Parallel Paths: The Histories of Crime Victims United and the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation

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The 1980s were a time of reckoning and reform in the world of criminal justice. Across the country, correctional staff and victims of violent crime were often left without support, recognition, or a voice. Out of that void, two powerful and enduring organizations emerged in California: Crime Victims United (CVU) and the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF). Each was born out of heartbreak, each built on advocacy and action—and both have had a lasting impact nationwide.

## The Birth of CPOF

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation began as the vision of five young California correctional officers—Don Novey, Glenn Mueller, Larry Corby, Sal Osuna, and Dick Waldo—who knew that when tragedy struck a fellow officer, “passing the hat” simply wasn’t enough.

Founded in the early 1980s, the CPOF became a non-profit dedicated to supporting the families of correctional officers who lost their lives in the line of duty and later expanded to offer catastrophic assistance to correctional staff facing devastating personal crises. From its earliest days at Folsom State Prison, CPOF has grown into a national organization that has distributed over \$30 million in assistance, while upholding its guiding principle: “Taking Care Of Our Own.”

## The Rise of Crime Victims United

Crime Victims United was founded in 1990 by Harriet Salarno, whose daughter, Catina, was murdered by a classmate in 1979. Out of this unimaginable loss, Harriet found purpose—and a mission to give victims and their families a voice in the criminal justice system. CVU quickly became a powerful force in advocating for victims’ rights, sentencing reform, and parole board accountability.

CVU worked tirelessly to pass state and national legislation that prioritized public safety and justice for victims, and played a major role in the passage of Marsy’s Law in California, which expanded the legal rights of crime victims.

## Common Ground and Collaboration

Though their missions are distinct, CVU and CPOF have long shared common ground: a belief in public service, justice, and the dignity of those affected by crime—on both sides of the system.

In the decades since their founding, both organizations have supported each other’s efforts through joint appearances at legislative hearings, shared platforms at correctional conferences, and cross-promotion of one another’s missions. CPOF has frequently honored CVU leadership at its PROJECT 2000 memorial event, while CVU has stood behind efforts to improve working conditions for correctional staff.

Together, they form two essential pillars of the public safety landscape—one ensuring justice and compassion for victims, the other caring for those who serve behind the walls.

## Legacy and the Road Ahead

Today, CVU continues its advocacy with Harriet Salarno still at the helm, joined by her daughter Nina Salarno Besselman, an accomplished prosecutor and advocate in her own right. CPOF, meanwhile, is entering a new chapter of growth and restructuring to ensure its continued ability to assist correctional families for generations to come.

In a world often divided by politics and policy, CVU and CPOF remain examples of what can happen when personal loss is transformed into purpose—and purpose into powerful change.



*Left to Right: Harriet Salarno and Char Corby*



## W. J. "Jim" Estelle, Jr.

March 31, 1931 – February 13, 2025

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation mourns the passing of W. J. "Jim" Estelle, Jr., a lifelong friend to Corrections and a passionate advocate for preserving its history. A man whose influence stretched across California, Montana, and Texas, Jim left a legacy unmatched in the field of criminal justice.

Jim Estelle's career began humbly in 1952 at Folsom State Prison. From there, he rose through the ranks, holding key leadership positions including Warden of Montana State Prison and later, Director of the Texas Department of Corrections—a role he held for twelve transformative years. Under his leadership, the Texas system evolved, and his vision for corrections as a professional, dignified field set a lasting precedent.

Born in Henry County, Indiana, and raised in California, Jim grew up surrounded by corrections through his father's work with the California Department of Corrections. His upbringing on prison grounds, including San Quentin and Folsom, laid the foundation for a lifelong career. Jim graduated from San Juan High School in 1949, where he served as student body president and excelled in athletics and agriculture. He later earned his degree from Sacramento State College.

His professional accomplishments were many. Texas honored him by naming a facility in Huntsville the W.J. Estelle Unit. He received the Cass Correctional Achievement Award from the ACA, was inducted into the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame, and was named an Honorary Sheriff by the Texas Sheriffs Association.

In addition to his public service, Jim was deeply involved in community and volunteer efforts after retirement. He served with dedication on the El Dorado County Grand Jury, the General Service Office (where he completed a four-year term as Chairman), and numerous charitable initiatives.

Jim was not only a correctional leader but a man of great character, humility, and strength. He was a faithful friend to CPOF and actively supported the vision of a National Correctional Museum, believing that the legacy of correctional officers deserved to be preserved and respected. He believed in history, in dignity, and in service.

Jim passed peacefully at the age of 93 on February 13, 2025. He is survived by his beloved wife of 74 years, Marilyn, their children Ward James III, Lorraine Susan, and Linda Diane, along with many nieces and nephews. He leaves behind a family proud of his legacy, and a community forever shaped by his contributions.

On behalf of CPOF and the correctional community, we extend our deepest condolences to the Estelle family. Jim's commitment to service, his love for the profession, and his enduring impact on corrections will never be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Director Estelle. You truly helped shape the heart of our profession.





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# *Still Taking Care of Our Own: Retirement Membership with CPOF*

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Retirement doesn't mean stepping away from the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation—it means staying connected to the mission that's always been about taking care of our own. For thousands of correctional professionals who have served with honor, CPOF Retirement Membership offers a continued way to stay involved, supported, and part of the family.

## **Why Stay a Member After Retirement?**

For many, the work in Corrections is more than just a job—it's a calling. And just because your time on the line has come to an end, your place in the CPOF family does not.



## **CPOF Retirement Membership allows you to:**

- \* Maintain your scholarship eligibility (for those who remain in good standing)
- \* Receive the CPO Family magazine to stay informed on national corrections news, support stories, and upcoming events
- \* Continue supporting current officers and families in crisis
- \* Preserve the legacy of your career and contribute to the ongoing work of the Foundation

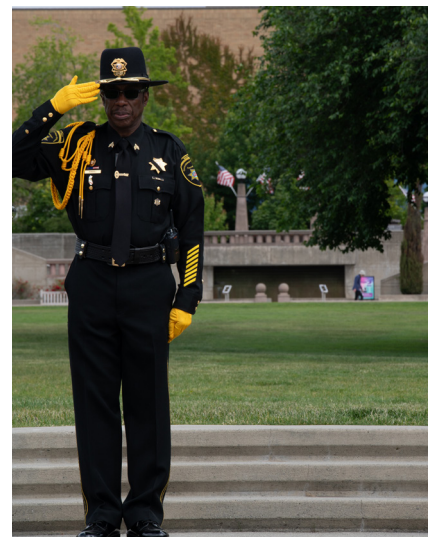
## **How to Enroll as a Retiree**

Transitioning to a retirement membership is simple. If you're currently a supporting member of CPOF and are approaching retirement, just contact the Foundation before or shortly after you retire.

You don't lose your CPOF family when you hang up the uniform—you just become one of the legends we look up to.

## **Lifelong Support and Lifelong Purpose**

Retirement brings change, but it also brings opportu-



nity. CPOF retirees often return as volunteers, ambassadors, and storytellers—sharing their experiences and helping younger officers understand the importance of mutual support and resilience.

Whether you're volunteering at events, helping onboard new recruits to the mission of CPOF, or simply wearing your Lifetime pin with pride, retirees play a critical role in shaping the future of the Foundation.

## **Join Us—For Life**

If you're nearing retirement or already enjoying it, don't let your connection to the CPOF mission fade. You helped build this family—your presence and your experience matter more than ever.







# *CPOF's Eyes and Ears: The Lifeline of Our Mission*

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) has long operated with a simple but powerful promise: to take care of our own. At the heart of fulfilling that promise are our dedicated “Eyes and Ears” — correctional professionals and volunteers across the country who serve as the Foundation’s frontline communicators, advocates, and responders. These individuals play a vital role in ensuring that no staff member or family falls through the cracks during times of crisis.

## **Who Are the Eyes and Ears?**

CPOF’s Eyes and Ears are typically active correctional staff members, supervisors, or administrators who have a strong commitment to their fellow officers and civilian staff. They are the first to notice when someone in their institution is experiencing a serious personal hardship, suffering an injury, facing a medical emergency, or mourning the loss of a loved one. In these moments, they don’t hesitate—they notify CPOF.

They are not just messengers; they are compassionate problem-solvers who help collect critical information, coordinate with wardens and administrators, and support families during some of the darkest days of their lives. Their job isn’t easy, and it’s often emotionally demanding—but it is absolutely essential.

## **How They Make a Difference**

When a catastrophic event occurs, whether it’s a house fire, a hurricane, a medical crisis, or a line of duty death, the Eyes and Ears are often the first point of contact for CPOF. Their referrals kick-start the process of providing financial assistance, emotional support, and ongoing follow-up.

For example, when Hurricane Helene devastated parts of the Southeast, it was local Eyes and Ears who identified impacted staff, documented damage, and connected families to CPOF’s Catastrophic Assistance Program. Thanks to their fast action, dozens of families received much-needed help when they needed it most.

In many cases, the connection doesn’t stop with one phone call. These dedicated representatives follow up with families, attend assistance presentations, and continue to serve as liaisons between CPOF and their institutions.

## **Why It Matters**

Without our Eyes and Ears, CPOF would be blind to many of the challenges correctional staff face. Because of them, the Foundation can act quickly and compassionately. They ensure that no story goes unheard, and no officer or family is forgotten.

## **Join the Network**

Are you someone who wants to make a difference in your facility? Do you want to be a voice for those in need? Becoming an Eye and Ear for CPOF is a meaningful way to serve your correctional family beyond the daily duties of your job.

If you’re interested in joining the network, contact us at [mail@cpof.org](mailto:mail@cpof.org) or call (800) 800-CPOF. Together, we can continue to take care of our own—one act of compassion at a time.

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