When you find a leaky drain, it begs to be fixed. When you hear that screeching metal-on-metal sound while driving your car, you know it is past time to fix the brakes. But when a child dies and you are unable to function due to a broken heart, is it appropriate to seek a fix from your partner? The question, “If it is broken, does it need to be fixed?” is a common dilemma couples face after the death of their child.

We all know people who have a strong need to offer solutions to others’ problems. When a death occurs, this “fix” type immediately begins searching high and low for the right tools to make it better. If they find that one tool does not work, they frantically search for another. In addition, the one to be “fixed” might often look to their partner to fix things for them and can be very disappointed when they realize their partner cannot make them all better.

While a “fixer” can be either a man or a woman, it does seem that dads frequently take on this role after the death of a child. Possibly because they are raised to believe they need to be the protectors of their family, they find it difficult to sit with their partner in a puddle of tears, replaying the injustice and anguish of this tragedy. Often, it seems, men are propelled by a sense of responsibility to take some sort of action - to do something. Undoubtedly, there are many times in a couple’s life where this is a highly valued attribute - when those brakes need fixing, a sound or smell awakens them in the middle of the night, or there is a threat to life or home.

However, after a child dies, there is nothing anyone can do to fix it or make it significantly better. Unfortunately, some individuals do not come to this realization until they are well into the grieving process and have learned the hard way their good intentions are not useful or even wanted.

The more emotional partner (more often than not, the woman) looks to her support system, particularly her mate, to stand by while she dwells, replays, and remembers their child and the full details of the loss experience. She may simply want to relive the moments, even though they are painful. In her own way, she needs to be “in the experience.” And while she may openly share her sadness and frustrations aloud, she is not really looking to be fixed and is not seeking advice about how to move forward. She feels better if she vents, getting it off her chest.

In ordinary times, these two coping styles seem to work for most couples. One is more intuitive and into feelings and might be the one to notice the leak and ask for help. The other might love spending hours at the hard-
ware store looking for exactly the right tool, or at least know what to say when the plumber calls back. This ying and yang probably keeps the relationship in balance.

But everything can go out the window after a child dies. Now, each word and action is measured and noticed. One partner may want the other to cope in “his/her way,” in the manner that seems to work for them. When men don’t cry, talk enough, women often say, “He just doesn't seem to care. He seems to be “over it.” I bet he doesn’t even think about Robby anymore.”

Conversely, men may fear their partners have gone crazy. They worry, “She can’t seem to shake it. I don’t know if she’ll ever be happy again. No matter what I do or say I can’t even get her to smile or want to go out and have fun.” In trying to make her feel better and hiding his sad feelings so as not to add to her pain. She sees this as disinterest and moving on. It is like two ships passing in the night.

This doesn’t need to happen. With direct communication, honesty, and an understanding of each other’s loving motives and goals, relationships can improve.

If you are a problem-solver type person, use that energy to fix things in the house or the car. But when it comes to your partner, I strongly encourage you to hold back. Instead, offer a shoulder to cry on or words of encouragement like “You are right, this is so unfair,” or “I agree, this is a difficult time for me, too.” This is called active listening; you are making time to allow your partner to have and express those feelings. Since you can’t take them away or magically make them better, don’t even try. And, by the way, if you are one who cries or feels deeply sad, offer up that information. It will go a long way toward helping your partner understand where your heart is.

If you are one who grieves by sharing emotions, and you recognize the process you are going through requires sitting in the puddle of pain while you remember and think of your child, let your partner know you can’t be fixed or made better. Try not to ask your partner to be your one-and-only listener on a daily basis, unless that is working for both of you. This can be very hard for someone who is “moving forward” despite their own pain and sadness. Because their feeling of helplessness pile up as they hear over and over how you feel, find others to hear your stories and your thoughts. Write in a journal or to others on the internet. Attend a support group or seek out a counselor. Rely on your partner to be that listener and you may find your relationship in a better place.

Of course, keep the doors of communication open. Be gentle and honest with each other. If you have a strong faith ask for God’s help. You have the opportunity to enhance your relationship and build on this test of strength, endurance and love. Talk and listen to each other. Believe in each other.
Tips for Establishing Healthy, Positive Goals While Navigating the Grieving Process
By Justin Black

Many people who are going through the grieving process will tell you how complex that process is. Grieving can be difficult, messy, and painful, but establishing healthy goals, day by day, can make a positive difference. POMC shares the following tips that will help you set goals while navigating the challenges of the grieving process.

**Adopt or Foster an Animal**
There are many places where you can adopt or foster an animal. It’s a big responsibility, but it can also bring you a lot of happiness while you offer love and safety to an animal who needs it. Several factors are at play, including your budget, but helping an animal may, in turn, assist you during the grieving process.

**Re-evaluate Your Career Goals**
After losing someone they love, many people re-evaluate various aspects of their lives, including their careers. Doing so could help you channel your feelings in a positive direction and make beneficial changes. Start by updating your resume with your latest skills and experience.

**Get Professional Guidance**
There’s nothing wrong with seeking professional help, especially while you’re going through the grieving process. Speaking to someone can help you work through all the complex bereavement feelings when you may not be sure how to go about it. Look for a mental health professional who is a good fit for what you need.

**Move Your Body**
When you’re grieving, and the pain and sadness feel overwhelming, it may be tempting to want to curl up in bed or on the couch and stay there unless you absolutely have to move. However, exercising may help you to feel a little better. Focus on moving your body, and, if possible, do so a bit more each new day than the day before. A few options to consider include going for a walk or run, joining an exercise class, or volunteering to walk shelter animals.

**Start a Nonprofit to Honor Your Loved One**
If your loved one had a passion for a particular cause, you could start a nonprofit devoted to causes such as religion, education, animal welfare, or human rights. Of course, starting a nonprofit is not without its challenges. One of the biggest hurdles is attracting enough donations to sustain your organization. To do this, you will need to build a strong base of support and create an effective marketing and fundraising strategy. Additionally, if you form a nonprofit corporation, it’ll be easier to access grants.

**Stay Connected**
You may not feel up to conversing with loved ones while grieving, but it’s important to hold onto your support system. It’s not bad to have alone time but try to answer calls and messages as much as possible and avoid turning down offers for a friendly visit. It can also be beneficial for you to reach out to your loved ones, especially when you’re having a tough day.

**Work on Little Projects**
Make a list of small projects that may help you focus your energy on something positive. It doesn’t have to be anything major; consider tasks you’ve been avoiding for a while. For example, clean out a junk drawer, sort through the pantry, or reorganize your closet. Each task you accomplish could help you feel good about what you achieved.

**Take It One Day at a Time**
Grieving is a day-by-day process that takes work, but you can start by doing something positive every day, whether it’s living healthier, finding mental health support, or starting a nonprofit in your loved one’s honor. Gradual healing is the best healing.
A Message from the President

With Connie Sheely

POMC Supports Justice for Murder Victims Act

National POMC has submitted a letter of support for the Justice for Murder Victims Act. This bill was introduced by two senators in the United States Senate and would nationally eliminate the 13th century requirement that in order to initiate a homicide prosecution, the victim must have died within a year and a day from an assault. In other words, if a victim is assaulted and lives for over a year before succumbing to their injuries, murder charges would not be initiated. This outdated rule has resulted in tragic outcomes, especially in domestic violence cases, denying justice to murder victims and their families. Believe it or not, some states still recognize this ancient law. Fortunately, most states have already abolished the rule. The Justice for Murder Victims Act would be a federal law that would eliminate this practice across the entire United States. For obvious reasons, the National Board of Trustees unanimously recommended National POMC to speak out in support of the Justice for Murder Victims Act.

Connie Sheely
POMC National Board of Trustees, President

WELCOME NEW NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER

JAMES “JAY” GORSKI
My 30-year-old son, David was murdered on December 23, 2016. Within a matter of a couple months, I along with my wife began to experience the support of POMC when we started attending the monthly meetings of the DuPage County (IL) and Beyond Chapter. What I found was a group of individuals who were compassionate, supportive, and understanding of my situation as my family and I embarked on our grief journeys and our journey through the criminal justice system. The compassion, support and understanding I encountered at the local chapter carried over to my participation in a POMC grief retreat as well as attending POMC’s Annual Conferences. I believe in “paying it forward” and have taken my experience as a survivor of a homicide victim to 1) author/co-author a couple of papers dealing with victim impact statements and the treatment of victims by members of the criminal justice system and 2) speak at a local event during National Crime Victims Week.
Hello Everyone;

Another year has gone by and we are now well into 2023. I hope that it is a better year than 2022. Do you know that statistics show that there were over 600 mass shootings last year. And they were everywhere in the food court of a mall, Walmart, elementary school, the supermarket, nightclubs, a college field trip, a 4th of July parade, a medical building, a presbyterian church and also a car show. What is this saying about the violence in the United States? There are no safe places to go or be anymore and it is out of control. I’m sure it says a lot more but those are the two things that I think of. I hope that 2023 will be a peaceful year and the violence will stop. I know that all of you hope for the same thing. Will there ever be an answer on how to stop all this violence and what can we do to help to stop it?

These are all the mass shootings that doesn’t even count for the single homicides that are also happening that don’t get mentioned in the news but the family still has the same devastating, traumatic loss of their loved one. They still have to enter the justice system, but they are alone with only their family and friends to support them.

We have over 45 Chapters all across the U.S. for survivors to attend a support group meeting to get the emotional help that they need and we continue to open new Chapters and have Contact Persons from every area. We are offering the Effective Leadership Training in January and February to help our POMC volunteers with more understanding of how to support other survivors. The training is 3 virtual sessions over 3 Saturdays in the month.

We have started our Grief Retreats after Covid stopped them for a couple of years. We offered one in October 2022 in Cincinnati with 9 attendees from different areas of the U.S. attending. The whole weekend was spent talking about their loved ones, and for several of them the tragedy was very recent and they have not had a trial, conviction or arrest, as of yet. When they left they felt a sense of healing and the comfort that they needed to face the grief journey that they have ahead of them. We scheduled another Grief Retreat on October 6 - 8, 2023, keep checking the website, so that you can register. There are scholarships to attend the Grief Retreat so it is very little cost for you.

Also POMC is working on the 37th National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia which was actually scheduled in 2020 but had to be cancelled because of COVID. The conference is from Thursday to Sunday, July 20-23, 2023 at the Atlanta Hilton Airport. There will be over 40 workshops on Friday and Saturday, the Murder Wall Unveiling on Thursday evening and the Memorial Ceremony on Friday night. I know that you will find lots of comfort and emotional support at the conference. There are usually over 200 other Survivors that have had a loved one murdered and they are all there to get support and learn from the workshops and be with others that feel the same way they do. I hope that we see you at the National Conference this year in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lots of love,

Bev
The National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children's fourth Grief Retreat Weekend was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 7 - 9, 2022. There were 9 attendees from all over the United States. One of the attendees wrote “This retreat was amazing, the handouts/worksheets, discussions allowed me to process. I was able to take my “mask” off and be me, I didn’t have to pretend I was able to be authentic. I have learned of other resources that could help me on this journey. I truly appreciate POMC thank you, and God bless you.” Another attendee said, “The Grief Retreat was positive. It allowed me to get away from some of the pressures I keep in the pit of my stomach. I wasn’t even aware it was there until I began talking and the hollow feeling started easing up slowly but surely. I laughed until I cried that was something I hadn’t done in awhile. It’s been over a year and some months.”

The National Office of Parents Of Murdered Children will host the next Grief Retreat Weekend, October 6 - 8, 2023.

Names Left to Right: Patty, Linda, Christine, Shelsa, Rochelle, Penny, Fabio, Tammy & Cathy

The Courage to Grieve, Grief Retreat Weekend

37th Annual National Conference
July 20 - 23, 2023

HILTON ATLANTA AIRPORT
1031 VIRGINIA AVENUE
ATLANTA, GA  30354
1-800-Hiltons (445-8667)

For more information, contact natlpomc@pomc.org, call (513) 721-5683 or view conference brochure on website https://pomc.org

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The POMC National Conference Committee members are excited to invite you to join us for the 2023 National POMC Conference in Atlanta, Georgia!
A POEM WRITTEN A FEW YEARS AFTER THE MURDER OF MY SON

The above poem was written a few years after the murder of my son, Rob. He was murdered in 1986. The third year after his murder, I took on the position of Chapter Leader for the Greater Portland Area Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children. I had been to over two years of meetings and saw that others were drowning in a sea of grief as well. Somehow, it helped knowing that others were riding the same emotional roller coaster too. I knew I was not alone; however, the murder of my son played repeatedly in my mind. Knowing that others understood helped me see that the rage I was feeling was the same rage that kept us alive from the start of the first humans on earth. Early men and women had to fight to survive and fight even harder to protect their young and more vulnerable. Rage at what could harm them saved humankind. How full of rage would one have to be to stand up to a dinosaur? Murderers are the dinosaurs! They are the predators. Sadly, co-victims must learn this so they do not blame themselves. What we could have done or should not have done keeps us from forgiving ourselves. It is the murderer who committed the murder! The co-victims I met at POMC were kindhearted, empathetic, open-minded, loving, nonjudgmental, and my friends. They were there for me and it was and still is a safe place to be. I hope those who want to understand about the aftermath of homicide will never be in my shoes, however, in order to help others, one must know what they are facing.

It was painful after Rob’s murder for me to go to church because I could not stand to look at a crucifix. How could God let them do what they did to his only son? What I never questioned before, I did then. It was even agonizing to see that life still goes on. I knew that our life would never be the same. I was blessed to have my husband, my three daughters, other family members, and best friends. Yet, homicide causes post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This unthinkable rage eats at your very soul. I am sharing this with you because I want you to understand what co-victims of homicide face. If you have the chance, just listen to and not judge a co-victim of homicide. I have seen hundreds of members at meetings so enraged that it was almost

Cont’d on page 8
shocking. Yet, they did not act on it. Having justice in their case will also help make a difference. Sadly, having PTSD causes their loved ones to be murdered over and over again because the scenario plays over in their minds. PTSD is an ugly part of homicide.

The question, “Why!” plays repeatedly in the minds of most co-victims of homicide as well. According to the “Office for Victims of Crime, OVC,” the current number of deaths from homicide in 2018 was 16,214, published by Statista Research Department, October 9, 2019. When looking at international comparison, the U.S. murder rate is still higher than other countries. In 2012, Germany’s murder rate was 0.8 compared to the United States at 4.7.

According to OVC, “The violent, unexpected death of a family member, or close friend is one of the most traumatic experiences a person can face, and it prompts a wide range of emotional reactions. Co-victims also may find that the “normal” grief of losing a loved one is further complicated by the trauma and stigma of the crime. To have a loved one die is painful enough. Having to live with how your loved one was murdered is beyond comprehension. In my son’s case, it took the murderers forty minutes to murder him. As despicable as this was, other families live with their loved one suffering a longer period. When co-victims have the need to tell their story, there are times when someone will not want to hear the horror of it. Co-victims can be shunned by others who do not want to hear. This causes them to avoid telling and feeling even more alone in their grief.

Family members feel that they have little control over what is going to happen or what is happening in the courtroom or the investigation. Some of the reactions suffered by family or friends are: shocked by the suddenness, by the violence, facing feelings of guilt, the fact that the criminal justice system has to be involved, what their loved one suffered, and that their loved one’s life style was judged. Some people also use “blame the victim mentality” so that way it could never happen to a member of their family. Co-victims are even asked what their loved one could have done that someone murdered them. When our loved one is murdered, our lives are changed forever. We can only hope to get to a “softer new normal.” Having a strong justice system working for co-victims is pertinent for their loved ones’ defense and for protection of society. Co-Victims are sometimes re-victimized by the justice system.

Worst of all, homicide cannot be resolved. It can never be undone. No matter the sentence handed down, they will never see their loved one again. Yet, receiving justice and respect in the courtroom can make a difference. It means so much to family and friends left behind. It is what allows them to be able to get to a “new normal.” One of the motives that made me want to stay on as a leader for POMC was because of the support and empathy my family, friends and I received from Clackamas County’s District Attorney’s office. Victim Assistance, detectives, and police officers from Clackamas County were also outstanding. There were three men involved in my son’s murder and each one had a trial or hearing. All were found guilty. Justice is imperative.

Trials are a nightmare. Usually co-victims are informed as much as possible about their case before the trial starts so that they will not be shocked during the trial. In saying that, no one knows everything that will be brought up in a trial. In the courtroom, the mother of one of the men who murdered Rob said that her son told her that when he hit Rob on the head with a bat, it made a terrible noise. Being in the courtroom, we could not respond or do anything to disrupt the trial. There are other families that hear much worse.

Co-victims are the most vulnerable after the murder of their loved one. For their future well-being, it is apparent that the longer it takes to get justice, the harder it will be on those left behind. Co-victims of homicide are constantly stopped from any type of bereavement because of their case. The justice system has no place for any anguish. If the murderer is apprehended, there is not time to mourn the loss of their loved one. There are hearings to attend, meetings with police officers, the media, district attorneys, people who care and need to know, people who are just interested in a gruesome story and those who just want to be able to tell others...
what they know. Having dedicated people working on your case makes a difference. Unsolved cases are the most horrific. Nearly forty per cent of homicide cases are not solved. Co-victims put many things in their life on hold when cases are unsolved. There is always a feeling of doom in their lives. Some co-victims may even live in fear that they also could be murdered if they do not know why their loved one was murdered.

When a murder happens, if there was a divorce, or there are stepparents involved, many of the mourners may not be recognized. I have witnessed stepparents who grieved more than biological parents. Fathers are even left out of the grieving process because most people ask the fathers how the mothers are doing rather than how they are doing. The same is for stepchildren and even biological brothers and sisters. There are grandparents who have invested more time and love in their grandchildren than the parents. It is imperative that all relationships to victims of homicide are recognized. Though some co-victims do not discuss their loss, it is there forever.

Rituals and commemorations are both important as well as necessary. Poetry is a way many of us can express what is in our hearts. I do classes on writing poetry at workshops and it always amazes me the quality of the poetry many people write. Some of the best poems that I have ever read come from parents who have never written a poem before. Men write them equally as well.

The taking of a life is the most serious crime one can commit. One of the three men who murdered my son was released from a juvenile center at eighteen years of age even though they said he was capable of murdering someone if released. Other members in our chapter have had to deal with murderers who were released even though they were considered dangerous offenders and had murdered before. This needs to stop. The people in Oregon need a more serious approach for protection of society by dangerous offenders and adequate sentences for murder.

Please know that I used my case so that I could speak from my heart. There are so many cases that are worse or involve more than one child being murdered. Their story deserves to be told too.

**PLEASE ASK**
By Barbara Taylor Hudson

Someone asked me about you today.
It’s been so long since anyone has done that.
It felt so good to talk about you,
To share my memories of you,
To simply say your name out loud.
She asked me if I minded talking about
What happened to you….
Or would it be too painful to speak of it.
I told her I think of it every day
And speaking about it helps me to release
The tormented thoughts swirling around in my head.
She said she never realized the pain
Would last this long….
She apologized for not asking sooner,
I told her, “Thanks for asking.”
I don’t know if it was curiosity
Or concern that made her ask,
But told her, “Please do it again sometime soon.”
Maintaining the Beauty of the MURDER WALL...Honoring Their Memories

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 34 panels, displaying over 4,000 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.

WALL BOOKLETS HONOR THEIR MEMORIES

POMC’s Murder Wall...Honoring their Memories is a beautiful memorial to the more than 4,000 murder victims whose names appear on the Wall. Behind each name there is a face and a story of a person whose life was taken prematurely. It is time to tell those stories.

Memorial booklets, which travel with the Wall, are compiled as an ongoing project of National POMC. Cost is $20.00 to include one page, front and back without a photo, or $30.00 if you wish to have a photo included. The photos are non-returnable and must be no larger than 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches.

Forms are available on the POMC Web Site at: www.pomc.org or by calling National at (513) 721-5683.

Donations to Maintain the Beauty of the Murder Wall... Honoring Their Memories

Thank you for your donation to maintain the Murder Wall:

POMC-Wall Repair
(Please Print)

Name:______________________________________
In memory/honor of:__________________________
Address:____________________________________
City, State, Zip:______________________________
Email Address:______________________________
Amount enclosed: $_________ Check:____
Money Order :_____ Visa:_____ MC:______
Am. Express:_____ Dis:_______
Card Number:_______________________________
Expiration date:________________
Security Code (back of card):________________

Return to:
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.
635 W. 7th Street, Suite 307
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203
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 **February 28, 2023**. Names after this date will appear in the next issue.

The Wall consists of solid walnut panels with each holding 120 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 inside this edition.) Not only is this donation a tribute to the memory of your loved one, but it is a tribute that will guarantee that the memory of those we miss so deeply will survive forever. 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.

### Murder Wall...Honoring Their Memories Order Form

Anyone interested in having their loved one’s name inscribed and permanently mounted on the Wall should fill out the order form below. Make checks payable to “POMC Wall,” or for your convenience, Discover, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted.

Send to: Parents Of Murdered Children, 635 W. 7th Street, Suite 307, Cincinnati, Ohio 45203

**LOVED ONES INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allyssa G. Salazar</td>
<td>9/21/92 - 7/6/20</td>
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<td>Francisco Esparza</td>
<td>3/9/83 - 9/13/08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hagen Eric Mills</td>
<td>8/9/90 - 5/19/20</td>
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<td>AJ Soles</td>
<td>1/28/96 - 9/11/20</td>
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<td>D’Anthony McDonald</td>
<td>6/15/93 - 6/14/13</td>
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<td>12/13/73 - 3/27/19</td>
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<td>Daniel James Johnson</td>
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**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Choice of payment (check one): _____ Pay in full for $75.00 OR _____ 3 payments of $25.00 each

Payment type: _____ MC _____ Visa _____ Am. Express _____ Discover _____ Check

**Card Number** __________________________ **Exp. Date** _______ **Security Code** _______

**SUBMITTERS INFORMATION**

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The name will be added to the panel upon payment in full. Once your plate has been permanently mounted on the panel, you will be notified. New panels join the Wall as they are completed.
Parole Block Program

With Bev Warnock

1817
Convicted murderers have been denied parole through POMC’s Parole Block Program!

Support the Parole Block Program
In Memory of:
Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan-Broe
From LC & Sherry Nolan
Janet Leonhardt
From Carol Leonhardt
Howard & Ann Klerk
Memory of Lisa Marie Weaver
Central Ohio Chapter

Hearing Results:

Denied Petitions:

Released:
- Rene Enriquez - Yu Chen
- Amy Bosley - Dwight Tucker - William Maxwell

LETTERS FROM THE PAROLE BLOCK PROGRAM

Hi Bev,

Want to let you know Dan’s killer was paroled yesterday.
Thanks for all your help getting the petitions out to the chapters. We appreciate it.

Bonnie and Gary Everbeck

PAROLE HEARINGS TO BE HELD

Hearing Date: April 2023
Douglas Hinton Bell ID#: 04690700 TID#: 00618508

On February 12, 1991, Douglas Hinton Bell entered the home of Carol Spaete where he raped and murdered her. Bell was Carol’s neighbor who befriended her and stalked her. After being questioned by the police, Bell fled the state under an assumed name. The FBI caught up with him in Georgia after 3 months and brought him back to Texas for trial.

Bell confessed to the crime without remorse and was convicted of sexual assault and murder and was sentenced to 50 years in prison. This was a violent and heinous crime for which Bell should serve his full sentence in prison. He will have served only 31 years when he is considered for parole.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Ms. Raven Kazen, Director,
Victim Services Division,
8712 Shoal Creek Blvd. Suite 265
PO Box 13401
Austin, TX 78711-3401
E-mail: victim.svc@tdcj.state.tx.us
Fax: 512-452-0825
On January 23, 1990, Melinda Snyder (22) was raped and murdered by Edward Cronell (23) who was the realtor for the house that Melinda was renting a room in. 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 + 30 years but eligible for parole after 20 years. He will have only served 28 years when he is considered for parole.

SC Dept of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services, PO Box 207, Columbia, SC  29202, Attn:  Parole Board Chair

On October 24, 1993, Matthew Svanberg murdered Dennis John Folk during a robbery of the Getty Gas Station in Ridge, NY. Dennis was shot in the head and left to die as Matthew Svanberg fled with his partner in an awaiting getaway car. It took almost five years to apprehend the pair.

Svanberg was convicted of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 25 years to life. He completed a program and applied for early parole in December 2022. He was denied and his parole hearing is scheduled for May. He will have served 24 ½ years when he is coming up for parole.

Pre-Hearing Correspondence, 1220 Washington Avenue Bldg. 4, Albany, NY  12226-2050

On October 16, 2005, Nicole Crystal Sinkule, 25 years old was murdered by Eric Nathaniel Marum, as she slept with a broken leg. He beat her with the claw part of a hammer over 13 times crushing her skull and leaving the hammer imbedded in her head! He then fled the scene to wash his hands in the ocean. He has a history of drug and alcohol abuse as well as Domestic Violence and has failed many times at recovery.

Marum was convicted to second degree murder and was sentenced to 16 years to life. He will have served only 16 1/2 years when he is considered for parole.

Board of Parole Proceedings, PO Box 4036, Sacramento, CA  95812

On November 13, 1988, in the early morning hours, Jeffery Blair savagely beat, raped, and strangled Bridget Ann Buxton. He threw her body in the Mad River, like a discarded piece of trash. Bridge’s body was not found until the following day when two fishermen witnessed her body floating in the river. Blair was paroled in March of 1987, serving time for previous offenses, and ended his parole when he murdered Bridge.

Blair was convicted of murder, abuse of a corpse, and com illegal conveyance to detention facility. He was sentenced to 15 years to life for the murder, 3-5 years for the abuse of a corpse and 2 years for the last charge. He will have served only 35 years when he is considered for parole.

Ohio Parole Board, Office of Victim Services, 4545 Fisher Rd. Suite D, Columbus, OH  43228
Thanks to all those who have chosen POMC as their charity of choice. Your donation has helped thousands of surviving family members; stopped the early release of 1,817 convicted murderers; assisted in POMC’s Second Opinion Services; provided the National newsletter, Survivors, to those who cannot afford it and so much more. POMC’s outreach would not be able to exist without your continued support.

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<td>Texas Wake N Scrape Car Show: Matt Bitchez &amp; Naomi Uresti</td>
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<td>Monika L. Wise</td>
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Kyle Riley: Kyle was found deceased on January 30, 2013, inside a home in the 4800 block of South Lantana Place, near South Kolb and East Irvington Rd. by officers responding to a 911 call about a shooting in the home just before 9 a.m. Police believe the shooting happened between 7 and 8:30 a.m. Anyone with information is urged to contact 88-CRIME. Tipsters remain anonymous. Call: (520) 882-7463 (collect calls accepted), Mobile App: “P3TIPS”, free download for androids or I-Phones (data charges may apply) or Type (online): www.88crime.org. There is a reward of up to $2500 for information leading to the arrest of individual(s) responsible.

In Honor of
Xenni Dior
From Desiree Severs
Ashley Hill
From Joanne Annalora

In Memory of: Tim Garsow

Facebook Fundraisers (individuals who created a fundraiser)
Jessica Patterson
Joelle Armstead
Kerri McKeever Stidham
Kristina Marie
LaToya Stewart
LaWanda Howse
Lyn Todd
Michelle Crownover
Miranda Cool
Nancy Lynn Schmidt
Polly White Motley
Rebecca A. Smitley
Ruth Eason
Stephanie Miller
Tabatha Johnson
Tina Carroll Fischl
YM Runnels

Lucky Mint Milkshake
“For the upcoming St. Patty's Day”

Ingredients:
48 oz. Mint Chocolate Chip Ice Cream
1 ½ cups Whole Milk or Irish Cream
1 cup Classic Roast Coffee, brewed and chilled
½ cup Whipped Dairy Topping
Chocolate Syrup, to taste

Directions:
- In a blender combine ice cream, Irish cream, and coffee. Pulse until fully blended.
- Divide mixture between 4 glasses. Top each shake with 2 tablespoons of whipped topping and desired amount of chocolate syrup.

IN MEMORIAM
Roy Ballesteros

We are deeply saddened to inform you that Roy Ballesteros, from Colorado Springs, has recently died. His niece, Angelita Francisca Montaño, was murdered in December of 2009. Roy donated his time and talent as the DJ artist at the 2019 POMC National Conference in Denver, Colorado. He did a great job and we were very grateful for the service he provided.

POMC sends our deepest sympathies to his wife and all of his family.

POMC BROCHURES
All POMC brochures have been updated with our new address. Please contact office at natlpomc@pomc.org or (513)721-5683 to order.
-Making the Difference - MINE - Murder Wall - Parole Block Program - POMC Main - Sibling Grief - The Courage to Grieve
Contact Person/Chapter Leaders/State Coordinator Corner

With Sherry Nolan

We want to take this opportunity to thank the following volunteers for the valuable services that they 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/Chapter Development at: 513-721-5683 or snolan@pomc.org.

Thank you to the following Chapters for dedication, compassion, and selflessness shown through their continued efforts to provide ongoing emotional support to others through phone calls, email, support group meetings, court accompaniment, local events bringing about awareness, education, and advocacy to victims of crime, and remembrance programs for the surviving family members who’s loved ones lives were taken from them.

IN THIS 2023 ANNIVERSARY, POMC ACKNOWLEDGES THOSE CHAPTERS WITH ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION THAT WERE SIGNED BETWEEN JANUARY 1ST AND APRIL 30TH OF THE YEAR THEY BECAME A PROBATIONARY CHAPTER:

- Metro Detroit Chapter/MI - 41 years
- Los Angeles Chapter/CA - 11 years
- Valley of the Sun Chapter/AZ - 37 years
- Central Minnesota Chapter/MN - 23 years
- Central Philadelphia Chapter/PA - 2 years
- Greater Cincinnati Area Chapter/OH - 22 years
- Kentuckiana Chapter/KY-IN - 4 years
- Sampson County Chapter/NC - 4 years
- Queens Chapter/NY - 20 years
- Sumter Chapter/SC - 9 years
- Greater Memphis Chapter/TN - 3 years
- Southeast Minnesota Chapter/MN - 25 years
- Sacramento California Area Chapter/CA - 15 years
- Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter/MA - 15 years
- Maine Chapter/ME - 33 years
- St. Louis Area Wide Chapter/MO-IL - 38 years
- Southern Arizona Chapter/AZ - 2 years
- Delaware County Chapter/PA - 28 years
- Southwest Florida Chapter/FL - 24 years
- Miami-Dade County Chapter/FL - 40 years
- Kansas City Area Wide Chapter/KS-MO - 33 years
- Greater Portland Area Chapter/OR - 41 years
- Central Ohio Chapter/OH - 33 years
- Central Missouri Area Wide Chapter/MO - 15 years

CP/SC/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. The deadline for receipt of the next newsletter articles is April 30, 2023. Please note: due to deadlines or overflow of articles, etc., 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.

There are hundreds of survivors across the U.S. who volunteer for the National Organization of POMC as Chapter Leaders, Co-Leaders, Contact Persons and State Coordinators. If 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 need someone to offer support services through phone, email, support group meetings, & court accompaniment, etc.:

- Alabama
- District of Columbia
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Rhode Island
- South Dakota
- Utah
- Vermont
- West Virginia
- Virginia
- Wyoming

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. The deadline for receipt of the next newsletter articles is April 30, 2023. Please note: due to deadlines or overflow of articles, etc., 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.
IN MEMORIAM

Recognizing those who served POMC as a Chapter Leader, Co-Leader, Contact Person and/or Anniversary Card Writer.

PATRICIA GIOIA  On Thursday, September 8, Patricia Maye Margaret Malone Gioia, devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother, friend and public servant passed away peacefully at the age of 92. She is predeceased by her parents, Margaret and John Malone, and brother Martin. Patricia was raised in New York City and graduated cum laude from William Cullen Bryant High School. With an early passion for the Catholic Church, she met and later married Vito Gioia, with whom she raised eight children in Niskayuna, NY. She was later married to Moises Riano. She is survived by her seven children (predeceased by Mary Regina), 15 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

After raising her family, Patricia finished her bachelor's degree from Empire State College in 1975 with a degree in Political Science and Government. She was the Executive Secretary for NY State Senator Franz Leichter for over 20 years. She was a woman devoted to her causes and passionate about social justice. Early on, she was committed to the church via the Catholic Family Movement, then proceeded to oppose the Vietnam War (with concerns for her 5 sons), which vaulted her into national, state and local politics, running for local office twice. She was the Treasurer of Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID) for several decades and the founder and Chapter Leader of the Albany/Capital District Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children (POMC) for almost 30 years. She received multiple awards for her outstanding community service advocating for victims' rights and supporting the loved ones of murdered family members, including her award in 2014 as a Schenectady Patroon and multiple awards recognizing her service to POMC. She was so proud of her NYC upbringing and Irish heritage and held strong to her core liberal beliefs as a Democrat. She authored several books including "The Berkeley Marina Murders: One Family's Story" detailing her account of her own daughter's murder. She loved hiking in the northeast mountains, was an outstanding baker and a very good Italian cook for an Irishwoman!

NEW CHAPTER

One new Chapter has joined the National POMC family recently and has opened their door to offer support:

The Northwest Ohio Chapter of POMC

Chapter Leader: Aviance Hill (Parent)
Toledo, Ohio
567-219-1616
aviancenhill@gmail.com
NWOPOMC@gmail.com

Co-Leader: Marquita Ford (Family Member)
Toledo, Ohio
419-508-6586
1mz.meford@gmail.com

NEW CONTACT PEOPLE

One new Contact Person has joined the National POMC family recently to offer support:

Robert Foretich (Parent), Burlington, Washington, 360-919-4594, rmforetich@gmail.com

PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN, INC. (POMC) headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio is the only national self-help organization designed solely to offer emotional support and information about surviving the loss of a loved one to murder. It was founded by Charlotte and Robert Hullinger in 1978, three months after their daughter, Lisa was murdered.

"It began out of our personal need, not out of any altruistic motives,” Charlotte Hullinger says. “From it developed the realization that most people don’t have any idea of what it’s like to have a child murdered.” Based on the idea that grief must be shared, Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc., was born. From its quiet birth, POMC has expanded to include other family members and friends who are survivors. POMC now has Chapters and Contact Persons across the United States and provides assistance and support to thousands of survivors each year.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the many Contact Persons and State Coordinators throughout the U.S. who also offer valuable services to those survivors in their state who reach out to them for additional support, especially when there is not a POMC Chapter nearby. These volunteers are willing to spend time talking, and especially listening, to others about their loss. Let us recognize all of them for offering continuous supportive services to others for many years.
ATTENTION:
NEW ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP THROUGH FACEBOOK.
Are you on Facebook? If so make sure to join our Facebook support group which is being used as a topic forum to talk among one another, share stories of your loved one and lean on one another for support. You can join the group at www.facebook.com/groups/POMCOFFICIAL.

Please note, this is the ONLY official online POMC support group. If you belong to other groups claiming to be POMC please be aware that they are not affiliated with or representatives of POMC.

We still have our National page on Facebook as well which is used for updates within the organization and National Office as well as other important information. Again, this is the ONLY official page for POMC (besides Chapter pages) so please be aware if you are linked with other pages claiming to be a POMC Facebook account. You can access our National Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NationalPOMC.

*REMINIDER*
Has something changed? Please, let POMC know if your name, address, email or phone number have changed. Call us toll free at (888) 818-7662 or email us at natlpomc@pomc.org

POMC Catalog Available
POMC’s “Journey Through Grief” catalog is available by contacting POMC at: (513) 721-5683. The catalog can also be downloaded from our website at: www.pomc.org.
The catalog provides color photos and a listing for all POMC items: books, bumper stickers, brochures, clothing, magnets, music, etc.
Information on items for POMC’s National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, special gifts, memorials, and tributes are also included in the catalog.
Contact POMC today for your free copy.

Our future depends on you!
Please remember the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children in your will and estate planning.
Thank you for keeping us in mind.

Dedication Page Information
Dedication Pages are included in each publication of the Survivors Newsletters. Not only is this a way to memorialize our loved ones, it also helps to defray the cost of publishing the newsletter. We offer this opportunity to pay tribute with poems, photos (black and white only), letters/loving thoughts or special requests.

The prices for dedication pages are as follows:
$40.00 for a quarter page, $75.00 for a half page or $140.00 for a full page.

Send item and appropriate donation to “Dedication Page,” POMC, 635 W. 7th Street, Suite 307, Cincinnati, OH 45203. Please include your name and daytime phone number in case we have to contact you for clarification.
Survivors Newsletter Subscription

Please find enclosed $15.00 for my annual subscription (three issues) for the Survivors Newsletter ($25.00 outside the United States). Please consider adding an extra subscription fee to help defray the cost for someone who cannot afford to subscribe.

(Please Print)

Name:_____________________________________
Address:____________________________________
___________________________________________
City, State, Zip:______________________________
Email Address:______________________________
Phone number: (___)_________________________
Amount enclosed: $_________ for _______ year (s)
Payment method: ___Check    __Visa   __MasterCard
                          __American Express    __Discover
Card number:_______________________________
Expiration date:_____________________________
Enclosed is an extra $__________ donation for someone in need and is given in:
Memory of:_________________________________
Honor of:___________________________________

All those donating an extra gift ‘in loving memory of’, or ‘in honor of’ will be listed in the next issue of the Survivors newsletter. To have POMC send a letter acknowledging your gift to the family, please provide family’s name, address, city, state, and zip code.

Return to:
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.
635 W. 7th Street, Suite 307
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203
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