

# SURVIVORS

**National Organization of  
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.**

*For the families and friends of those who have died by violence.  
Dedicated to the Aftermath and Prevention of Murder.*



Summer 2016  
Volume 34, Issue 2

*We Are The Survivors,  
Joined Together We Are Strong*

**KEYNOTER.** Patrick Knight's book, *Blessed to Survive: The Thanksgiving Day Massacre*, describes his journey from tragedy to triumph after being the victim of one of the worst mass-shootings in South Florida history.

Patrick Knight

Orlando, Florida  
July 21-24, 2016

30th Annual National Conference  
2016 ORLANDO FLORIDA

**POMC**

The 30th POMC National Conference was held in Orlando, July 21-24, at the Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort.

## Orlando – scene of mass murder – is the site of POMC's victim-survivors conference

**ORLANDO, Fla.** – The 2016 POMC National Conference will feature more than 35 specialized workshops to help victim-survivors.

POMC is receiving support to provide subject matter experts from the Department Of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime on Victims' Rights in America and Vicarious Trauma. In addition, the Office for Victims of Crime provided survivor scholarships for attendees. We hope to see you all there in Orlando; and, please sign up now for the Conference.

*(Continued on p. 3)*

**The National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. (POMC) expresses our heartfelt sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives in the horrific tragedy in Orlando, Florida on Sunday, June 12, 2016, as well as to the families of those who are killed by violence every day in our nation.**

*The impact upon the victims and families, the community of Orlando, and our entire Nation cannot begin to be described. POMC stands with all the survivors—as together—we are strong!*

## Invitations to serve lead into summer

# SURVIVORS

With

Executive Director  
**DAN LEVEY**



(NIJ), Cold Case Working Group. In the spring of 2015, NIJ convened a group of

I hope everyone has had a nice spring, and as we roll into summer, I hope it's not too hot for anyone, and if so, just think of us in Arizona. I am participating with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and several organizations, including the National Sheriffs Association, SEARCH GROUP, Inc., and a cadre of other professionals on the Child Abuse Prosecution project.

The project is twofold: (1) to help develop a model curriculum for child abuse prosecutors (including child homicides) and their allied professionals in the field, and (2) to serve as faculty for this curriculum at various conferences. I will be educating prosecutors and others about Parents Of Murdered Children and the work we do.

As we all know too well, abuse and neglect are a cause of many murders of children. I am glad that POMC has been invited to be part of this important project. The program is funded by the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency.

I also serve on the Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice

cold case investigation subject matter experts to gather foundational information about current cold case investigation operations. I was invited to be part of the group in October and I attended the second meeting last November in New Orleans, La. Our goal was to develop outlines and problem statements, and to draft recommendations for integrations into a best practices and protocols for cold case investigation operations. We hope to meet again this summer to continue to work on this important topic. Again, I am glad POMC was asked to be part of this project.

If anyone has any input on the above topic please feel free to contact me directly.

Our National Conference is rolling right along and it will be here before we know it. The Conference Committee has been hard at work to ensure it's a memorable Conference. I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando.

POMC National recently held our 3rd annual "Strike Out Violence" event which was very successful and raised over \$15,000. The event was

attended by several hundred people and bowling teams were made up of survivors, law enforcement, prosecutors, members of the public, sponsors – and fun was had by all. The event included DJ, Silent Raffle, and Ticket Raffle; and I would like to thank all of our sponsors, including our Gold Sponsor, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Below is a list of our sponsors.

The National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. wishes to gratefully acknowledge the following primary supporters of this event.

### Gold Sponsor

Maricopa County Attorney's Office

### Silver Sponsor

Carstens Family Funds

### Bronze Sponsors

Rabbi John Linder/Edward Linder Fund

Dennis Burke

### Patron Sponsors

Arizona Trial Lawyers Association

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Dr. Ben & Mojdeh Bobrow

Phoenix Police Foundation Ω

## What Research Is Needed to Help Family Survivors?

In the Spring 2016 issue of *Translational Criminology Magazine*, POMC's Executive Director Dan Levey joins three colleagues from George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy to determine "What Research Is Needed to Help Family Survivors of Homicide."

*Translational Criminology Magazine* promotes a "knowledge exchange to shape criminal justice research, practice, and policy...by illustrating

examples of how research is converted into criminal justice practice."

The editors describe the article as "excellent cases for the need to build research and evidence-based infrastructure for two important areas of criminal justice practice. For example, although much research has been focused on homicide and violence, Levey and colleagues discuss how very little knowledge has been generated about family

survivors of homicide, despite the significant impact that violence has on them."

The article estimates in its opening paragraph, "...that a single homicide costs society approximately \$17.25 million in lifetime costs (i.e., direct costs associated with the homicide and long-term loss of wages and taxes...) and this does not account for the direct

(Continued on p. 3)

# July National Conference Workshops (Topics and Presenters)

(Continued from p. 1)

**Fathers Grief (Men Only)**  
*Mel Nichols*

**Murderabilia/No Notoriety**  
*Andy Kahan*

**Putting Forgiveness In its Place**  
*Carrie Freitag & Peggy Kerouac*

**LGBTQ Murder**  
*Carrie Freitag & Peggy Kerouac*

**Raising Grieving Children While You're Grieving**  
*Irene Gowins-Sowells*

**Criminal Justice System: When the Victim is a Child**  
*Dave LaBahn*

**DNA and Solving Cold Cases**  
*Daniel Feinberg & Det. Kurt Mehl*

**WeTip**  
*Susan Aguilar*

**Preparing for Parole Hearings**  
*Howard Klerk*

**Landmine Days**  
*Claudia Place*

**Anger**  
*Claudia Place*

**How Tramatic Loss Affects Relationships**  
*Bill Jenkins*

**Sibling Grief (Sibling Only)**  
*Dawn Terrizzi*

**Victim Rights**  
*Rebecca Khalil*

**Therapy Dogs in Local Chapters**  
*Laurie Schlossnagle*

**Vicarious Trauma**  
*Barbara Rubel*

**Dance**  
*Kathy Hernandez*

**Participating with Criminal Justice Agencies**  
*Richard Hough & Kimberly McCorkel*

**Putting The Shattered Life Back Together**  
*Bill Jenkins*

**Making a Memorial Video**  
*Rachel Sedlacek*

**How Much Did My Loved One Suffer?**  
*Joshua Stephany M.D.*

**Ask the Medical Examiner**  
*Joshua Stephany M.D.*

**Remembering Our Loved Ones**  
*Connie Saindon*

**Survivors' Mission**  
*Connie Saindon*

**Survivors With Disabilities**  
*Brandy Macaluso*

**Homicide Investigations: Best Practices**  
*Richard Hough & Kimberly McCorkle*

**Sibling Grief (Open to All)**  
*Lori King, Susan Kelley Leiker & Connie Sheely*

**Between Heaven & Earth: Signs from Heaven**  
*Cindy Barg*

**Prison Life**  
*Mike Kullander & Dennis Greenhalgh*

**Couples Surviving Grief**  
*Beckie Miller (Men Only)*

**Mothers' Grief (Part 1)**  
*Beckie Miller (Women Only)*

**When the Traumatic Loss Visits a Mental Health Professional**  
*Marvin Bryant*

**Poetry & Journaling**  
*Mary Elledge*

**Couples Surviving Grief**  
*Don Miller (Women only)*

## Research Is Needed

(Continued from p. 2)

costs to survivors. Estimates on the average number of family members who survive the loss of a family member to homicide range from 45,000 up to 240,000 survivors each year ....”

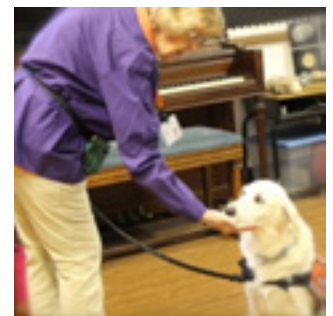
After looking at what POMC and advocacy groups have done to raise public awareness, the article spells out its purpose: “research on survivors and the impact of programs tailored for them has lagged and much more needs to be known”; for example, “there are no impact evaluations examining interventions that provide services to homicide survivors.”

The article concludes, “More research is needed to understand how to help these survivors and support them throughout their lives as they face this significant loss.” To access the article, Google—“What Research Is Needed to Help Family Survivors of Homicide?,” *Translational Criminology*, Spring 2016, 13-15. Ω

## POMC comforter entered in Topeka’s Jim Ramberg Dog of the Year Contest

**TOPEKA, KS** – Jasmine, an English cream golden retriever owned by Topekan Carolyn Buono, is a recent entry in The Jim Ramberg Dog of the Year contest. Jasmine is a crisis response dog, as well as a therapy animal and a comfort dog. The pair visit hospitals and nursing homes. They visit school children to talk with them about disaster response and preparedness.

Buono and Jasmine also attend POMC national conferences and seminars and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors as part of Extra Mile Ministries. “Spending time with a trained dog can bring relief from grieving and begin the healing process,” Buono said. Ω



**Carolyn Buono and Jasmine bring comfort to survivors at POMC gatherings.**

With

President POMC National Board of Trustees  
**HOWARD KLERK**



is working hard for you to improve POMC, to help protect your rights and to keep

As this is being written, the national organization, staff, and volunteers were very busy planning for our 2016 conference in Orlando, Fla. Looking back at past conferences, we have discussed how we can make changes to try to streamline some things such as teddy bear distribution.

Each year new workshops are being offered along with some new presenters. We certainly hope you will find these offerings of interest. A major change this year was the Effective Leadership Training being offered in conjunction with the Conference. This allowed people to attend the Conference and leadership training in one visit and realize a considerable savings with their travel expenses.

POMC has entered into an agreement with Uber, making the trip from the airport to the resort and back easier and less expensive. If you sign up with Uber now you can save more money for yourself and help National at the same time.

As always, your National Board

criminals in prison where they belong and off our streets. For example, in one state, convicted murders and others are pushing for a ballot initiative to allow for early release and a program for community reentry. How do they qualify for this program? If they maintain good behavior and take certain classes while in prison, that would show they are trying to improve themselves and therefore should be released early. What is the stance of this and other states, cost cutting?

A program such as this ignores the fact that new bureaucracy may have to be established, or others enlarged. What about monitoring costs and the expenses incurred if they recommit? Also ignored is the danger they present to society and the resulting suffering. Recidivism rates are high and FBI statistics show that many will recommit within three years of release and that their next crime will be more serious than their last.

The Federal Government is also working on a prisoner release pro-

gram that POMC is opposed to. Many thousands of prisoners have already been released with many thousands more scheduled for release. Among those released and soon to be released are murderers, rapists, batterers, child molesters, and other violent convicts. By the way, when do our loved ones get time off to live the remainder of the life that was so viciously taken from them by those seeking early release for good behavior?

As a national survivor organization, we must remain strong, we must remain vigilant, and we must oppose those looking to endanger our lives by putting criminals back on our streets and into our neighborhoods. Freedom isn't free, someone had to pay the price for it.

If you feel you would like to get deeper involved, consider running for the POMC National Board of Trustees. Contact our National Office in Cincinnati for more details. There is strength in numbers.

We wish you a wonderful summer season. Let us never lose site of the fact that we are here for our lost loved ones.  $\Omega$

God bless all of us.

*Howard*

## Maine POMC Chapter rededicates Memorial



**AUGUSTA, ME** – Maine POMC Chapter Leader Art Jette (left) comments upon the memorial's purpose. First dedicated in 2014 with 83 names inscribed upon the memorial's right side, 11 names were added on the left side in 2015 and 13 more in June 2016. The monument is shown (p. 5, bottom left half, top photo) as it now appears with the full 107 names. Jette (points to the newly added names (p. 5, bottom left half, bottom photo).  $\Omega$

**MURDER WALL . . . Honoring Their Memories**

The names that appear in this issue of *SURVIVORS* are those that have been submitted to the National Organization of POMC, Inc., with full or partial payment before June 10, 2016. Names after this date will appear in the next issue.

The Wall consists of solid walnut panels

with each holding about 20 brass plates inscribed with the name of the victim, along with the date of birth and the date of death. A donation of \$75 is required before a name will be inscribed on a plate and permanently mounted on a panel. (See order form on this page.) Not only is this donation a tribute to the memory of your loved one, but it is a tribute that will help keep alive the memory of those we miss so deeply.

The Wall is a powerful statement of the violence in our society and of the numbers of loved ones senselessly killed by others. Not only does it give comfort, but also hope, because every name on it cries out silently for awareness, prevention, and justice.

- Kinsley Raelynn Kinner**  
 10/2/13 - 12/3/15
- Rita Sybil Rabalais**  
 10/31/11 - 10/24/94
- Rev. Billy J. Shuler**  
 2/20/45 - 5/21/14



*Thank you for  
Your Donation  
to Maintain the  
Murder Wall*

**Timothy Staunton, from  
Denise Coleman**

**Lisa Weaver, from  
Anna & Howard Klerk**

**Your Donations Help to Maintain  
the Wall's Physical Beauty**

Time and much travel have put stress on the many panels of the Murder Wall...Honoring Their Memories, and scratches, nicks, and dents need to be repaired. Many of the cases that are used to transport the Wall have split or broken, handles have fallen off, and the protective material inside each case needs to be replaced.

Currently, the Wall is made up of 333 panels, displaying over 3,500 victims' names, dates of birth and dates of death.

In order to maintain the beauty of the Wall, POMC continues to seek donations to help make some of the repairs. To help, please use the form below. Donations made in memory/honor of will be in the next issue of *Survivors*.

**POMC-Wall Repair  
(Please Print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ MO: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa: \_\_\_\_\_ MC: \_\_\_\_\_ Am. Express: \_\_\_\_\_ Discover: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: POMC, 4960 Ridge Ave., Suite 2,  
Cincinnati, OH 45209**



# Lies told about how you should grieve

[Adapted from “5 lies you were told about grief” by Alison Nappi, an article from a POMC Chapter newsletter, but also found elsewhere. From 5 lies, we use the second.]

**1. The Lie: You should be over it/him/her by now.**

**2. The Lie: You should stop talking about him or her / Stop living in the past.**

**3. The Lie: You have to move on with your life (right now).**

**4. The Lie: You could have prevented this tragedy.**

**5. The Lie: Time heals all wounds.**

**2. The Truth:** The only people who cannot bear to hear you speak of

your beloved are those who cannot accept their own mortality. They are people who have never grieved. They either don't know loss, or they buried themselves with their loved ones. Trust me when I tell you, they have their own mountains yet to climb.

Those who would have you silence yourself, choke on the words that you must speak, are people who do not know their own souls.

*“Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak knits up the o-er wrought heart and bids it break.”*  
~ Wm. Shakespeare

I'm not a psychologist. I'm a writer, so you must know by now that I am having a love affair with words.... I know that they keep me connected to everything beautiful in this world, and the next.

Speaking of your loved one can keep their presence with you from far across the boundaries of the point where life meets death. It is a way to honor them, and a way to honor your feelings. It keeps their love alive in you. It extends the meaning of their life into the world in powerful and meaningful ways. It gives them back a voice in a world hell-bent on forgetting.

It's okay to speak of them, to them, and even for them when there is good that can be done by you because they have lived. What better way to honor a life, than to extend this love to others? **Ω**



OREGON CITY, Ore. The POMC Memorial in Mountain View Cemetery had room for 500 names of homicide victims when the Greater Portland Area POMC Chapter dedicated it in 2013, thinking that they had years to add more. Two years later, they want to expand the marble walls to hold 1,500 names for an estimated \$100,000. They are halfway there and plan to break ground before Sept. 23, when they will observe The National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

# Listen, listen, and listen even more when working with survivors

By **Mary ELLEDGE**

*[Mary Elledge is the Chapter Leader of the Greater Portland Area POMC Chapter. She teaches death notification at several colleges and at the Oregon State Victims Academy.]*

Luckily, my husband and I were together when two of the most dedicated detectives we could ever hope for drove up in their car, for my whole life changed. Their walk and the look on their faces told us that they bore the worst news we ever would hear. Our son, Rob, had disappeared more than five weeks earlier.

What they say in books on the subject is true. You will never forget how, when, and where you were when notified that your loved one was murdered.

Our family had been fortunate to have a well-qualified district attorney, hardworking detectives, and supportive help from victims' assistance. Sadly, this is not always the case. Some homicide-victim survivors are victimized by their notification; some are shocked, but feel that the notification was done as sympathetically as possible.

The type of notification we give a family will depend on whom we notify and their circumstances. This is why it is important that those who bring the news have an idea of the traumatic effect this can have. Death notifiers can be effective when they understand that.

It is not easy to bring such news. Most people who do take it very seriously. They put themselves in a position that can even make them feel vulnerable. It is not uncommon for them to need understanding people to talk to after making a

notification. They take their jobs very seriously and will never forget the people they notify.

In teaching at colleges, I use the last half of the class time to let attendees break into pairs and take turns notifying another team. Some of the students are not able to do this. I have seen some leave in tears or not be able to participate in that part of the class. It is not an easy task. Some of the students may have had a bad experience in being notified or live themselves with the fear of ever being notified of the death of a loved one. This does not make them an ineffective person to work with victims or co-victims of tragic events. It just means it is not what they can do best. I also would never want to work with or be notified by a person who could not express empathy. Empathy is important in every phase of helping victims of homicide.

Sometimes "words can get in the way." Giving hugs is part of what we do at POMC. A human touch can be the most important gift we can give another human being. But, we also must respect people who are not comfortable giving hugs or having people in their space. The saying, "a shoulder to cry on," may not be for everyone, but for many, it is as important as being able to breathe.

In the book, *I'll Never Forget Those Words*, authors Janice Harris Lord and Alan Stewart said, "Saying I'm so sorry" may seem like a trivial follow-up comment, but it isn't trivial. After just relaying devastating information, expressing an emotional reaction, is a welcome change from the hard facts. It tells the family that the notifiers are warm, caring individuals. Furthermore, it subtly invites family members to react emotionally as well. It can cut through false

perceptions that they need to be strong or that they should not show their feelings. It allows the genuine ventilating of emotion that comes naturally for most people.


Supporting notifiers know that silence after a death notification is not unusual. This is the time that just being there and holding a co-victim's hand or hugging is the most important thing to do for the survivor. Victim-survivors will remember the human touch they received and words of comfort forever. You do not need a doctorate in human behavior to be the best person to be with a co-victim.

Most important, avoid euphemisms. It is much softer if you use the person's name. Do not refer to their loved one as the body, corpse, re-mains, or victim. He or she is their loved one and they will always have the name they were given. It is not necessary to use platitudes. My son was murdered and I would never say, "I know how you feel." **It is also not wise to say things such as the following:**

- *In time, things will get better.*
- *You need to be strong.*
- *Sometimes more than one family member is murdered by the same person. It could be worse.*
- *Things will get better.*
- *He or she will never have to suffer again.*
- *At least, you have other children.*
- *He or she is at a better place.*

Again, there are more and more schools offering classes for victims and co-victims of crimes. It is important in training people that they get the most up-to-date information about the best practices in working with those who have been victimized. As co-victims, we can offer advice and suggestions that can help others. **Ω**



Parole Block™ is a program of the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. 

*Support for the Parole Block Program:*

**1572** Convicted murderers have been denied parole through POMC's Parole Block Program as conducted by the POMC National Office and POMC Chapters.

## RESULTS SINCE THE SPRING 2016 SURVIVORS

### NATIONAL OFFICE

#### Paroles Denied

- Bret Arbuckle
- Edward Ball
- Barack Barnum
- Daniel Corralez
- Edward Cronell
- Rodney Whipple
- Adrian Williams
- I.G. Wimbush

#### Released

- David Burton Cain
- William L. Kates

#### Deceased in Prison

- Jack Warren Davis

### CENTRAL ARKANSAS CHAPTER

#### Paroles Denied

- Cheryl Brewer
- Cody Chism
- Walter Haynes
- D Christopher Jones
- Justin Thabit

#### Paroled

- Michael Lowe

### GREATER PORTLAND (OR) CHAPTER

#### Paroles Denied

- Brandon Raymond Lee
- Dayton Leroy Rogers-  
[Sent back to death row]
- Tony Wik

Dale Ryan Yates

### ORANGE COUNTY (CA) CHAPTER

#### Parole Denied

- Michael Dubov

### SACRAMENTO (CA) CHAPTER

#### Parole Denied

- Mike Morgantie

### HOUSTON (TX) CHAPTER

#### Paroles Denied

- Joe Roidriguez
- Peggy Jean Kenner
- Damien Torres

### ALBANY (NY) CHAPTER

#### Parole Denied

- Matthew Solomon

### SAN ANTONIO (TX) CHAPTER

#### Paroles Denied

- Mardi Elaine Swartz
- Brian Amano
- William Mixo

**Parole is society's gamble that the prisoner has changed. Parole Block is a victim-survivor's belief that the odds are mistaken.**

## Parole Block Petitions

Parole Hearing  
September 2016

**RE: William Samuel Scythes**  
ID# 17782

On Sept. 18, 1991, William Scythes brutally murdered his wife, Sandra Jane Scythes, while she was sleep-ing. He tied her up, strangled her, and deposited her body in the nearby woods. Two days later, he turned himself in to the authorities.

Scythes was convicted of

first degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison with mercy. He will have served only 25 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest, write to:**

West Virginia Parole Board  
1356 Hansford Street Suite B  
Charleston, WV 25301

**Parole Hearing  
March 8, 2017**

**RE: Samuel Christopher Jones**  
ID# 212953

On Febr. 6, 2003, Samuel Christopher Jones, 21, had been caring for Cameron D'Anthony Norris, age 3, while his mother was at work. Jones beat Cameron on multiple occasions with his hand and a slipper, and also struck Cameron's head against a wall. Cameron was transported to the hospital and placed on life support and died the following morning.

Jones pled guilty to second degree murder and was sentenced to 20 years. He will have served only 13 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest write to:**

Minnesota Department of Corrections  
Attention: Parole Board  
1450 Energy Park Drive  
Suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55108

*(Continued on p. 9)*



## Parole Block Petitions

*(Continued from p. 8)*

**Parole Hearing  
August 10, 2016**

**RE: Edward  
Cronell  
ID#: 210762**

On Jan. 23, 1990 Melinda Snyder (22) was raped and murdered by Edward Cronell (23), who was the realtor for the house in which Melinda rented a room. Melinda had just finished college and was a teacher's assistant. Cronell broke in the house through the lockbox on the front door. He had shown the house

the week before and Melinda was home.

Edward Cronell was convicted of murder and was sentenced to two life terms plus 30 years, but eligible for parole after 20 years. He will have served only 22 years when he will be considered for parole.

**To protest, write to:**

SC Dept of Probation,  
Parole & Pardon Services

PO Box 50666  
Columbia, SC 29250

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**Parole Hearing  
April 14, 2016**

**RE: William Kates  
ID#: 01017013**

Bev,

My name is Anna Hixon, and you recently helped me with my dear friend, Julie Gullede, get a parole block petition. My mother, Nancy Hixon-Broadaway, was murdered July 4, 2005. At the offender William Kates's April 14, 2016 parole hearing, the parole board decided to release him on July 18, 2019. Upon release, he will serve the one-year remain-ing of his sentence under parole supervision.

I thank you for all that you have done for me and

my family.  
Sincerely,

*Anna Hixon*

*(Continued on p. 16)*

-----  
**February 5, 2016**

Dear friends!

Thank you all so much again!!! Your letters, emails, etc. helped! Shad Hocutt, the "muscle" in the homicide of our son, **Marty**, was denied parole again. Thanks to all of you participating.

God bless, take care!

*Bill & Shirl*

## Siblings advise homicide-victim survivors

**By Amanda Harris**

*[Sibling Coordinator, Amanda Harris, herself a homicide-victim survivor with Valley of the Sun POMC Chapter, shared some things other siblings have said that helped them.]*

**Siblings to sibling-survivors:**

• **Acknowledge** they will never be the same **and accept** their new normal;

• **Surround themselves by those who are supportive**—get toxic friends and people out of your life;

• **Tend to their own needs, not just other family mem-bers** (take care of yourself first in order to help others);

• **Make a plan for your life;**

• **Hobbies can be a good**

**coping skill;**

• **Journal** – putting your feelings in writing is very helpful;

• If their sibling is buried in another state, **put flowers on a stranger's grave at cemetery;**

• **Make a donation in their sibling's name** on special dates (i.e., anniversaries, birthdays)

*(Continued on p. 19)*

### Help Keep Murderers Behind Bars

Write letters protesting the parole of those convicted murderers listed in each issue of the *SURVIVORS* newsletter. Petitions can also be downloaded from POMC's website at [www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org).

• **Contact National POMC if your loved one's murderer is going to be considered for early release or parole.**

• **Contact National POMC to be placed on the list of those willing to circulate monthly petitions.**

• **Support the program by sending your tax-deductible donation.**

Support POMC's Parole Block Program  
Keep A Killer Behind Bars

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amt Encl: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ AMX \_\_\_\_\_ Dis \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sec. Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

POMC, 4960 Ridge Ave., Suite 2  
Cincinnati, OH 45209

# COLD CASE CORNER

## What Are Cold Case Investigations?

Cold cases refer to crimes that have gone unsolved for years and that have no active leads that investigators can pursue. According to a Scripps Howard News Service study of the FBI Uniform Crime Report, nearly 185,000 homicide/manslaughter cases went unsolved during the 28-year period between 1980 and 2008. That’s an average of nearly 6,000 unsolved murder cases every year in the United States—despite advances in everything from online investigative techniques to forensic science.

Clearance rates for homicides

vary widely, according to location. For example, in 2008, Chicago managed to solve just 35 percent of its murders, while in San Diego, 94 percent of all murder cases were solved. The national clearance rate has also fallen, from around 90 percent in the 1960s to well below 65 percent in recent years.

To combat the problem of unsolved homicides, many of the nation’s larger police departments have implemented cold case units that are staffed with the most highly skilled investigators. Cold case units are now prevalent among state and city police

departments. Many state trooper cold case investigative units also provide support to police and sheriff’s departments at the local level.

Investigators within a cold case unit must establish a number of partnerships and locate new and viable leads, which may be a difficult process. Therefore, the most experienced investigators within a police department usually work cold case investigations.

Cold case unit investigators also serve as advocates for victims and bring peace to the loved ones of an individual who was killed or is missing. **Ω**

*[Adapted from DetectiveEDU.org web page.]*

## Questions help investigators decide when to put homicide cases on ice

1. Was this case classified as a homicide or sexual assault per Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) definition at the time of incident?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If not, how was this case classified? \_\_\_\_\_

2. If a homicide, was the victim’s body located?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

3. If a sexual assault, was a rape kit collected?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

4. Were there witnesses to the homicide/sexual assault?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Are the witnesses still available?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

5. Is the victim of the sexual assault available and willing to testify?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

6. Is there evidence related to the homicide/sexual assault still available?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

7. Was a Crime Laboratory analysis performed?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If “Yes,” was any type of DNA results obtained?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

8. Was this case presented to the County Attorney’s Office

for issuing? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If “Yes,” what was their opinion? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Was all the evidence related to this case reviewed?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

By what Investigator \_\_\_\_\_

By what Crime Lab DNA Analyst \_\_\_\_\_

10. Is the evidence viable for current scientific examination standards?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

By what DNA Analyst \_\_\_\_\_

11. Is the evidence viable for current prosecution standards?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

By what Investigator or Prosecutor \_\_\_\_\_

12. After round table review, is this a workable “cold” case?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Assigned Investigator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

DNA Analyst \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Prosecutor (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Developed by the Arizona Department of Public Safety

*(This questionnaire is taken from **Serving Survivors of Homicide Victims During Cold Case Investigations, Appendix B. Cold Case Solvability Questionnaire, 43. Prepared by the National Sheriffs’ Association, Justice Solutions, and the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc., 2011.**)*

By **Mary ELLEDGE**



(Mary Elledge is the Chapter Leader of the Greater Portland Area POMC Chapter. She introduces several survivors of homicide-victims whose loved ones' murderers are still on the loose. They tell of their suffering and difficult ways of enduring.)

### Unsolved cases prevent families from getting to a "new normal"

(Part 2)

#### After 12 years, Jodi Marie Brewer's case was solved

By Pamela Brewer

Our daughter Jodi Marie Brewer was born in Seattle, Wash., Nov. 26, 1983. When she was two, we moved to Las Vegas. Her father, James, and I worked in the casino industry. Life was good. Her sister Jacqueline was born in 1990. Shortly thereafter, Jim was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. We had our last family vacation in Disneyland. Jodi was 18. Jacqueline was 12.

Jodi enrolled in beauty college. She lost her grant after her first semester, and at the age of 18, she fell into prostitution. I didn't want her on the streets, so we got an apartment together. Two weeks later, her torso was found in a garbage bag on the side of the freeway in San Bernardino, Cal.

My life became a downward spiral. It took six months to get her remains back because they had to do DNA testing. I had to keep working. There was no closure and Jim was terminally ill. Jacqueline attempted suicide a week before her father died. She was placed in foster care. I lost my union job of 17 years. To no avail, I begged to go to rehab. I

became homeless and lost everything we had. It was a role reversal. I had a breakdown and got into drugs and prostitution.

It's been 12 years, but my PTSD says it was yesterday. I have turned my life around, thanks to Jesus.

My daughter's killer, Neal Falls, was killed a few months ago by a working girl he stalked from Oregon to West Virginia on a Craig's List site. He was a serial killer, having killed a dozen girls in four states. He had a list of others to kill next. But while trying to strangle his last victim, she managed to shoot Falls with his own gun. Thanks to her, this madness has stopped.

The case made "America's Most Wanted." I was asked to go on the

#### Vicky Johnson's case finally is solved, the murderer is caught

[**MARY:** Vicky Johnson's son and his girlfriend, Donna Ferguson, were murdered on July 17, 1992. Eight years later, the murderer—a serial killer—was apprehended and sentenced to life. Vicky traveled a painful road after the case was solved. She wrote a book, **Hurled into Darkness**, to help others heal and to offer hope to other victim-survivors. You can find the book on Amazon.com under **Hurled into Darkness**, by Victoria Johnson. I urge co-victims to read it.

#### Journey through "not knowing"

By Vicky Johnson

In the beginning, I wanted someone to shoot me with a gun. I wanted out of life. But God was there for me when it all came down on me. The grief and the rage were overwhelm-

ing. It either makes you or breaks you. You only have two choices. Finally, I have closure. I knew it would take a long time. I had no idea how long. I just thank God it is finally over.

I now live in Oregon with my daughter, Jacqueline, who struggles with drug addiction. I am working full time and I have a car. I go to church on Saturdays at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and once again, life is good. Ω

[**MARY:** I was more than thrilled when I received Pamela Brewer's call, saying that her daughter's murder had been solved. It truly made a difference in her life and healing. She feels that she has now gotten to a "new normal." We all celebrate her new life now.]

I journaled through the years and wrote *Hurled into Darkness*. Having my case solved also helped me not have to deal with "not knowing and getting justice for my son," as I had the first years after Todd was murdered. I could concentrate on writing my book to show others that you can find hope again and mend. It takes a long time. The darkness has much to teach us. When you write things down, it is also a way of releasing your pain. Ω

[**MARY:** In her book, Vicky does not hold back on the pain co-victims go through. There will be a TV show about the murder of her son, Todd Rudiger, and his friend, Donna Jean Ferguson. Donna's sister, Deloni is also in the TV movie. It should be shown in April or May.]

*"My life didn't end that night, It began. My identity, mission, and goals have changed forever. Much of my time is now spent getting to know this new person, and learning to work with him." ---Bill Jenkins*

**CONTACT PERSONS/  
CHAPTER LEADERS CORNER**

With <b>Sherry NOLAN</b>		We thank the following new volunteers for the valuable services that they will provide to other survivors on behalf of POMC, Inc. If you would like more information about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Sherry Nolan, National Volunteer Coordinator, at:
<b>888-818-7662, or <a href="mailto:snolan@pomc.org">snolan@pomc.org</a></b>		

**2** new Chapters have joined the National POMC family since our last *SURVIVORS* Newsletter and have opened their doors to offer support:

The Berea (Kentucky) POMC Chapter  
 Chapter Leader – Sonya A. Begay  
 (Survivor-Parent)  
 Berea, Kentucky  
 859-358-8328 cell 859-779-9051 home  
[sonyabegay@rocketmail.com](mailto:sonyabegay@rocketmail.com)

-----  
 The Desert of Hope POMC Chapter  
 Chapter Leader – Laura Patterson  
 (Survivor-Parent)  
 Las Vegas, Nevada  
 702-324-6019 cell [lap562002@yahoo.com](mailto:lap562002@yahoo.com)

Co-Leader--Terri Bryson  
 (Survivor-Parent)  
 Las Vegas, Nevada  
 702-595-9562 cell [lvterrib@aol.com](mailto:lvterrib@aol.com)

There are hundreds of survivors across the U.S. who volunteer for the National Organization of POMC as Chapter Leaders, Co-Leaders, and Contact Persons. If you feel that you are at a point in your life where you are ready to reach out to others who have suffered the loss of a loved one due to violence, please contact me.

The following states are in need of someone to offer support services through phone and email, support group meetings, court accompaniment, etc.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Alabama<br>Hawaii<br>Mississippi<br>Montana<br>Nebraska | North Dakota<br>Oklahoma<br>Rhode Island<br>Tennessee | Utah<br>Vermont<br>Washington,<br>D.C.<br>Wyoming |
|---|---|---|

**Chapter Donations**  
*(from Annual Report)*

Valley of the Sun  
 Arizona  
 Contra Costa  
 County/East Bay  
 California  
 Miami Dade  
 Southwest Florida

Central Illinois  
 Maine  
 Minnesota Hope  
 Queens New York  
 Central Ohio  
 Greater Milwaukee  
 Wisconsin

**Social Media Guidelines for Chapters**

*Because social media channels are fairly new to many POMC Chapters and their members, we've assembled "best practices" guidelines from respected online and industry sources to help you use these forums effectively, protect your personal and professional reputations, and follow POMC policies. These guidelines will apply whether you are writing on behalf of your Chapter or as an individual. Please read these [Social Media Guidelines](#) before creating and maintaining blogs, social networks, and websites through Wikipedia, Facebook, Flickr, Second Life, and YouTube. Google [pomc.org](http://pomc.org) and choose the Chapter tab on the POMC webpage.*

See brief notes about new Chapter Leaders Linda Miers on p. 14, bottom; retired CL Meta Weber, p. 16; Sonya Begay Patterson, p. 18; and Laura Patterson, p. 20.

**CP/CL UPDATES**

If you have a message of interest, a great fundraising idea, upcoming Chapter events, special awards or recognitions received, or ideas that you would like to share with our "POMC family," please mail them to my attention:

Sherry Nolan at National POMC, or email them to [snolan@pomc.org](mailto:snolan@pomc.org).

The article deadline for the next newsletter is **Sept. 15, 2016**. Please note: due to deadlines or overflow of articles, we may not be able to include all of those received in the next SNL, but may keep them for future newsletters. Thanks for all that you do on behalf of others through POMC.

# POMC hosts, participates, in local community gatherings and ceremonies

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week:

April 10 through April 16, 2016

**"Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope."**

*Every year in April, the Office for Victims of Crime helps lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW).*

**AUGUSTA, ME, April 10**—The Maine POMC Chapter hosted its 12th Annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week celebration at the Calumet Club. After lunch, speakers from the Maine State Police and the Maine State Crime Lab talked about how advances in the way victims of crime are treated result in better outcomes for prosecutors and survivors. **Ω**

**SAN BERNADINO, CA, April 11** – Hundreds—from crime victims' family members, city officials, and law enforcement—observed National Crime Victims' Rights Week at the San Bernardino County Government Center.

Rose Madsen, long-time leader of

Friends and Family of Murder Victims (FFMV) heard words of praise from District Attorney Michael Ramos for her support of victim-survivors.

Linda Miers — the new Chapter Leader of The Inland Empire POMC Chapter—in 11 years lost two daughters to murder in San Bernardino. Her younger daughter Melanie was killed during a 2005 drive-by shooting, and her oldest daughter Michelle was attacked and murdered inside her apartment in July 2014.

A 20-years victim-survivor who works with both FFMV and POMC said, "I didn't realize how much people care about survivors." **Ω**

**MEDIA, DELAWARE CO., PA, April 13**—The District Attorney's Office and members of Delaware Co.'s Victims Policy Funding Board recognized victim advocates whose mission is to help others in need and who have provided extraordinary care and treatment for crime victims.

U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey was recognized for his efforts to ensure the disbursement of federal funds to victims of crime, and Upper Darby Township Police Det. Raymond Blohm was honored for jailing three

criminals who brutally victimized a 22-year-old mother on Christmas Day, 2012. At 7 p.m., the Delaware Co., Pa. POMC Chapter held a candlelight vigil in Courtroom One of the Delaware County Courthouse.

**LITTLE ROCK, AR, April 14**—The Central Arkansas POMC Chapter joined the Vigil For Survivors Of Crime, which included victims and survivors from different communities, like sexual assault, LGBTQ, disabled, Latino, African America, homicide-victim survivors, and the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault. **Ω**

**KANSAS CITY, MO, April 15**—The Kansas City Area Wide POMC Chapter and the Kansas City Mounted Patrol led a solidarity walk for participants in the local observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The U.S. Attorney's Office presented a memorial award to the SCAN Clinic at Children's Mercy Hospital in memory of two young women who were fatal victims of tragic crimes. **Ω**

**DETROIT, MICH., April 17**—Oakland Co. Prosecutor Jessica Cooper named three advocacy groups—HAVEN, Parents Of Murdered Children, and Common Ground—in her annual "Victims' Service Distinction Awards" given during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. One of her awards went to Oakland Co. Sheriff Michael Bouchard as the state's outstanding sheriff of 2016. **Ω**

**WARREN, OH, April 18**—The Trumbull Co. POMC Chapter organized a candlelight vigil at the Methodist Church for the family members of murder victims as part of their Crime Victims Week. **Ω**

**BONNE TERRE, MO, April 23**—Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Bonne Terre held its Annual Crime Victims

*(Continued on p. 15)*

### POMC CHAPTERS CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OR MORE OF OFFERING SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE-VICTIMS

CHAPTER NAME	STATE	FORMED	YEAR
Peninsula South Bay	California	11/16/81	35
Houston	Texas	11/17/81	35
Metro Detroit	Michigan	01/08/82	34
Greater Portland Area	Oregon	04/20/82	34
Albany	New York	11/02/82	34
Miami-Dade Co.	Florida	04/12/83	33
Colo. Front Range	Colorado	07/29/83	33
St. Louis Area Wide	Illinois/Missouri	03/15/85	31
Minnesota Hope	Minnesota	10/15/85	31
Valley of the Sun	Arizona	01/14/86	30

# SURVIVORS CONGRATULATES

## Diane Jones and Mina Hampton



Diane Jones and Mina Hampton were honored for their many years of service.



**DURHAM, NC, May 19**—At its Service Awards Ceremony, the Durham Police Department conferred Community Service Medals upon Mina Hampton and Diane Jones for the work they have done in the Durham communities as Co-Chapter Leaders of the Durham POMC Chapter. Ω

*For 23 years, POMC has served as a liaison between the Durham Police Department and family members of homicide victims. POMC members have counseled hundreds of survivors locally and throughout the state on how to cope with the unique type of grief. They have been instrumental in expanding services provided to victims' families and they provide resources during monthly meetings. Mina Hampton and Diane Jones have donated significant time and effort to POMC. They provide a much-needed service for the community.*

## Dawn Terrizzi

**DELRAY BEACH, FL, April 29**—Dawn Terrizzi, Administrative Assistant of the Delray Police Department, was chosen as Employee of the Year by the non-profit organization—Delray Citizens for Delray Police (DCDP). A monetary prize was included in the award. This annual award is presented during the annual Employee Awards Banquet.

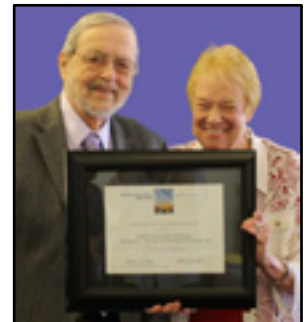


Dawn Terrizzi

Terrizzi is a POMC Contact Person, member of the Miami-Dade POMC Chapter, and leader of a satellite meeting in Delray Beach. In 2015 the Palm Beach Victims' Rights Coalition honored her as the Victim Rights Advocate of the Year. Ω

## Charlotte and Robert Hullinger

**CINCINNATI, OH, April 13**—The 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) event in Hamilton County. The 2016 Hamilton County (OH) NCVRW Award to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hullinger, founders of POMC. Three months after their 19-year-old daughter, Lisa (1958-78), died from her wounds, the first Parents Of Murdered Children group of five parents and Fr. Ken Czillinger held the first POMC meeting in their living room. Ω



The Hullingers accepting the NCVRW Award.

## New Chapter Leader survives two daughters' killings

**REDLANDS, Cal.** —In November 2005, Linda Miers' 16-year-old daughter, Melanie, was killed in a drive-by shooting outside a party in her hometown of San Bernardino, Cal.



Linda Miers

Nine years later, Melanie's 26-year-old sister, Michelle, was stabbed to death in the city, leaving behind two young children.

Miers left San Bernardino shortly

after Michelle's death, seeking relief from painful memories and the city's social problems. She now raises her 14-year-old daughter, Natalie, in nearby Redlands.

Every day is a struggle to overcome the lingering grief from the loss of her first two daughters.

"You get to the point where you say, 'I just don't care,'" Miers said.

"But then, I have another daughter, so I need to care."

She is a eucharistic minister at San Bernardino's Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, where she also helps feed needy and homeless people once a month.

Miers recently took over as Chapter Leader of the Inland Empire POMC Chapter. She wants to help other people who have lost children to violence. Ω

*[Adapted from Huffpost Politics.]*

**In Loving Memory Of:**

*The difference between the living and the dead is the difference between the remembered and the forgotten.*

**Lest We Forget!**

**Timothy Bradley II**, from  
*Timothy Bradley*

**Jarrold Chrisman**, from  
*Suzie & Rodney Chrisman*

**Dwayne Chubb**, from  
*Dorothy & Albert*

**Daniel Everbeck**, from  
*Bonnie & Gary Everbeck*

**Mary Gelinias**, from  
*Laura Hastings and  
Robert Plant*

**Eric Gelman**, from  
*Lynn & Richard Gelman*

**Aaron Goldman**, from  
*Honore & Thomas  
McIlhattan*

**Charles Hall II**, from  
*Ann & Billy Hall*

**Stuart Hess**, from  
*Lois & Dick Hess*

**James Joseph "Jay" Hitt**,  
from *Debbie Hitt*

**Lance Hoskins**, from  
*Lelia Hoskins*

**Louis Innucci**, from  
*Rosalind & Nunzio Innucci*

**Daniel Klagsburn**, from  
*Herbert Klagsburn*

**Steven Lee Lairson**, from  
*Lester Hammock*

**Howard Levey**, from  
*Dan Levey*

**Scott Jonathan Lewis**,  
from *Jean & John Lewis*

**Katherine Manekas**, from  
*Eugenia & Peter Manekas*

**Kelly Minckler Horn**,  
from *Dorothy Ronk*

**Jennifer Mullin**, from  
*John Mullin Jr.*

**Terri Lynn Nadeau**, from  
*Pat & Allen Walker*

**Jeanne Nicarico**, from  
*Thomas & Patricia  
Nicarico*

**Shannon & Alexandra  
Jordan Nolan Broe**, from  
*L.C. & Sharon Nolan*

**Dr. Laitate Osansade,  
MD, Leonard Vicky  
Geiger, Angela Amanda  
Reyes**, from *Janet Reyes*

**Jim Roback**, from  
*Joan Roback*

**Elena Semander**, from  
*Harriet & John Semander*

**Rodney "Kemmie"  
Smith**, from  
*Torita Davenport*

**Jeff Spurgin**, from  
*Helen & Daniel Spurgin*

**Willie Tafoya**, from  
*Flora Tafoya*

**Melissa Thoma**, from  
*Dorothy & Frank Thoma*

**Harold Leon Walter, Jr.**,  
from *Kathern & Harold  
Waters*

**Lisa Weaver**, from  
*Anna & Howard Klerk*

**Jack Stewart Wyman**,  
from *Dorothy Scott  
Wyman*

**Martha Bess Young**, from  
*Faye Young*  
**Christina Leah Zane**,  
from *Suzanne Zane*

**IN HONOR OF...**

**Nancy Ruhe-Munch**,  
from *Jean & John Lewis*

**DONATIONS**

**Appriss Inc.**

**Phillip Dumas**

**Terrie Jacoby**

**Nicole Luscombe**

**Rose Minor**

**Te'kia Parks**

**Prosecutors Bar  
Association, Wheaton,  
Illinois**

**Dena Railsback**

**Wilbur Schmidt**

**United Way of  
Central Indiana**

**POMC hosts, participates, in local community ceremonies**

*(Continued from p. 13)*

Ceremony Tuesday afternoon in observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I.A.C. (Institutional Activities Coordinator) and Restorative Justice Coordinator Beth Gammon said, "ERDCC offers many ways to give back to the community, in 2014 and 2015, the ERDCC donated \$12,498 just in cash donations. All the money raised went to local charities in the area."

Chapter Leader Annette Scrum Zezoff of the St. Louis Area Wide POMC Chapter spoke during the ceremony. She touched on what the organization does and how it helps the victims.

The I.A.C. presented checks to POMC, Kids Smart, and the SEMO Violence Council. Each one of these organizations gives back to the community one way or another. A representative from each organization spoke during the ceremony.



**Annette Scrum  
Zezoff**

**BREA, CA, May 22**—The Greater Orange County Chapter of POMC presented its 24th annual Candlelight Vigil at 6 p.m. in Memory Garden Memorial Park, Brea. Among the speakers was Paul Paulsen, whose sister Debbie was a victim of the mass killing at Cal State Fullerton in 1976. He talked about marking the 40th year anniversary of that tragedy. Ω

**PINE BLUFF, AR, March 27**—Chapter Leader Melinda Crowder and Victim Advocate Amy Stiver of the Central Arkansas Chapter took part in "Dealing with Violence" at a candle lighting program in memory of two murder victims killed 19 years ago. Their deaths led to the creation of a Respect for Life Campaign. Also taking part were representatives of the Arkansas Crime Victims and the OK Program at Little Rock, which provides positive guidance and support to African-American males. The mission of the campaign is to promote healing for families traumatized by gun violence or domestic violence. Ω

# What research is needed to help family survivors of homicide?

In the Spring 2016 issue of *Translational Criminology Magazine*, POMC's Executive Director Dan Levey joins three colleagues from George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy to determine, "What Research Is Needed to Help Family Survivors of Homicide."

*Translational Criminology Magazine* promotes a "knowledge exchange to shape criminal justice research, practice, and policy...by [giving] exam-ples of how research is converted into criminal justice practice."

The editors describe the article as "excellent cases for the need to build research and evidence-based infrastructure for two important areas of criminal justice practice. For example, although much research has been focused on homicide and violence, Levey and colleagues discuss how very little knowledge has been generated about family survivors of homicide, despite the significant impact that violence has on them."

The article estimates in its opening paragraph, "...that a single homicide costs society approximately \$17.25

million in lifetime costs (i.e., direct costs associated with the homicide and long-term loss of wages and taxes...) and this does not account for the direct costs to survivors. Estimates on the average number of family members who survive the loss of a family member to homicide range from 45,000 up to 240,000 survivors each year ...."

After looking at what POMC and advocacy groups have done to raise public awareness to the needs of homicide-victim survivors, the article spells out its purpose: "research on survivors and the impact of programs tailored for them has lagged and much more needs to be known"; for example, "there are no impact evaluations examining interventions that provide services to homicide survivors."

The article concludes, "More research is needed to understand how to help these survivors and support them throughout their lives as they face this significant loss."

To access the article, Google —"What Research Is Needed to Help Family Survivors of Homicide?," *Translational Criminology*, Spring 2016, 13-15. Ω

## SURVIVORS

### IN MEMORIAM

**THOMAS M. McPHEE** (1950-2016), died July 2, 2016 in Norwood, Pa.



Thomas M. McPhee

Survived by his wife, Jane; daughter, Nicole; two stepchildren; 15 grandchildren; and sister, Nancy Galbraith. The McPhee's daughter,

Ste-phanie McPhee-Moser, was murdered Sept. 10, 2001. The following years found Thomas and Jane active in the Delaware County POMC Chapter. During those years, he served as a Contact Person in Pennsylvania. He created the Conference Memorial Video for the 2010 National POMC Conference. It was hosted by the Delaware County Chapter. His wife, Jane, is the current Chapter Leader.

### *St. Louis Chapter Leader Mata Weber lays down the reins of leadership*

Mata Weber's daughter, Karen Weber Hock, was bludgeoned and drowned in 1982. Her mother, Mata Weber, has since been a member of the St. Louis Area Wide POMC Chapter."

As a longtime Chapter Leader, she has testified before legislative committees. And, along with other Chapter members, Weber was invited to visit inmates, working with offenders in the "Impact of Crime on Victim Classes" to increase their sensitivity toward victims "to prevent further victimization." She told them: "Something... good has to come out of what a horrible thing it was. Nobody asked me if I wanted to lose my daughter."



Mata Weber

Now, in ill health, she no longer leads the Chapter and lives with one of her daughters. Chapter leaders now are assessing their leadership plans. Ω

## Parole Block Petitions

(Continued from p. 9)

**Parole Hearing:  
April 14, 2016**

**Booneville Correctional Facility  
Booneville, Missouri**

**RE: William Kates  
CDC#: 01017013**

On July 4, 2005, William Kates shot and killed Nancy Hixon-Broadaway, 56, while she was sitting on her patio enjoying a 4th of July celebration. Kates drove by Nancy's house around 11 pm and asked for his girlfriend, who was

attending a party there. People standing outside said she was not there, even though she was. Kates became angry, drove a short distance, then fired several shots from his car before fleeing. At least one bullet struck Nancy and she died on the patio.

Kates was convicted of second degree murder, armed criminal action, and unlawful use of a weapon. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison. If paroled, he would have served only 10 years and 5 months.

**RELEASED Ω**



# Goodbye to Goodbye

*SURVIVORS*



[Long a friend, speaker, and workshop leader at POMC conferences, Darcie Sims died in February 2014. Her infant son's death taught her about bereavement, and that led her to becoming an international grief counselor. All homicide-victim survivors have benefitted from her wise counsel.]

"I didn't get to say goodbye." As a therapist, I have listened to thousands of bereaved people lament about the last words they spoke to their loved ones. So many of them have wept in grief over not saying goodbye. So much grief has been spent on not saying a farewell; so much additional hurt has been felt because someone did not get to say goodbye.

Sermons have been preached, books and poetry written about saying goodbye. Pictures have been painted, tears caught in bronze and sculpted arms left empty in the lament of goodbye. Almost no one believes there might be a reason to say goodbye, now—today! Most days are simple, ordinary ones and there seems no special reason to say goodbye. Hardly anyone knows it will be the last day or the last time.

Why do we spend so much time and grief over not saying goodbye? Why do we wash away the words we did get to say over a lifetime of loving someone with the single lament, "I didn't get to say goodbye"? Why are those words so important that the lack of them creates a lifetime of additional hurt and pain?

Ceremonies are created and designed for the bereaved to say goodbye. We stand in line for hours to express our sympathies to the bereaved and to say "good-bye" to the deceased. Even if we have not seen the deceased in years, it seems especially important to come at the time of death to say goodbye. Funeral directors, mental health professionals, and most of the world seems to believe that it is necessary to say goodbye in order to begin the healing process.

Goodbye? Why would I want to say goodbye? I wasn't through saying hello! Thirty-four years ago, I did get to say goodbye. I knew the end of our son's life was approaching and I got the chance to give one last hug and say one last sentence. I got the chance to say goodbye and I didn't take it. In the last moments of my son's life, and years later, of my parents' lives, I did not say goodbye.

With the very last breath of my son's life, I simply said, "I love you." I was able to be with my mom in her final hours, and I did not say goodbye. I said, "I love you." And although I was not with my dad when he died, the last words I shared with him as I left his home on what was to be his last night, I kissed him and said, "I love you." If you did not get to say goodbye, let go of the hurt you are experiencing. You would not have said

*We each need to take advantage of the moments we have and spend them wisely. Spend them saying, "I love you," instead of wishing you had said goodbye.*

it, even if you had had the chance! You would have said, "I love you."

Goodbye is simply too final; too harsh, too forever. Surely your loved one knew you loved him. Surely your loved one knew you cared. And even if you don't believe they knew, you can do something about that right now. Go outside, find your special star, and with all your might, whisper, speak or yell out loud, "I LOVE YOU!" Trust me, the universe is listening, and your words of love will travel far to reach the heart of those no longer within hugs' reach. I guess you could yell goodbye, too, if you really want to...but why? Why let the grief of not

saying goodbye rob you of the memories of what you did get to say and how you lived your lives together? Why let the grief of not saying goodbye steal away the joy of knowing your loved one was in your life and still is a thread in your fabric to be woven forever around your heart?

Goodbye? I'd rather live my life so that my last words are, "I love you." We never know when an ordinary day will turn into a day that gets marked down in the family history as a not-so-ordinary day. But all of us can live our lives so we can leave with few regrets. Do not let the events of the past few years rob you of your hope, your passion, your joy in living. Moments, just moments, one after another, each special and sacred in its own way, each waiting to be etched forever on our memories.

Long ago, I learned that any moment can be the last one, so I no longer waste too many of my moments. Oh yes, there are days when I simply plod through the moments, not even aware of their passing. It often takes a cataclysmic event to shake me out of my reverie and reawaken me to the specialness of each moment.

We each need to take advantage of the moments we have and spend them wisely. Spend them saying, "I love you," instead of wishing you had said goodbye. Make a commitment to never let another moment pass without being aware of its passing.

Goodbye has always been a part of my life because I grew up military, married military, and gave birth to military. My address changes more often than the weather. But I gave up saying goodbye long ago when I realized that "I love you" lasts far longer and feels so much better. Goodbye? I'm not through saying, "Hello," and, "I love you!" Ω

[Reprinted from *Grief Digest Magazine*, Vol. 8, Issue 1, July 2010.]

# Mother of murdered son—registered as a sex offender—endures years of grief

## Sex registries pose this danger

In April of 2006, a young man from Nova Scotia, Canada, shot and killed two convicted sex offenders living in Maine whose information he had found on the state’s internet registry. The assailant shot himself as police attempted to capture him.

One of the victims was William Elliot, 19, convicted of having consensual sex with his 15-year-old girlfriend. His mother, Shirley Turner, said, “Without the registry, he would still be alive today. I would still have him.” She spoke to Human Rights Watch about the crime.

“William had a girlfriend. He was 19 and she was 15 [three weeks from being 16, the age of consent in Maine]. Her parents found out, and William was convicted of statutory rape. William was in prison for about two years.

“William did okay adjusting to life after prison. He was always a quiet and really sweet person, and he mostly kept to himself. He didn’t really have any neighbors, because his trailer was in the woods. He liked it, it was quiet. William was working in construction.

“One day, I came home from work, and my husband told me to sit down. He told me that William had been killed that morning. I knew something had happened to my son because I woke up from sleep with a start.”

“The murderer came to William’s home after finding out about him on Maine’s sex offender registry. He thought William was a pedophile. The man shot William in the face. William was found in his doorstep, so police think the man shot him when William opened the door.



**Shirley Turner and friend, Paul, grieve upon hearing that her son, Wm. Elliott, 24, was murdered.**

“It is impossible to make sense of any of this. Once, William said that he wanted to be known as a person who shook everyone’s hand and smiled at everyone he met. He was not a violent person, but he was killed because someone thought he was.”

The story of William's murder was spread by media coverage, including *The Boston Globe*, two (local, 5 & 7) TV channels, "60 Minutes," and Hualdo. Foreign coverage included England, where the BBC showed Queen Elizabeth an account of the crime.

Someone unknown to Turner sent her a copy of *SURVIVORS*, the POMC newsletter. She has been getting it ever since. On the tenth anniversary of William's death, she contacted Dan Levey, using the phone number found in the newsletter. As this article goes to press, she is preparing to move and will contact the Maine POMC Chapter. **Ω**

*[Adapted from an interview with Shirley Turner and material from No Easy Answers: Sex Offender Laws in the US.]*

## New Kentucky Chapter in Berea

The National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children now has a Berea chapter, the first in Kentucky, thanks to Madison County resident Sonya Begay.

The new Chapter currently has three board members, including a doctor and members from two families who are homicide-victim survivors. Begay is one of those family members.



**Sonya Begay**

Begay began raising her three grandchildren in 2005 after her son Ruben, temporarily lost custody. A new job working for the Department of Labor’s Native American Program leading her and the children to relocate

from the Richmond, Ky. area to Washington, D.C. However, back in Corinth, Ky., Ruben was murdered in 2010, and she brought the children back to raise them in Madison County. This place was their original home.

Begay added that at the time her middle son relocated to assist his mother.

So now, six years from the tragedy, Begay wants to help others through The Berea POMC Chapter.

“Despite what we had to go through and saw, we endured it,” said Begay. “You can’t really understand until you are in that circumstance.”

Begay explained that when she hears a parent tell their story, she could sympathize, feel and relive her own grief.

“It is such a traumatic thing,” said Begay. “I wouldn’t wish it on my worst enemy. It’s one of the things you are never prepared for. Any type of death is tragic, but with homicide, you have to go through identifying your child’s body, the court, and often seeing the person that shot your son or daughter.

The Berea Chapter of POMC meets the third Monday of each month, from 7 to 9 p.m, at Glades Christian Church, Berea.

A GoFundMe page was set up to fund the group’s trip to the National POMC Conference in Orlando, Fla. **Ω**

# Siblings advise siblings

(Continued from p. 11)

to a worthy cause;

- Talk about sibling and encourage others to allow you to do so;

- Find someone to share your feelings with if you cannot do so with your parents, but try with them.

[From Valley of the Sun newsletter, June 2016]








A banner seen on Facebook captures the point, though it does not refer to homicide victims.

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# SURVIVORS



In memory of a survivor of six million homicide victims who found a purpose for his life and taught the world never to forget –

**Elie Wiesel**  
 (1928-2016)

## Your Donations Help to Maintain the Wall's Physical Beauty

Time and much travel have put stress on the many panels of the Murder Wall... *Honoring Their Memories*, and scratches, nicks, and dents need to be repaired. Many of the cases that are used to transport the Wall have split or broken, handles have fallen off, and the protective material inside each case needs to be replaced.

Currently, the Wall is made up of 32 panels, displaying over 3,500 victims' names, dates of birth and dates of death.

In order to maintain the beauty of the Wall, POMC continues to seek donations to help make some of the repairs. To help, please use the form below. Donations made in memory/honor of a loved one will be in the next issue of *SURVIVORS*.

### POMC-Wall Repair

(Please Print)

Na 5209-1095 \_\_\_\_\_

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ MO: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa: \_\_\_\_\_ MC: \_\_\_\_\_ Am. Express: \_\_\_\_\_ Discover: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: POMC, 4960 Ridge Ave., Suite 2,  
 Cincinnati, OH 45209**

# Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

*For the families and friends of those who have died by violence*

*4960 Ridge Ave, Suite 2*

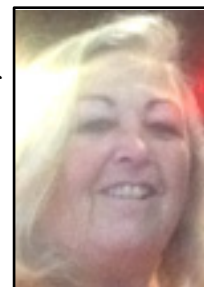
*Cincinnati, OH 45209*

## The only way I'm going to get through this is by helping others

**LAS VEGAS, Nev.** Five years after her son, Dillon, 19, was murdered, Laura Patterson met POMC in San Diego during the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, Sept. 25, 2015. She was in San Diego for the first trial of the accused. The trial wound up with a hung jury (11 to 1).

When she returned to San Diego this year for the second trial, the jury found for the defendant (12-0). Stunned by the outcome, Patterson attended another meeting, and when she returned to Las Vegas, she was determined to start a chapter there. She said she had sought help from other types of support groups,

but hesitated to talk about the circumstances of her son's death in those settings. With POMC, she felt connected. "They were just so supportive when I was there," she said.



Dillon Patterson died July 25, 2010. A couple of months earlier, his mother said, he had sneaked out of his home in Las Vegas and taken a bus to San Diego County to reconnect with his biological family. While there, he visited a city park and there he died, stabbed by a stranger.

As for a POMC chapter, the Desert of Hope POMC Chapter met officially for the first time on July 6. Four local board members have been selected, and Patterson is the Chapter Leader.

The new Chapter recently found a location in the Las Vegas area for the group to hold its meetings. It meets monthly on the first Wednesday from 6:30 -8:30 P.M at the Solutions Wellness Campus/Solutions Recovery,

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A World of Thanks to Our

