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and/or pictures**

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Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. COPS

Press Release

New Leadership for 2006-2007 for Concerns of Police Survivors

Houston Surviving Mother Jean Hill Elected National President

Camdenton, MO, May 30, 2006 - On May 16, 2006, Jean Hill of Houston, Texas, became the



12th National President of Concerns of Police Survivors. President Hill is the second surviving parent to hold the top position of this national non-profit organization. Prior to assuming the national presidency, Jean served on the COPS National Board for two years as the Mountain Region Trustee and was president of the Greater Houston COPS Chapter.

Jean, and her husband Ed, became survivors when their son, Harris County (TX) Deputy Barry Hill, was shot 7 times and killed in the line of duty on December 4, 2000, while attempting to handcuff a carjacking suspect. The Hill's have attended COPS' annual Parents' Retreat each year since their son was killed and have worked diligently throughout the Mountain Region states of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Texas, introducing COPS to countless survivors, law enforcement organizations, and business leaders.

"After Barry was killed, I didn't care if my life continued or not," President Hill told survivors attending the 2006 National Police Survivors' Conference. "Finding Concerns of Police Survivors made my life bearable. Participating in COPS' wonderful programs gave me healing, love, and life renewed. I look forward to the coming year with joy and optimism in my heart because of COPS, and I am honored and humbled to serve as the National President of such a wonderful organization."

Shirley Gibson of Washington, DC, the first surviving parent to serve as National President, completed two one-year terms and moved into the Immediate Past President position, replacing

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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:

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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

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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.

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Linda Hintergardt-Soubirous of Riverside, CA. Linda is now an Ex Officio member of the Board, along with all other Past Presidents.

Stepping into the Mountain Region Trustee position vacated by President Hill is Jan Blaser-Upchurch of Tucson, Arizona. Arizona DPS Sgt. John Blaser, Jan's husband, was killed by a drunk driver on 8/31/90. Jan volunteered with MADD for many years, working and speaking nationally and internationally on DUI and victim rights issues, and served on MADD's National Board. Jan is married to David Upchurch.

Because of term limitations, the Gulf Region Trustee position was vacated by Teresa Miyares. Charles Shinholser, of Jacksonville, Florida, takes on that role. Charles, and his wife Virginia, became survivors following the line-of-duty death of their son, Ray, in December 1988. Charles has been the Director of the Northeast Florida Chapter since its inception in 1998. Seven family members are in law enforcement and two serve in the military. The Gulf Region encompasses Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean Territories.

Ginni Wolf chose not to seek re-election as the Northern Seaboard Region Trustee. That position was filled by Stacy Cullinane Smith of Germantown, Maryland. Stacy became a survivor on August 26, 1992, when her husband, Patrolman Mickey Cullinane, Sea Isle City, NJ, Police Department, died attempting to save another. A co-founder of Garden State Survivors, NJ COPS, in 2000 Stacy married Floyd Smith, also an officer, and moved to Montgomery County, MD. Stacy is active with MD COPS. The Northern Seaboard Region consists of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The Northeast Region, consisting of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, will continue to be served by Trustee Debra Noyes of Silver Lake, NH. Debra became a survivor when her husband, Sgt. James S. Noyes of the NH State Police, was shot and killed on October 3, 1994, during a SWAT call.

Jennifer Thacker of Louisville, KY, is serving another term as Southern Seaboard Region Trustee. Jennifer became a survivor when her husband, Kentucky ABC Agent Brandon Thacker, was killed on April 16, 1998. Jennifer was one of KY COPS' founding members, and is Past President of that Chapter. The Southern Seaboard Region consists of North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Serving another year as Great Lakes Region Trustee is Harold Weinke of Reedsburg, WI. Harold, a Deputy with the Sauk County (WI) Sheriff's Office, and his wife Carol became survivors on April 5, 1998, when their son, Deputy Richard Weinke, was killed in an accident responding to back-up another officer. Harold is Past President of WI COPS. Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana comprise the Great Lakes Region.

Carol Botts of Lawton, OK, is serving another year as Plains Region Trustee, covering Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Wyoming, and Colorado. Carol's brother, Michael Miller, was killed on August 28, 1995. Carol is also Vice President of OK COPS.

The position of Pacific Region Trustee will again be filled by Nicole Garrett of Sacramento, CA. Nicole is the surviving daughter of Redwood City (CA) Detective Sergeant George Garrett, killed in May 1981. Nicole also serves as a mentor at COPS' Outward Bound® program and assists with "C.O.P.S. Teens" during National Police Week. The Pacific Region consists of California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Idaho, and the Pacific Territories.

Debbie Geary, Cooper City, FL, was re-appointed as National Chapter Coordinator, a position she has held since May 2001. Suzie Sawyer of Camdenton, MO, was re-appointed Executive Director, a position she has held since COPS was organized in 1984.

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