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From: Terrie Merritt [Terrie_Merritt@nationalcops.org]
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Monthly News From COPS Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

December 2006

Winter Storm Closes COPS National Office

Sleet, freezing rain, and about a foot of snow closed the COPS National Office on November 30 and December 1. Missouri is now in the process of “digging out”. We apologize for any inconvenience the closing of the office may have caused.

Promote Project Blue Light



Please join with COPS in promoting Project Blue Light for the holiday season. By placing one blue light in a window of your home, you'll be showing your support for officers killed in the line of duty and those who continue to work America's streets. By placing strings of blue lights outside your home, at the department, and throughout the community, law enforcement officers will understand that they are appreciated! A printable document about [Project Blue Light](#) is available from the COPS website. Share it with your law enforcement, civic, and community leaders. *Let blue lights*

shine for law enforcement during the holidays!

COPS received the following email message regarding Project Blue Light from Lt. Tim Chesser, recently retired from the Florence, KY, Police Department. Thanks, Tim, for allowing us to share this with others. Note Tim's challenge to all law enforcement in the last paragraph of his message.

I wanted to share a story about my last year on the Florence Kentucky Police Department. I placed a blue candle type Christmas light in my office window for the holidays. Since I worked 3rd shift, this light burned all through my shift. In fact, it was the first thing I saw as I pulled into the lot and it reminded me to do everything possible to keep the officers on my shift safe. The light was also the last thing I saw as I was leaving the parking lot on my way home. It was a reminder that we all made it safely through the night. I decided to leave the light on even after the holidays. It burned continuously, both night and day. While clearing out my office when I retired, I decided to leave the light on in the window. It was now time to pass the responsibility on to someone else to make sure everybody stayed safe. I can't take the credit for protecting the officers; they did that themselves by working as a team and watching out for each other. I have never worked with a finer bunch of officers than those on the

late shift. They took care of each other and assisted officers from other departments. There was no difference in departments or uniforms, we were all cops.

I feel very fortunate to have worked in law enforcement for over 25 years and never got injured too badly, never had to take a life, and never lost an officer on my department. That made my career a success.

I challenge officers to spend a couple of dollars and put a blue light in the window to honor those who have given the supreme sacrifice. And leave it on to remind others to be careful and to stay safe.

Lt. Tim Chesser (Ret.)

Florence KY Police Department



COPS Holiday Cards



We hope you will consider supporting COPS by purchasing your holiday cards from COPS. There are 4 different cards, all

with the same wording on the inside panels. The left inside panel tells about COPS' Project Blue Light and the right panel states: "May the Holiday Season bring you Peace, Love, and Special Moments with Family and Friends. Wishing you and yours a Season of Peace and Joy." Print the [order form](#), include credit card information, and fax your order TODAY. COPS will make every effort to insure you have your holiday cards as quickly as possible. *COPS' last day for shipping orders is December 15.*

Register Now to Attend "The Traumas of Law Enforcement"

Available spaces for COPS' highly acclaimed 3-day, 21-hour training, "The Traumas of Law Enforcement", are filling quickly. Although there is no fee to attend, pre-registration is mandatory. Click [here](#) for more information.

These trainings will be presented in the following locations in 2007: California State University in Sacramento, CA, January 8-10; Orange County Sheriff's Training Facility in Orlando, FL, January 22-24; Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Jackson, MS, February 5-7; Wilmington College in Dover, DE, February 26-28; Crowne Plaza Lexington-The Campbell House in Lexington, KY, March 5-7; New Mexico State Police Training Academy in Santa Fe, NM, March 12-14; Ingham County Sheriff's Office Training Center in Lansing, MI, March 19-21.

Funded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, sessions will focus on handling line-of-duty death and injury, traumatization of law enforcement officers, collateral damages of that traumatization, and benefits for injury or death.

COPS Has Awarded \$751,690 in Scholarships to Law Enforcement Survivors

COPS awards scholarships three times annually. The awards for the Winter/Spring 2006-07 semester have just been made. Awards were made to 21 surviving children and 2 surviving spouses in 14 states and Puerto Rico for a semester total of \$29,205. Since the inception of the COPS Scholarship Program in 1994, \$751,690 has been awarded to 173 surviving children and 60 surviving spouses who do not receive tuition-free education as a state death benefit. This fiscal year COPS gave \$84,888 in scholarships. COPS must raise every dollar given to survivors through scholarships. To support COPS in assisting survivors seeking higher education or training, contact the COPS National Office.

Remember COPS in Your Charitable Giving

This is the time of year when people listen to their hearts and reach into

their pockets. If you are considering a charitable donation, your support of COPS will help provide healing, love, and life renewed for the survivors of America's law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty serving their communities. As you gather with family and friends during the holidays, remember those families who have made the supreme sacrifice. COPS is a 501(c)(3) corporation; donations are tax-deductible according to IRS guidelines. Donations may be made on-line or by mail. If a donation is made in memory of a fallen officer, COPS will notify the officer's family of the tribute. Learning that someone else also remembers their officer is a wonderful holiday gift for a surviving family! For information on making a donation to COPS, click [here](#).

National Police Week 2007 Schedule

The schedule of major events for National Police Week activities in Washington, DC, is listed below. **Take no action until you receive your personal invitation in the mail in February.** Survivors should book their hotel rooms through COPS to facilitate transportation to all events. Check the COPS website for more details in early January. **Officers** who will **not** be attending the co-worker sessions at the National Police Survivors' Conference should book hotel rooms through [DC Accommodations](#).

Fri. May 11 - NPC-50 Team Relay Race to benefit COPS

Sat. May 12 - Early Arrival Day

Sun. May 13 - Arrival and Check-In; Annual Candlelight Vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

Mon. May 14 - National Police Survivors' Day; National Police Survivors' Conference and "C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens" (1st Day); Troopers' Tour of the Capital for Surviving Families of 2006

Tues. May 15 - National Peace Officers' Memorial Service; Flags fly at half-staff

Wed. May 16 - National Police Survivors' Conference and "C.O.P.S. Kids/Teens" (2nd Day); Picnic in the Park for Survivors

Thurs. May 17 - Official Departure Day

Streamlight's Support of COPS Featured in Shot Business Magazine

Streamlight's "from the heart" support of COPS is highlighted in November's edition of Shot Business Magazine. The article features comments from Maryland survivor Lynne Parry about how Streamlight's financial support of COPS has helped her family find new strength. Streamlight President Brad Penney is quoted and highlighted for his personal commitment to COPS. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Thanks to All Who Have Supported COPS in 2006

As the 2006 calendar year draws to a close, COPS thanks all those who have made it possible for law enforcement survivors to receive healing, love, and live renewed – those who coordinate and participate in special event fundraising activities such as COPS Walk 2006, the survivors who give back to their organization, COPS' *Partners in Law Enforcement*, general donors, and our corporate donors. As you go about your holiday shopping, please consider gifts that bear the logo of the companies who support survivors through COPS. Major donors (\$7,000 and up) to COPS this calendar year include:

Japanese-American Friends of Law Enforcement Foundation
 US Secret Service Employee Recreation
 Northeast Florida COPS
 Mid-Atlantic Police Motorcycle Riding Committee, Inc.
 Officer Harold L. Vitale Memorial Fund
 BJB Charitable Trust
 Streamlight, Inc.
 Wisconsin COPS
 The Force®
 MI-COPS Chapter

Blue Knights COPSRUN
 South East Police Motorcycle Rodeo Committee
 ICMA Retirement Corporation
 New York State Fraternal Order of Police
 FBI National Academy Associates 224th & 225th Sessions
 Estate of Clotilde Schlayer
 American Association of State Troopers
 The Galleria Mall in Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 Anonymous – Indy Race Car Auction
 FBI National Academy Associates 226th Session
 Peggy Harrison Photography
 Missouri Gaming Association
 SIGARMS, Inc.
 Southern California COPS
 NJ Survivors of the Triangle
 San Bernardino (CA) Sheriff's Academy Class #164
 Gary and Charleen Dickinson
 Spacesaver Corporation

COPSstore News

[COPSstore](#) is having a clearance sale on embroidered COPS logo polo shirts. This inventory reduction sale is offered grab bag style at 50% off the regular price. That's embroidered shirts for only \$16.00 - \$18.00. Order by size and [COPSstore](#) will select the style. Other embroidered shirts are available at regular prices. Check the [COPSstore](#) website for stuffed animals, coffee mugs, and denim shirts. These items make great holiday gifts!

COPS wishes you and yours a safe and peaceful holiday season.

Remember that law enforcement continues to work 24/7, serving and protecting you and yours during the holiday season.



Concerns of Police Survivors has been awarded the "Best in America" seal of approval from Independent Charities of America. The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence is awarded to the members of Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities of America that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. These standards include those required by the US Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, probably the most exclusive fund drive in the world. Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this Seal. Visit www.independentcharities.org