

**Contact: Terrie Merritt for an electronic version and/or photos**

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (COPS)  
P.O. Box 3199 \*\* South Highway 5  
Camdenton, MO 65020  
Phone (573) 346-4911 \*\* Fax (573) 346-1414  
Electronic mail: cops@nationalcops.org

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

# **Press Release**

## **COPS' 2006 Distinguished Service Award Presented to the Southeast Police Motorcycle Rodeo Committee**

**Camdenton, MO, May 30, 2006** - The highest honor bestowed by Concerns of Police Survivors was awarded to the Southeast Police Motorcycle Rodeo Committee (SEPMRC) of South Florida. This is the first organization to receive this highest honor bestowed by COPS; the previous nine recipients have all been individuals. COPS' Distinguished Service Award recognizes an active or retired law enforcement officer/official for services above and beyond the call of duty when addressing police survivor issues. The award is presented at COPS' National Police Survivors' Conference each May. Nominations are submitted and the annual recipient is decided by the National Board of Concerns of Police Survivors. COPS Executive Director Suzie Sawyer nominated SEPMRC and read her nomination letter before a gathering of nearly 1,000 law enforcement survivors and police dignitaries.

Every April since 1990, hundreds of motorcycle officers tool to South Florida for the prestigious South East Police Motorcycle Rodeo, coordinated by local motorcycle officers. The planners of this event, the SEPMRC, develop scores of ways to raise money to benefit their own, the surviving families of America's fallen law enforcement officers.

Proceeds from the annual rodeo, totaling \$264,000 in 16 years, has benefited National Concerns of Police Survivors' "C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens" programs. The SEPMRC has also given \$24,000 to the South Florida Chapter of COPS. Their goal has always been to help surviving children, and they live up to that lofty goal. Their support has helped to fund National Police Week activities for surviving children, "C.O.P.S. Kids" Summer Camp for children ages 6-14 and their surviving parent/guardian, COPS' wilderness adventures for surviving teens, and funds to pay for professional counseling for children who need help to cope with the death of their parent in the line of duty.

Each group that participates in the Rodeo is encouraged to contribute to "C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens", and the SEPMRC has influenced the Mid-Atlantic Motorcycle Rodeo, the Wings of Gold of South Florida, Harley Davidson, Super Seer, Police Benevolent Associations, Fraternal Order of Police Lodges, and many other individuals and organizations to step to the plate to support COPS.

• **For Immediate Release**

“This is the first nomination of an organization for COPS’ Distinguished Service Award and there is no other organization more deserving,” stated Sawyer. “SEPMRC are law enforcement officers ensuring that we do take care of our own – cops taking care of their fallen comrades’ surviving families. Long-standing, strong support is the key to the success of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. When law enforcement officers give unselfishly of their time and effort to benefit our organization, it is only right to recognize them for their distinguished service and support of COPS.”

COPS National President Shirley Gibson presented to several SEPMRC members at the May 13 luncheon of the National Police Survivors’ Conference.

Concerns of Police Survivors is a nationwide non-profit organization that provides resources to help law enforcement’s surviving families rebuild their shattered lives. For more information about COPS 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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