

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

Sgt. Pete Geary of Broward (FL) Sheriff's Office Receives Concerns of Police Survivors' 2006 Todd Ricks Memorial Award for Volunteerism

Camdenton, MO, May 30, 2006 – COPS' 2006 Todd Ricks Memorial Award for Volunteerism was presented to Sergeant Pete Geary on May 14 during the 2006 National Police Survivors' Conference. The award was presented by Dory Ricks, widow of the award's namesake, and COPS National President Shirley Gibson. Officer Todd Ricks, who died of cancer in 2001, was a dedicated volunteer during National Police Week activities and spent countless hours leading motorcycle escorts and assisting law enforcement survivors. The COPS National Board named the award for Officer Ricks because he set a high standard of professionalism with his volunteer efforts.

Pete was nominated for the award by Suzie Sawyer, COPS' Executive Director, who read her nomination to the nearly 1,000 survivors and law enforcement dignitaries in attendance.

"In 1990, Sergeant Pete Geary became part of a group of motorcycle officers who called themselves the South East Police Motorcycle Rodeo Committee," stated Sawyer. "The purpose of SEPMRC is to raise money and awareness for Concerns of Police Survivors, specifically for the "C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens" programs. Pete has served on their Executive Committee for many years. He is always the leading ticket seller, fund raiser, arm twister, and support person at any police function.

Pete's wife died of cancer in 1990. Pete is comfortable talking about grief issues that other people choose to avoid. Pete is not afraid of emotion.

He is responsible for traffic flow and escorts in Broward County when an officer is killed in the line of duty and arranges transportation for everyone when the COPS Board Meetings are in south Florida.

Pete has brought several organizations and corporations into COPS' pool of donors and he personally raises funds to pay for the "C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens" buses during National Police Week. He

• **For Immediate Release**

has been mentoring COPS' surviving teens for several years. The teens return year after year seeking out Pete Geary.

Having had a long term, professional relationship with Todd Ricks, Pete said he would always be there for Dory and the children. And he has. Pete Geary is most deserving of the Todd Ricks Memorial Award for Volunteerism.”

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. Visit the COPS website at www.nationalcops.org.

###