

Contact: Terrie Merritt

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
Visit our Web Site: www.nationalcops.org

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

Press Release

COPS Awards \$18,350 in Summer Semester Scholarships

Almost \$700,000 in Education Assistance Has Been Given to Law Enforcement Survivors

Camdenton, MO, May 31, 2006 - The COPS Scholarship Committee approved scholarship applications totaling \$18,350 for the Summer Semester. Since the inception of the COPS Scholarship Program in December 1993, \$684,952 has been awarded to assist 206 surviving spouses and children in 44 states and Puerto Rico in their pursuit of education or training beyond the secondary-school level. Recipients of Summer 2006 Scholarships are:

Brandie Croker was awarded this semester's Aronson Family Foundation Scholarship. The Aronson Family Foundation provides annual funding for COPS' Scholarship Program and each semester one recipient is asked to communicate to the Foundation how its financial support is helping that survivor rebuild their life. Brandie is attending classes at Blue Cliff College in Houma, LA, to become a certified medical assistant. Brandie is the daughter of Calcasieu Parish (LA) Sheriff's Deputy Billy McIntosh, EOW 10-01-97.

Michael Sullivan served as Chief Deputy of the Jefferson County (WI) Sheriff's Department until his retirement last summer. Tragically, a few weeks after he retired, Michael was killed in a boating accident. His spouse, Judy, contributed the Michael Sullivan Memorial fund, \$12,000, to COPS' scholarship program. Each semester, until the fund is exhausted, one scholarship recipient will receive the Michael Sullivan Memorial Scholarship.

Andrew White was awarded this semester's Michael Sullivan Memorial Scholarship. Andrew is attending the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, IN, where he is pursuing a degree in engineering. Andrew is the son of Stockton (CA) Police Officer Timothy White, EOW 02-04-90.

Scholarships were also awarded to:

• **For Immediate Release**

Megan Bolhouse, daughter of Ft. Meyers (FL) Police Officer Mark Bolhouse, EOW 01-19-88, is pursuing a degree in elementary education at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Lynette Broussard is enrolled in a bookkeeping certification course through the Louisiana State University Extension in Eunice, LA. Lieutenant Richard Newman, Lynette's dad, was serving with the Crowley (LA) Police Department when he was killed 02-19-93.

The daughter of Paul Durkin, Brenna Durkin, is working toward a degree in sociology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Officer Durkin was killed 09-21-87 while serving with the Youngstown (OH) Police Department.

Camille Holcomb is working toward a degree in integrated studies at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Camille's dad, Samuel F. Holcomb, Jr., was serving with the Tennessee Highway Patrol when he was killed 03-27-88.

Brown College in Mendota Heights, MN, is where Megan O'Brien is pursuing a degree in criminal justice. Megan's father, John O'Brien, was killed 04-16-81 while serving with the St. Paul (MN) Police Department.

Norberto Ortiz-Colon is spending his summer in classes at The Citadel in Charleston, SC. Norberto hopes to become a military doctor. Puerto Rico Police Officer Norberto Ortiz Ocasio, Norberto's dad, was killed 08-11-93.

Natasha Palmer, the daughter of Philadelphia Housing Authority Police Officer Alvin Palmer, is working toward a degree in interior design at the Art Institute of Atlanta. Officer Palmer was killed 04-12-95.

Pursuing a degree in business management from the University of Phoenix is Constance Searles-Myers. Stuart Searles, Constance's dad, was serving with the Sauk County (WI) Sheriff's Office when he was killed 06-10-84.

By the end of the summer, Gina Vinecourt will have received a certificate in therapeutic massage from the Brenneke School of Massage in Seattle. Gina is the daughter of Dennis Allred, killed 04-19-78 while serving with the Kitsap County (WA) Sheriff's Office.

Stephanie Williams is working toward an associate's degree in elementary education at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, MI. Stephanie's dad was Detroit Police Officer Anthony Williams, killed 07-20-86.

The daughter of Special Agent Alan Winn, Lauren Winn, is pursuing a degree in film studies at the University of California at Davis. Special Agent Winn was killed 08-13-91 while serving with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Karen Woodrell's husband, Pawnee County (OK) Sheriff Dwight Woodrell, was killed 10-13-01. Karen is now pursuing a degree in accounting at Oklahoma State University.

Surviving spouses and children of officers whose deaths meet the Federal criteria for "line-of-duty" death and who do not have tuition-free education as a state death benefit can apply for a COPS scholarship. The maximum award per semester is \$1,500 for tuition, fees, and books.

For more information about Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., or to support the COPS Scholarship Program, contact COPS at (573) 346-4911, or e-mail cops@nationalcops.org. Visit the COPS website at www.nationalcops.org.

###