LAST CHANCE

37th Annual National Conference
July 20 - 23, 2023

The POMC National Conference Committee members are excited to invite you to join us for the 2023 National POMC Conference in Atlanta, Georgia!

HILTON ATLANTA AIRPORT
1031 VIRGINIA AVE
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

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Submit Photo for Video Deadline</th>
<th>June 30, 2023 (no exceptions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailed Donations must be received by</td>
<td>June 30, 2023</td>
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2023 Workshop Topics

There were over 20,000 homicides in the U.S. in 2021. Besides the tremendous loss of life, there is pain and suffering for remaining family members and close friends. The Center for Victim Research estimates that each year, an estimated 64,000 to 213,000 people in the United States lose a family member or close friend to homicide. And the deep disparities of homicide in disadvantaged communities also means staggering inequities across racial and ethnic groups in terms of homicide’s impact. And this impact is significant. Family members must deal with their own grief over a sudden loss, engage with police investigators, and confront a complex justice system that—from the perspective of many crime victims—seems to neglect or, worse yet, forget them. What can police and other justice professionals do to better meet the needs of family survivors of homicide? What services can be provided to help those who have lost a loved one to homicide discover the “new normal” in their lives? How can efforts to reform the justice system incorporate the needs of victims?

We asked these and related questions of Dan Levey, Executive Director of the Arizona Crime Victims Law Group and former National President of POMC Board of Directors and Executive Director of POMC. Dan has been on the front lines of advocacy for crime victims since his brother, Howard, was murdered in a random act of violence in 1996. He was one of our featured presenters during a special event on family survivors of homicide, hosted by the JPRC at the American Society of Criminology conference in 2019. Dan also coauthored with JPRC staff an article in the 2016 Spring issue of Translational Criminology (see pp.13-15) on a future research agenda to support improving services for persons who have lost family members to murder.

1. What are the unique needs of family survivors of homicide, compared to other types of loss?

Unlike with other types of loss, the anger associated with losing a loved one at the hands of another person is unique. One questions how another human could be so senseless and cruel to take the life of your loved one. You begin to lose hope that the world is fair when someone has been unfairly taken from you. It takes much work and growth to move past a loss like this compared to others, because homicides can be prevented. It’s not like there was a health issue, a natural disaster, or an accident.

The needs of family survivors of homicide are also unique, as I have learned over the past 25 years since I lost my brother, Howard. Everyone deals with trauma and grief differently. In general, most survivors want to know that they or their loved ones are not forgotten and that the friends and family who are around initially will still be there in the months, years, and decades ahead. Family survivors may have to deal with the press—and even inaccurate news stories—for the first time in their lives if the case receives media attention. Each of these stories, accurate or not, is a trigger to more grief.

With a homicide, unlike most natural deaths, there is no time to prepare for the sudden tragic death of our loved ones. It is getting a phone call or a knock on the door that fundamentally changes our lives. The one non-negotiable moment when fate chose them and not me or someone else and we must play the cards we are dealt and honor our loved ones in all we do.

My colleague and fellow survivor, Carrie Freitag, in her book Aftermath, In the Wake of Murder, describes that “grief is the retracing of steps that led our loved one from this world. Grief is wanting to bear witness to and comfort the pain and suffering they experienced. Grief is feeling guilty because we did not stop death, could not prevent death, and cannot change death.”

2. Can you describe how family survivors navigate the justice system?

Survivors must deal with the justice system. The quest is “justice.” Someone must be punished for taking my loved one’s
life. But encounters with the justice system can increase our pain. The process can take a long time, sometimes years, before a person is held accountable for our family member’s murder. We may see this accused person get a plea deal and a lenient sentence that creates even more anger. Survivors are often left with many unanswered questions about postponements and continuous delays throughout the trial. After the conviction, the long appeals process begins, and victims/survivors must relive their story as they testify during the parole process. Survivors need to be better prepared for this process.

3. What treatment or intervention do you recommend when someone has lost a family member to homicide?

Mental and physical health is paramount. Finding some support system to help—whether a formal support group, teacher, coach, personal trainer, psychologist, friends, or family—is key. It is paramount that people take care of themselves in what will be the most difficult time in their lives. Finding a passion to direct one’s pain can be helpful. For me, I became involved in martial arts and immersed myself in becoming involved in victims’ rights to honor my brother Howard and all other victims/survivors. Unfortunately, there is no panacea. You will always live with the pain of losing a loved one. It becomes a daily quest to find the tools to live with the pain…a “new normal.” I always tell survivors to take it day by day and to be kind to themselves. Because depression and suicidal thoughts can occur in family survivors, I remind them (and myself) that they have much to live for and that their loved ones would want them to carry on.

4. What are the gaps in how the justice system responds to the needs of family survivors?

It’s hard to generalize about the system’s gaps because each jurisdiction is different in how they respond to these needs. I recognize that we have come a long way since Howard’s murder. But you can never offer too much training to attorneys and judges, social workers, and victim advocates involved in the system. Increasing their awareness of what it is like to walk in a victim’s shoes will help prepare them for their work and for the justice system to respond more effectively. As is true with many aspects of providing a service to the public, the more that those in the system can understand the realities of victims, the better they are able to address their needs. I would encourage anyone involved in the justice system to take some time to listen to a victim impact panel to hear firsthand what crime victims face each day.

5. As justice systems embrace reform efforts, what would you like to see with regard to family survivors and other victims of crime?

Victims should always have a seat at the table. Reform efforts are a worthy effort, but they should not be done without including victims of crime in the conversation. Many reform efforts focus on the accused and how to rehabilitate them or at least reduce their penalties of punishment. However, as much effort as is being made to help convicted persons move forward with their lives should also be made in helping victims move forward with their lives. It is not enough to just say that because a convicted person was held accountable and ordered to pay restitution, that the victim has been made whole. And in many cases in which restitution is ordered, it is not paid, leaving crime victims in worse straits. There will be a lifetime of challenges for family survivors and other crime victims that the system can help with. The state and federal criminal appeals process to ensure rights for the defendant, for example, can last decades and needs to be balanced to ensure a quicker conclusion that victims/survivors need for their healing.

6. What should the JPRC be doing?

We need the JPRC to pursue research on family survivors, especially in how peer support groups and other treatment can help homicide survivors. We also need studies on trauma’s impact on survivors. Of concern in recent years is the collective trauma that is generated within a community from a mass homicide event. There are many other fertile grounds for research and evaluation that the JPRC should undertake.
Two Great Acts of Love for Survivors of Victims of Murder Recognized with New National Award

On May 14, 2022, a Top’s Friendly Market on the east side of Buffalo was victimized by a racially based massacre at a supermarket. Within hours, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown began a mass shooting community response called “One Buffalo in the Community”. The Buffalo Bills’ organization is one of many that answered the call to help “…an entire city traumatized and grieving” per Mayor Brown. The response by the Buffalo Bills included taking an entire day out of spring training to honor and serve their community. As witnesses to the response and representation of the Bills organization providing vital community service to victims of murder inspired a new award from the Board of Trustees to honor and recognize external organizations that have gone above and beyond to provide assistance to survivors of the murder victims. The new annual award is presented to the organization/individual(s) who have displayed exceptional support to survivors of homicide victims. Nominees for this award should be organizations/individual(s) who are outside the realm of working with survivors on a regular basis.


POMC is so disheartened by acts of violence, that the National Board of Trustees developed an award that recognizes tremendous acts of love. The Buffalo Bills, wearing their “Choose Love” logo shirts and responding to a call to community service as an organization was a perfect example of interracial success as a team and as humanitarians. On May 14, 2023, The Board of Trustees recognized the Buffalo Bills’ for their immediate response to restore interracial calm by example and service in the community. The Bills maintain ongoing efforts like a photo journal honoring the victims and “One Buffalo”, feeding the community, and engage in the constant struggle as their logo is accompanied with the slogan “Stop Hate. End Racism. Choose Love.” Vice President of Community Relations, Gretchen Geitter, has accepted the award on behalf of the Bills’ entire organization and is presenting it to their team leadership group. Parents, families, and friends of murder victims are pleased to honor and recognize community service to murder victims and their survivors. Great acts of love need more recognition and news coverage, over acts of hate. Victims should receive more community support. The actions modeled by the Buffalo Bills motivated creation of a new award.
Co-Award Recipients Recognized for Tremendous Acts of Love through Music & Fund Raising

Billy Corgan and Chloe Mendel took the lead in Community Service to Survivors and murder victims that were murdered during a parade in Highland Park, July 4, 2022. As members and business owners within their community, they used their Smashing Pumpkins fame to fund raise for the victims with a special benefit concert that raised over $350,000.00 for the victims. Billy and Chloe were quoted in Rolling Stone Magazine, as they promoted their “Together and Together Again” Highland Park Benefit Concert. Two of the quotes from their interview are engraved in the award.

During the Benefit Concert, Billy Corgan debuts a new song written and dedicated for the Highland Park Victims called “Photograph.” Proceeds from the online and live benefit concert including the new song have been directed to the victims and the Highland Park families that were victimized by gun violence. In addition to their benefit concert, song, and proceeds, Billy Corgan was quoted in Rolling Stone Magazine stating “So the trauma on the local community is almost immeasurable...Love is always gonna win.” The Board of Trustees have named Billy Corgan and Chloe Mendel as awardees for Excellence in Community Service to Survivors of Murder Victims. The award from POMC is a statement to others that acts of love always win. Chloe Mendel performed and is responsible for the outfit Billy wore as he sang his dedicated song “Photograph.” In addition to promoting the concert, performing, hosting, and clothing some of the participants, Chloe was quoted in Rolling Stone saying “Highland Park will not be defined by what happened, but by how we stand with one another to heal and continue to heal.” Having such great acts of love recognized and awarded is an attempt to overshadow the press of hateful violent acts of those that should remain fameless and nameless in history.

POMC Board of Trustees felt strongly that the actions of all of these individuals should be recognized by parents, families and friends of those who have died by violence. A response has not been received at time of publication.

Billy Corgan Performing “Photograph” the song he wrote and dedicated to the victims of Highland Park. Chloe Mendel co-hosts, performs, costume designs, and the will to help others heal.

Victims of Highland Park Memorial Photos and Recognition of the Highland Park Benefit Concert “Together and Together Again” raised over $350,000 for Victims and Families by Billy Corgan & Chloe Mendel of Smashing Pumpkins fame.
Hello Everyone,

The National Office is extremely busy getting ready for the national conference in Atlanta, Georgia on July 20-23, 2023, at the Atlanta Hilton Airport Hotel. This conference was supposed to be in 2020 but had to be cancelled because of COVID and was rescheduled for 2023. The conference will have two days of workshops on Friday and Saturday on many topics. On Thursday evening the local police will unveil the murder wall in a very moving ceremony saluting each wall after they remove the black covers. Friday evening is the memorial ceremony with the video of all the loved ones photos that attend and Saturday is the Awards ceremony.

This year POMC is giving out many awards and two new awards called the Community Awards. One of these awards was given to the Buffalo Bills organization after the mass shooting that was racially motivated at the local supermarket Tops Grocery Store. The Buffalo Bills organization wearing black shirts with a Bills logo and the words “Choose Love” volunteered their time and manpower to feed the families of the murder victims and the team and the NFL foundation combined $400,000 to support the residents and community directly impacted.

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} award was given to Billy Corgan and Chloe Mendel, of the Smashing Pumpkins, who are longtime residents and members of the Highland Park community where on July 4\textsuperscript{th} the community was rocked after another mass shooting as families were watching the parade. Corgan and Mendel hosted a livestream benefit show at their plant-based tea-house and performance space, Madame Zuzu’s. The community award recognized these acts of kindness, helping their community after such a violent act. The National Organization Of Parents Of Murdered Children are thankful for their support of the families who have had a loved one murdered.

There is more information about the conference on our website www.pomc.org and I hope to see many of you there.

After the conference in July, POMC will host the Grief Retreat Weekend in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 6-8, 2023. This weekend can only accommodate around 10-12 survivors and we have scholarships for attendees. The weekend starts on Friday at 4:00 pm and ends on Sunday after lunch. The meals are served family style and the whole weekend we will be working on writing exercises on their grief and hopefully on Sunday they will leave with the comfort of knowing that they are not alone and have made some new friends that are going through the same thing that they are.

In closing, I hope that everyone is taking care of themselves and each day they do something good for themselves. When you are going through the hard times of grief, we need to take extra special care of ourselves mentally and physically. If you do not talk about the devastation that the tragedy has done to you it will affect your physical health down the road. The journey of grief is a hard and difficult time but you must go through it and you must cry and get your anger out so that your physical health is not affected later in life.

Take Care

Bev
A Message from the National Board

With Peg Kerouac

All Leaders, Members and Volunteers Past to Present Are Extraordinary!

Over 60,000 Served Per Year in Chapter Meetings & Over 2.7 Million Attendees In 44 Years!

As an agency built on volunteerism and peer support, our volunteers have provided 44 years of service to fellow survivors of murder victims. Longevity is challenging to achieve by peer support organizations. In our forty-fourth year, we celebrate our 37th Annual National Conference. We are an organization that exemplifies that individual giving is a necessary and vital resource for victims of violent crime. Each year the Board of Trustees reviews chapter reports, in awe of the achievements of the smallest to our largest, from the newest to the oldest chapters, from most financially secure to the completely donated support chapters. With 44 years of success fast approaching, all members, chapters, chapter leaders, boards and board members, past to present, should be extremely proud of their achievements over the years. Our ideal goal is to go on for as long as any survivor needs support. As an organization, we want to continue to grow and improve.

Here is a rapid summary of some of the major achievements over the years and goals for future years.

We have grown from one peer group to over forty Nationally Certified Chapters. Certifying chapters requires training and national oversight. (COVID did knock us back from our highest number of chapters, due to some closures). Chapter Leadership has been participating in certified training for Chapter Board Members/Officers. Monthly chapter meetings are held by over forty chapters in 24 states or 1,056 peer meetings per month and over 12,600 meetings per year. If we estimate an average of 5 attendees per meeting (some more, some less) then over 60,000 survivors have received chapter meeting based peer support per year. In 44 years, we have impacted approximately 2.7 million people ranging from one time to recurring attendees with chapter meetings. We have a vision to improve the training and support of our chapter meeting leaders. Currently, our training is limited to board members and the business of running a chapter.

We need to provide training for peer group leaders in group process, group dynamics, phases of recovery, trauma informed empathy and resources, and the recovery tasks needed based on stage of and recovery phase of survivorship. For example, Phase 1 Recovery attendees will need to work on trauma, criminal proceedings, court accompaniment, investigations, making gradual disclosures, need new coping mechanisms, and emergency plans. Meanwhile, a person many years removed from the murder are in Phase 3 Recovery. They have different issues to address in group. Long time member needs include: support of notable changes in self, skill sets providing support to others, criminal justice issues like parole hearings, and coping with release of convicted murderers. Our leaders need to be taught about the phases of recovery, become trauma informed group leaders, learn skills in group leadership, session procedures, and understand diverse needs of their attendees. Those meeting attendees have a different focus in recovery, different phases and stages of recovery, varying issues to master or overcome, and different activities for recovery from diverse issues.

Cont’d on page 8
We have POMC Contact People in our National Directory for peer phone support, located in 35 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. Additionally, our Phone Directory includes Phone Supports that are Bi/Poly Lingual. Pre-COVID, our chapters were limited to in person meetings. Some chapters are hybrid (meet in person and on-line), some have evolved as (Zoom) online chapter peer support meetings. Any Zoom attendee can set the captions to any language they prefer, as we are English dominated as an organization. We will be empowered to provide language and culturally specific meetings like monthly Spanish, Mandarin, French… Gun Violence Survivors, LGBTQ+, Siblings or populations in need of peer supports. Futuristically, we hope to provide a National Calendar of Zoom chapter meetings, to be accessible on our Web Site at www.POMC.org which continuously evolves, please visit regularly. National Office has invested in Zoom for multiple reasons. Making training more accessible and affordable, making meetings accessible that provide interpreter/translating services to expand the languages and cultures we can serve. Expressly to be able to reach people that are marginalized or underserved, lack services or resources and supplement resources from our nation’s chapter leaders. Which means the Board of Trustees is working on increased financial support. Maintaining great statistics and chapter reports will help pave the way to future fund development. Your work is vital and needs to be captured and reported.

Our highest priority states in need of future chapters based on top ten states’ current murder rates are from 1 to 10: Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri, Arkansas, South Carolina, Tennessee, Maryland, Illinois, and New Mexico. New Mexico is our only southern border state without a certified chapter. The other 9 states tend to have major cities and are states along the Mississippi River, Gulf of Mexico or large sea port states, with large port cities. As our nation experiences surges in gun violence and murder, we need to grow to meet growing needs for peer support. Our future vision is to have chapters in every state, or accessible chapter phone support for every state.

POMC started as a single peer group of parents of murdered children (of all ages) and has expanded to all family members and others (friends, teachers, counselors, co-workers…), or all survivors of murder victims. One vision is with expansion to more online access, and a national calendar with meeting offerings on Zoom. Zoom adds the capacity to have interpreters and linguistic specific groups, as we are currently strongly biased with English speaking supports. Since our organization is diversified, we can improve in diversity, equity, and inclusion with our meetings.

In order to expand, continue membership growth, train volunteer leaders for peer meetings, strengthen offerings of existing chapters, fund development, philanthropy, grants, improve grassroots fund raising like raffles, selling chocolate, sponsors, and more. Your volunteerism can come in many forms and many give in every way they can. Some achievements National has made with individual and chapter giving include: Annual National Conferences, Grief Retreat Weekends, National Telephone Supports Directory, Second Opinion and eight other major programs or projects. Our total newsletter distribution from National and various local chapters with newsletter offerings is a distribution of 10,000 newsletters annually.

If you visit our website, you will notice information on numerous ways folks can help us. Since the burden is already great on all our volunteers, conference and training attendees, we are developing connections for others to help us, like external to the organizations. Challenge co-workers and friends to donate during national giving using the donate button on our website. Send everyone you know that purchases from Amazon link for purchases and we automatically get donations from a percent of money they spent at Amazon from Amazon. Inform us of similar companies, affiliations, and donors for us to successfully achieve our mission. Chapter strength and health directly impacts the programs and services we are capable of offering. As a non-profit peer support organization, chapters need to pull together their own resources ranging from a room to meet, training in chapter leadership, and leading peer groups month after month. Our Chapter strength also impacts our National Office’s strength.
Each year, the National Board of Trustees reviews Chapter Reports of Activities and Financials. We track your impact and all the ways you give. You give through peer support, peer leadership, membership, canvassing funds and raffle items, fund development, philanthropic giving, supply your chapters, house your meetings, donate money, hold bingo, ice cream socials, sell ice at race venues, or flowers on corners, know your talents and gifts are exceptional. If your talents are websites, social media, writing grants, photo journals, or good supportive hugs, we need you. Everything you do, every way you give is essential. We want to grow our services to reach many more people whose lives were altered by murderous events. We want to improve our groups and grow to meet the diverse populations in need of us.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Connie Saindon, MFT** was the Founder and Clinical Director of the Survivors of Violent Loss Program which began as the Homicide Support Project in early 1998. Connie had provided program development, oversight, supervision and training. She was the co-author of a three year Pilot Study for the Restorative Retelling Model and had presented her work at National Conferences. Ms Saindon is listed among the few Violent Death Bereavement Specialists, internationally and a recognized leader in the Violent Death Bereavement Society.

Ms. Saindon had conducted numerous community presentations and media interviews. She had served on a National Board on Community Grief and was a contributing author of "Violent Death: Resilience and Intervention Beyond the Crisis". Based on the Restorative Retelling model, she authored an adult self-help work-book called "The Journey", to reach many who do not have access to this promising approach. Her work included consultant services nationally including the Department of Defense as a Military and Family Life Consultant.

Connie donated her time at POMC conferences by presenting workshops as well as the donation of her two books “The Journey” and “Murder Survivors Handbook.”

Connie will be missed by her POMC Family.
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.

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

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Howard &amp; Ann Klerk</th>
<th>Carol Leonhardt</th>
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<tr>
<td>Memory of Lisa Marie Weaver</td>
<td>Memory of Janet Leonhardt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise Coleman</td>
<td>LC &amp; Sherry Nolan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memory of Timothy Staunton</td>
<td>Memory of Shannon Marie &amp; Alexandra Jordan Nolan-Broe</td>
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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 21, 2023 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.

Derion D. E. Johnson
2/21/95 - 8/4/20

Marcus E. Basey II
12/13/89 - 9/2/13

Det. Tanisha Pughslay
2/21/93 - 7/6/20

Jr. Thaddeus Rodriguez
4/25/90 - 1/25/16

Tonya Renee Manuel
10/7/67 - 7/29/90

Tesha Gutierrez
11/28/77 - 11/13/10

Lakelia Rochelle Purvis
7/16/81 - 10/11/21

Kathryn Kimball Cochran
3/24/78 - 11/8/21

Fabian Michael Olguin
3/6/91 - 11/20/21

Gage Neal-Belunas
8/10/01 - 3/17/22

Marcus “Buddy” Golden
1/18/93 - 3/30/21

Gary Moreno
6/25/80 - 2/3/11

James A. Carter
10/30/86 - 5/28/22

Lentavius Cortez Hall
4/26/95 - 2/25/21

Amber Lynne Fernald
10/28/80 - 6/10/14

Lanoix Andrade
3/22/20 - 8/1/22

Kyle Isaiah Baldwin
2/13/91 - 4/15/19

Brandon Hanson
5/28/75 - 5/17/10

Rosemarie Little
7/21/48 - 4/11/11

David E. Gorski
7/31/86 - 12/23/16

Deven Slade Blood Brooks
10/5/94 - 1/9/22

Jerwaine Isaiah Gorman
3/7/81 - 4/29/15

Fallon Lynn Fridley
9/27/18 - 12/10/20

Brantley Daniel Best
9/4/97 - 11/20-18

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

Loved ones name

Date of Birth

Date of Death

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

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Relationship to victim

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

**Parole Block Program**

**Support the Parole Block Program**

**In Memory of:**

- Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan-Broe
  From LC & Sherry Nolan
- Timothy Staunton
  From Denise Coleman
- Janet Leonhardt
  From Carol Leonhardt
- Howard & Ann Klerk
  Memory of Lisa Marie Weaver

**Denied Petitions:**
- **Houston Chapter:** Lisa Huerta, Louis Wright, Mark Parker, Douglas Hinton Bell, Jason Michael Rich, Fernando Lopez, Adam Valle, Dennis Davis, Damian Torres, Thomas Pennington, Javier Valenzuela, Luis Aponte, Clinton West, Abigail Young, & Jack Eugene Vian Jr.; **Southern Arizona Chapter:** Joe Luna & Joe Riley; **Albany Capital District Chapter:** Brian Pulliam; **Central Arkansas Chapter:** David Seibs, James Holt, Scott Ruminer, Darrell Freeman & Robert Robbins; Paul Estrada, Roy Wahlberg, Gregory Prysock, Floyd M. Young & Matthew Svanberg.

**Released:** Central Arkansas Chapter: Stoney Cox

**Hearing Results:**

- Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan-Broe From LC & Sherry Nolan
- Timothy Staunton From Denise Coleman
- Janet Leonhardt From Carol Leonhardt
- Howard & Ann Klerk Memory of Lisa Marie Weaver

**LETTERS FROM THE PAROLE BLOCK PROGRAM**

Hi Bev, good news, our parole challenge was successful! Below is the response sent from MN Victim’s Advocate and the last email I had sent to the DOC.

The Commissioner did express receiving multiple objections to this parole from voices across the country. Thank you so much!

Do you have any numbers or stats on what POMC did submit against Wahlberg’s parole that you can share with me?

Jeff’s family is grateful for your assistance and support! Our challenge back in 1994 in Wahlberg’s original parole granted helped to change some victim’s rights laws in MN and uncovered a pedophile abusive unsupervised computer access issue in MN prisons.

Have a blessed life. I hope we will not need your assistance again in 5 years.

Jay Goedderz

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I am happy to report to you that the Parole of Floyd Young, murderer of my son Dustin Greer, was denied and he will not have the opportunity to have another parole hearing for another 5 years!

I want to sincerely thank you for your speedy, hard work in getting the petitions out again.

I wish you had a chapter closer to me so I could attend meetings and meet others like myself.

Thank you just doesn't seem like enough but I truly am thankful for everything you have done for us!

Sincerely

Jinnifer Whitaker
The Courage to Grieve, Grief Retreat Weekend

THE COURAGE TO GRIEVE
(A Weekend Retreat of Hope and Healing)
October 6 thru 8, 2023 in Cincinnati, Ohio
You must be a survivor of homicide and 18 years or over!
FACILITY MANDATES: vaccinated and mask.
No children can be brought with you.

The National Office of Parents Of Murdered Children is hosting a self-help weekend The Courage to Grieve, to face the many overwhelming and difficult emotions that are the aftermath of murder, often compounded by the intrusion and frustration of the judicial process. Beneath the explosive emotions of rage, hate and revenge lay the more primary feelings of pain, fear and helplessness. Unresolved, these emotions can cause survivors to feel they are losing their minds. The isolation survivors feel from those who will not or cannot deal with the impact of the loss, leave survivors alone with their grief or discourage them from grieving at all. An integral part of this weekend will be an examination of love, tenderness and affection, relaxation techniques and the encouragement to move forward, uncover and experience within a safe environment of others who truly understand. The retreat has been designed to influence the reconstruction of a new life - a life that has a renewed sense of purpose, though forever changed by murder.

The weekend begins with dinner on Friday night. Those attending will meet at the Beth Anna house at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center at 4:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Every person that attends will have their own room with a twin bed and there are 3 bathrooms that have to be shared with everyone. The Transfiguration Spirituality Center is located in the Glendale-Milford area at 495 Albion Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45246, 513-771-2171 and the website is www.TSCretreats.org. It is a beautiful location with 46 acres. The cost is $154.00 per person and includes meals. Scholarships are available if unable to afford this cost. If you talk to any of those who have attended the weekend retreats, they will tell you, though it is hard, emotional work, it is very beneficial and rewarding. Husbands and wives, siblings, and all family members should attend together and learn that while we each grieve differently and had our own relationship with our loved ones, we all share the pain and the trauma of losing a loved one to murder.

Please sign me up for the grief retreat in Cincinnati. Deposit - $25 cash, check or money order only (non-refundable if cancellation).

Name:
___________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________ City:__________________ State: _____
Zip__________________
Phone: Home: ___________________ Cell: ____________________ E-mail: _____________________________

Driver’s License # (for background check):

Any questions, please call Bev @ (513) 721-5683 or E-mail bwarnock@pomc.org

*Mail form to POMC, Grief Retreat Weekend, 635 West 7th St. Suite 307, Cincinnati, OH 45203.
*Map, info on what to bring and an information questionnaire will be mailed after sign up.
Thank You

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 1,843 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.

Donations

In Memory of

- Douglas Allen Ballence
  From Debbie Young
- Jamar Beuford
  From Georgette Beuford-Clements
- Barbara Ann Byer
  From Nancy & Michael Byer
- Jarrod Chrisman
  From Rodney & Susie Chrisman
- Lee Andrew Denmon III
  From Frances Denmon
- Jason Donahue
  From Heather Caron
- Eric Gelman
  From Richard & Lynn Gelman
- Aaron Goldman
  From Honore & Thomas McHatten
- Jason Griffin
  From Andrea Griffin
- Kari Jean Hammond
  From Patricia Klose-Hammond
- Louis Innucci
  From Lou & Rosalind Innucci
- Steven Isheim
  From Terry Isheim
- Kimberly LaShara Jacobs
  From Linda Jacobs
- Florence Lehner
  From Elena Hogan & Adam DeSimone
- Janet Leonhardt
  From Carol Leonhardt
- Scott Jonathan Lewis
  From Jean Lewis

In Memory of

- Richard D. McGann
  From Laura Miller
- Amy Michele Merka
  From Rick & Karren Lynch
- Samuel Michel
  From Bruce & Deborah Michel
- Brian Miller
  From Rita & John Miller
- Shannona Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan-Broe
  From LC & Sherry Nolan
- Danielle Noiles
  From Leonard & Yvonne Noiles
- David Pottinger
  From Carolee Hildenbrandt
- John Powell
  From Holly Briars Ragusa
- Becky Reed
  From James & Ann Reed
- Melanie Ilene Rieger
  From Melanie Ilene Rieger Memorial Foundation
- James Roback
  From Joan Roback
- Stephen Sanchez
  From Claudine Sanchez Parrott
- Timothy Staunton
  From Denise Coleman
- Chelsea Strauss
  From Juliette Strauss
- Alyssa Marie Vasquez
  From Jaydn Cevalles, Jacob & CJ Morales

In Honor of

- In Memory of Lisa Marie Weaver
  From Howard & Ann Klerk
- Ryan Young
  From Sharon Young

In Memory of

- Lauren Cartheuser
- Courtney Dunn
- Albert Encols
- Ft. Myers FL - Lee County Chapter
- Alyssa Johnson
- Maureen Kleckner
- Holly L’Oiseau
- Miami/Dade Chapter
- Maine Chapter
- Nicole Mister
- Giuliana Darocha Pinto
- Southwest Florida Chapter
- Queens New York Chapter
- Valley of the Sun Chapter
- Linda Weaver
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Facebook Fundraisers

- (individuals who created a fundraiser)
  Betsy Wallace Worstell
  Brandy Wheeler
  Cara Wingham Meador
  Clarice Amann
  Deb Trimmer
  Debbie Doty Floyd
  Donna Hamilton Huff
  Hazel Clift
  Jake Jones
  Jill Knauf-Innis
  Karyn Sutton
  Kim Cook
  Kristin Fridley-Ganttt
  Laura Michaels
  Lois Hackbarth
  Misty Foster
  Rene Norstrom
  Sharon Tewksbury

In Memory of

- In Honor of
  Michelle Crownover
  From Jennifer & Larry Marsh

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  Laura Michaels
  Lois Hackbarth
  Misty Foster
  Rene Norstrom
  Sharon Tewksbury

In Memory of

- In Honor of
  Michelle Crownover
  From Jennifer & Larry Marsh
TOMAS TOVAR: On April 26, 2014, at approximately 10:00pm officers responded to the 2000 block of East 5 Irvington in reference to a shooting. The victim, Tomas Tovar, was located in the parking lot of the business with gunshot wounds. He was pronounced deceased a short time later at UMC. Witness described a silver or gray vehicle speeding out of the parking lot after the shots were fired. Reward up to $2500 for information leading to the arrest of the suspect(s) responsible for the death. Anyone with information is urged to contact 520-88-CRIME (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. Only 88-crime tips are eligible for an 88-crime reward. See website for info regarding rewards, payment, and anonymity.

A Favorite Recipe From Your Loved One

In Memory of: Joshua L. Shortt
Submitted by mother: Cathy Mohr

CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER RITZ CRACKERS

Ingredients:
- 60 Ritz crackers
- 1 cup peanut butter (creamy)
- 2 1/2 cup semi-sweet or milk chocolate chips
Optional: coconut oil

Directions:
- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Spread about 1/2 TBSP of peanut butter on one cracker and top with another cracker. Refrigerate the peanut butter crackers for easy dipping.
- Melt chocolate chips in 30 second intervals in the microwave, stirring in between. If you want chocolate thinner add a TBSP of coconut oil.
- Dip each sandwich cookie in the chocolate. Decorate with sprinkles or extra chocolate (white).
- Refrigerate until firm.

FOR THE FALLEN
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them …
By Laurence Binyon
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, at: (513) 721-5683 OR snolan@pomc.org

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.:

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<td>Alabama</td>
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Thank you to the following Chapters for dedication, compassion and selflessness shown through their continued efforts to provide on-going 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 whose loved ones lives were taken from them.

IN THIS 2023 ANNIVERSARY, POMC ACKNOWLEDGES THOSE CHAPTERS WITH ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION THAT WERE SIGNED BETWEEN MAY 1ST AND AUGUST 31ST OF THE YEAR THEY BECAME A PROBATIONARY CHAPTER.

- Saginaw County Chapter/MI—10 yrs
- San Antonio Chapter/TX—34 yrs
- Chicago Area Chapter/IL--- 19 yrs
- The Fort Myers Florida/Lee County Chapter/FL—7 yrs
- Greater Ventura County Chapter/CA- 18 yrs
- Greater Orange County Chapter/CA—18 yrs

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.

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 July 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.
NEW CHAPTER

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

Chapter Leader: Alicia Dassa (Parent)
Seattle, Washington
206-313-7506
alicia13@comcast.net
evergreenstatepomc@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

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

James Sedgwick - February 3, 1932 - April 22, 2022
James H. Sedgwick, Sr., age 90 of Cleveland, OH. Loving father and husband for 65 years of Barbara Schwab-Sedgwick (nee Bradshaw); precious father of James "Jamie" Sedgwick, Jr. of Chagrin Falls, OH and the late Cynthia Sedgwick; dear brother of Nancy Ness (Donald) of Mantoloking, NJ.
Jim, a veteran of the Korean War, enjoyed a successful career in real estate. Following the murder of his daughter in 1985, he became a Contact Person and advocate for the organization Parents Of Murdered Children for many years. Proud to be an American, Jim was a patriot, a good neighbor and made friends without effort. He would lend a hand with a smile and would often admonish with a wink "stay out of the hot sun". Jim liked fishing, sailing-was an all-around athlete-from diving to football. He loved his pups and the good earth. His sweet daughter awaits him and his family and friends will cherish the countless ways he warmed our lives...every day. We love you. You took good care of us.

ANGELA MCCLARY, Chapter Leader of Fort Myers/Lee County Chapter, Parents Of Murdered Children, received the 2022 Lee Pitts Person of the Year Award for championing “Crime Prevention”.

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.

*REMININDER*
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.

Did you know Amazon.com is a POMC sponsor?
POMC receives 4-13% depending on item of all Amazon.com purchases made through the amazon link on our webpage. The use of this link does not increase the cost of your purchase.

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: $35.00 for a quarter page, $65.00 for a half page or $125.00 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
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.
For the families of those who have died by violence
635 W. 7th Street, Suite 307
Cincinnati, Ohio  45203

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