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**Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.  
COPS**

# Press Release

## **MI-COPS Named Chapter of the Year by National Concerns of Police Survivors**

**Camdenton, MO, May 30, 2006** - Concerns of Police Survivors is a national organization that provides for programs and services for the survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. While National COPS provides and administers programs that meet the emotional needs of survivors, it is the 50 state/regional chapters that promote the mission of COPS at the grass-roots level and immediately offer assistance to newly-bereaved families. The National Board of Concerns of Police Survivors, recognizing the value of the chapters to the national organization, last year instituted a Chapter of the Year award to be bestowed annually at COPS' National Police Survivors' Conference each May.

Chapters that have demonstrated a cooperative approach in working with National COPS, provided services to its membership locally, and focused on meeting the mission of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. may submit a self-nomination. The National Board reviews the applications and votes for the Chapter of the Year. On May 13, the opening day of the 2006 National Police Survivors' Conference, COPS National President Shirley Gibson announced that MI-COPS, the Michigan Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors, is the 2006 Chapter of the Year.

"MI-COPS reaches out to each survivor at least seven times a year," stated President Gibson. "MI-COPS promotes participation in National COPS' hands-on programs and reimburses travel costs for survivors. The chapter remembers survivors on all holidays, birthdays, and the anniversary of the officer's death. MI-COPS also maintains excellent relationships with the law enforcement agencies in Michigan, providing newsletters, training, and speakers for numerous presentations. MI-COPS is the oldest continually operating COPS chapter, reaching out to Michigan survivors for over 17 years. The chapter covers a large area and a large number of survivors and it does it extremely well. Every

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survivor and law enforcement agency in the state of Michigan knows about COPS thanks to the diligence of the devoted volunteers and leadership in MI-COPS.”

President Gibson praised the Chapter’s support of National COPS, noting that as donations to the chapter have increased, so has the chapter’s support of National COPS. In 2005, MI-COPS donated \$30,000 to National COPS!

Chapter officers were recognized for their continuing dedication to Michigan’s law enforcement survivors and were presented with nametags identifying them as officers of COPS’ 2006 Chapter of the year. Those officers are President Donna Wudyka, Vice President Shelly Meares, Past President Diane Philpot, Secretary Beth Wouters, Treasurer Hank Wouters, Chapter Director Lin Emmert, Trustee Kathy Cole, Trustee Larry Klaus, and Trustee Mark Moine. A permanent plaque recognizing each annual Chapter of the Year is displayed in the COPS National Office in Camdenton, Missouri.

The efforts of the five other chapters who applied for this award were recognized for the great work they do for America’s law enforcement survivors. Those Chapters are: Indiana COPS, Northeast Florida COPS, Southern California COPS, DC COPS, and West Tennessee COPS.

For more information about Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., or to help support COPS’ programs, contact COPS at (573) 346-4911, or e-mail [cops@nationalcops.org](mailto:cops@nationalcops.org). Visit the COPS website at [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org).

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