

Concerns of Police Survivors

2013 MN C.O.P.S.

Officer Tom Decker – Cold Spring Police Department



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Cold Spring PD
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Once again tragedy has struck law enforcement here in Minnesota.

On November 29, 2012 Officer Tom Decker of the Cold Spring Police Department was shot and killed while attempting to perform a welfare check on a man in Cold Spring.

Tom has served the people of Cold Spring for the last 6 years. He is survived by his wife and four young children, many family members, co-workers, friends, and a grieving community.

This case remains under investigation as of this writing by the Cold Spring Police Department, BCA, and the Stearns County Sheriff's Office.

Members of the MN Chapter of C.O.P.S. have met with the family and department to offer our support and assistance to Washington DC in May.

Tom will be missed, but never forgotten.

January Meeting Cancelled – Mother Nature – Rescheduled to 2-17-13

As you already know, the January meeting of MN C.O.P.S. was cancelled due to the weather. But a new date has been rescheduled, please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Our guest speaker will still be Lisabeth Mackall. The meeting will be held at the New Brighton Police Department located at 785 Old Highway 8. Start at 1:00 PM.

President's Message:

Happy New Year Everyone,

We had a nice attendance at our wreath laying on Thanksgiving weekend even though the wind was rather blustery. The Schneider family was present to place the wreath at the Law Enforcement Memorial. A prayer was said by Chaplain Frank Thell for Our Officers who ended their watch and those Law Enforcement Officers that continue to guard our street and keep us safe. Survivors enjoyed time together at Kelly Inn with coffee, dessert and a candle lighting ceremony remembering our fallen officers lead by Brent Richtner.

We have started out first meeting of the New Year in true Minnesota style, Cancelled. Unfortunately, the icy road warnings were true and everyone stayed off the highways. Survivor safety comes first when we need to decide whether or not to cancel an event.

Our Swim Party is just a few weeks away so check your calendars and come enjoy the day with friends and family at the Maplewood Community Center. There is no cost you only need your swimsuit, towel and a smile. Please RSVP by February 15th. For RSVP info see page 3.

The year is brand new and we are hoping that one of your resolutions include getting more involved with our chapter and meeting fellow survivors. Let us know how we can help you. Helping others is also an act of healing and we have many opportunities for you this year with summer fundraisers and group activities.

Our April meeting is our elections and we have two positions open. Secretary and Vice President. You must be present at the February meeting to be considered for these positions. You will be put on the ballot by the Election Committee at that time.

Bonnie Silvera
President, MN C.O.P.S.

2013 Fund Raisers

A new year has arrived and MN C.O.P.S. has already begun the planning for this year's fund raisers. These events are critical to the success of your chapter. This is our chance to inform the public of who we are and what we do. The monies raised make it possible for this chapter to assist all those who are survivors.

These events do take time but with your help, we can accomplish so much more. By volunteering to help with just one event, you will make a world of difference. Just your presence at some of these events has and will continue to remind everyone of the sacrifices our loved ones have made. If you can help with any of this year's events, please contact any of the board members. We would be honored to have you. Some of our events are listed in this newsletter.

If you have any questions about the amounts raised, or have questions about the MN C.O.P.S. account, please contact our treasurer, Jackie Bergeron. Her contact information is listed on the back page.

2nd Annual Swim Event

MN C.O.P.S. has arranged for a great opportunity for all survivors....

A time to get out of the cold and have some fun at the pool...
 A time to come together as survivors to support and encourage each other...
 Invitation is open to all survivors:
 family members, co-workers and advisory board...

Join us for our 2nd Annual Swim Event

On: Sunday, February 24, 2013
 Location: Maplewood Community Center
 2100 White Bear Ave, Maplewood, MN 55109
 Time: 12:30 to 4:00 pm

**There is no cost to come (except for extras you may want)
 Food and Beverages will be provided.
 Swimming is encouraged, but not mandatory**

Please RSVP no later than February 10, 2013

You can contact by phone or e-mail Jackie Bergeron or Bill Hammes

Jackie Bergeron 651-762-9558 or donderosadaisy@hotmail.com
 Bill Hammes 763-898-8310 or hammes105@comcast.net

Wreath Laying Event – November 25, 2012

The annual wreath laying event was held on November 25, 2012 at the Law Enforcement Memorial in St. Paul. We were honored to have the families of Officer Mike Politz and Officer Shawn Schneider present at this event. The afternoon began with a gathering at the Kelly Inn just west of the memorial for dessert and coffee. This was a time for the families to get together and meet. Retired Trooper Brent Richter was with us to show support and he talked to the group about dealing with the upcoming holidays and ways to deal with the loss these families had experienced. A wreath was laid at the memorial in honor of those officers who have died while serving the people of Minnesota and this nation.

A special thanks to Emilio Munoz, a member of the Minnesota Blue Knights, Chapter IV, who played his bagpipes despite the cooler weather. It truly was a touching moment for those in attendance. Thank you Emilio.



Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting Rescheduled to: February 17, 2013 – 1:00 PM @ New Brighton PD.

There are currently two positions open with MN C.O.P.S. Secretary Position and Vice President Position. If you are interested in either of these positions, the by-laws require your attendance at the January meeting. If you can help out, please let us know. We do need your help.

Guest Speaker

At this meeting Lisabeth Mackall will talk about her husband Officer Frank Mackall from the Savage Police Department. Officer Mackall was involved in an on duty car crash that resulted in a severe head injury, and an extended hospital stay. The trauma sustained to both the department, and the family, was significant. The chaplains, the community, both civilian and blue, and the department rallied around this family, and one another, to allow them all to heal.

The goal of this conversation is to walk through the trauma, and the healing process that has continued through the year. The visual impact creates a vivid picture of the accident, and the story behind the pictures brings home the risks our officers face every day.

Family Fun Day: February 24, 2013 @ Maplewood Community Center

Once again we are planning a family fun day at the Maplewood Community Center. You can bring your kids and enjoy an afternoon with swimming, meeting and talking with other survivors, and food will be provided. Come and have one of those relaxing fun days. Pre-registration is required so we know how many to plan for. Contact Bill Hammes or Jackie Bergeron and let them know you will be there. Last day to register is February 10, 2013. The event will run from 12:30 to 4:00 PM. Room E. The Maplewood Community Center is located at 2100 White Bear Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109.

Membership Meeting: April 14, 2013 – 1:00 PM @ BCA – 1430 Maryland Ave. St. Paul

This is the annual membership meeting and when our election for offices will be voted on. Come and meet your board members as well as other survivors. Your input is critical to this organization.

MN Chief's Conference: April 22nd-23rd, 2013 @ Duluth Convention Centre

This year's MN Chief's Conference will be held in Duluth at the Duluth Convention Center. Once again MN C.O.P.S. will staff a booth at the convention. This is our opportunity to provide information to the MN Chiefs about this great organization.

Traumas of Law Enforcement

National C.O.P.S. is again sponsoring "Traumas of Law Enforcement" training at several locations throughout the United States. This training is appropriate for officers and their families affected by line-of-duty traumas. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. To learn more on how to sign up for one of these sessions, go to www.nationalcops.org. Listed below are the training locations and dates.

January 7-9, 2013 @ Charleston, SC
January 28-30, 2013 @ Las Vegas, NV
February 11-13, 2013 @ Louisville, KY
February 25-27, 2013 @ Des Moines, IA
March 4-6, 2013 @ Alexandria, LA
March 11-13, 2013 @ Seattle, WA
March 25-27, 2013 @ Atlantic City, NJ

Anniversary Dates: Line of Duty

This issue we have listed January, February, and March. If you know of a name that should be in here and is missing, please let us know. If you find an error, please let us know. Line of Duty Death Anniversaries: These are listed first by month, day, and year the officer was died.

1/2/1928	Wesley Allen Fraser	ATF
1/3/1905	Richard Cronin	St. Paul Police Department
1/5/1911	Harry A Chesmore	Duluth Police Department
1/8/1883	David J. Shipley	Faribault Police Department
1/8/1914	Neil Mooney	Duluth Police Department
1/12/1963	Ray Drew Appleyby	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1/16/1907	James C Daily	Red Wing Police Department
1/16/1907	John Peterson	Red Wing Police Department
1/18/1947	Verl C Whinery	Anoka Police Department
1/21/2009	Tony Fitzloff	Anoka County Sheriff's Office
1/28/1971	Roger Rosengren	Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
1/28/1974	Roy Leonard Pederson	Thief River Falls Police Department
1/29/1996	Brian David Klinefelter	St. Joseph Police Department
2/1/1902	Charles Mayer	St. Paul Police Department
2/1/1928	Albert Anderson	Minneapolis Police Department
2/1/1931	Harry McGraw	Minneapolis Police Department
2/4/1972	Joseph G Pudlick	Minneapolis Police Department
2/6/1923	Edwin Earl Hackert	St. Paul Police Department
2/6/1923	William F Wilson	St. Paul Police Department
2/7/1919	James A Weare	Minneapolis Police Department
2/12/1914	August Kokko	Nashwauk Police Department
2/14/1985	John Scanlon	Robbinsdale Police Department
2/15/1951	John E Buck	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
2/17/1899	Alexander McLean	Moorhead Police Department
2/17/1962	Donald D Myers	Thief River Falls Police Department
2/18/1928	John F Herzog	New Ulm Police Department
2/22/1967	Ronald E Shager	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
2/22/1978	Roger Williams	Minnesota State Patrol
2/23/1926	Fred A Pietsch	St. Paul Police Department
2/26/1926	John Schultz	St. Paul Police Department
2/26/1976	Lloyd Feind	Rochester Police Department
3/2/1988	Earl Kennicutt	Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
3/2/2000	Ward Lee Canfield	Minneapolis Police Department

Anniversary Dates: Line of Duty

3/3/2004	Thomas Wyatt	Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
3/9/1989	Michael Markuson	St. Paul Police Department
3/11/1994	Terry Francis Hanson	Rice County Sheriff's Office
3/14/1961	William H Freytag	Rochester Police Department
3/19/1922	August Olson	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
3/21/1928	Axel J Soderberg	St. Paul Police Department
3/25/1951	Donald McHale	Minneapolis Police Department
3/28/1977	Junita Badavinac	Itasca County Sheriff's Office



The Dragonfly Story *A modern parable about death and resurrection*

Once in a small pond in the muddy water beneath a lily pad, there lived a small water beetle in a community of water beetles. They lived a simple and comfortable life in the pond with few disturbances or interruptions.

Once in a while sadness would come to the community when one of the water beetles would climb the stem of a lily pad and disappear. He would never be seen again. They knew when this happened, their friend was dead – gone forever.

One sunny day a little water beetle felt an irresistible urge to climb up that stem. He was *determined* that he would not leave forever. He would come back and tell his friends what he found at the top.

But when he reached the top and climbed from the water onto the surface of the lily pad, he was so tired, and the sun felt so warm, that he couldn't resist the urge to take a nap. As he slept, his body changed. And when he woke up, he had turned into a beautiful blue-tailed dragonfly with broad wings and a slender body designed for flying. So fly he did! And as he soared, he saw the beauty of a whole new world, and a far more wonderful way of life to any he had known existed.

Then he remembered his beetle friends and how by now they must imagine that he was dead. He wanted to go back to tell them – explain to them he was now more alive than he had ever been before. His life had been fulfilled – not ended.

But his beautiful new body would not go down into the water. He could not return to tell his friends the good news. He realized that even if one of his beetle friends should look up and see him, they could not possibly recognize the amazing creature he had become. Then he understood that their time would come when they too, would know what he now knew. So he raised his wings and flew off into his joyous new world.

Dedicated to Michael Joseph Pollitz

Written and Submitted by Hazel Vokral

We lost our son Michael Pollitz on November 30, 2011, (note I do not refer to Mike as my son-in-law since Mike loved us and was loved back like a son) While the past year has been an extra ordinarily difficult year for us to endure, it was also filled with love, support, friendship and the helping hands of MN C.O.P.S.

None of us wanted or chose to be a member of this organization. That said we are so grateful it exists to help survivors in one of life's great tragedies.

I learned about the In-Law Retreat at National Police Week in May, 2012. While it provided a glimpse of hope and healing, everything was still too fresh at that time for me to commit. I was so focused on helping my daughter and grandchildren that I did not take time to grieve myself. The summer proved no different and while I was seeking help, it seemed no one really understood (or I thought) what I was going through. I watched my daughter who was this happy child and person to now finding no joy in life and every minute, hour and day was agony for her. I felt helpless as I could not take the pain away; and all the time I was not dealing with the loss of Michael.

I had a lot of trepidations about going to In-Law Retreat and whether it could really help or just be a form for more tears. My wonderful husband Jim, who was the family rock, suggested I sign up and agreed to go with me to help me along. Even when I booked our flights and filled in the forms, I was still not convinced the Retreat was going to be helpful. I questioned the remoteness of the location; not being able to have my cell phone; what were we going to be doing for 3 full days; what if I didn't like it; who were the counselors and what were their qualifications/background (even though I had met Olga at National Police Week); how could Olga really help me; etc.

When we arrived in the St. Louis Airport and found the meeting/gathering room, we were introduced to a few couples who had arrived earlier. I was still not in the frame of mind of wanting to be there and have conversations with anyone. All I could do was to hold back the tears which seem to always flow so easily these days.

The first meeting at the Retreat was difficult and awkward for me. Jim and I were one of three couples who were first time participants. I still could not share much that evening other than my name, where I live, and the name of our officer who died.

During the next two days, I purposefully tried to engage each session to the fullest. As I listened to each family's story of how their loved one died, the journey they had gone through, the feeling they had/have, etc., it made me realize I was not alone. These wonderful individuals have walked in my shoes; loved their officer like a son or daughter (forget the word in-law since none of us felt this); and also had to pick up the pieces of their child who was in agony and trying to continue to live.

I watched as many of these individuals were returners and had created a special bond with each other. As first I was jealous of their connection, however they welcomed us and very soon we too were part of the special family (in-law) bond. During the 3 days we were there, we cried a lot, laughed, and smiled when we spoke about or remembered our loved ones.

Several of the participants came up to me by the 3rd day and said they were so glad to see me smile since when I first came to the Retreat all they saw was sadness and tears. The 3 days truly helped me in so many ways both emotionally and physically. This was the first time I truly had time for "me" and yes it was good to be away from the internet and cell phone.

Continued from page 7:

My husband, who originally agreed to come for me said he too got a lot out of the Retreat and would come back next year.

The total number at the In-Law Retreat is small. We do not compare in size to the other retreats, i.e.; Spouses or Parents Retreats. I believe this is because many do not know this is available. The counselors were both compassionate, giving, and understanding of the unique situation each of us were in.

Thank you to all the companies who sponsored the event and made it possible.

Thank you to C.O.P.S. for having the foresight to see that in-laws need their own special Retreat.

Thank you MN C.O.P.S. for helping us make this happen financially.

Thanks to all those who volunteered their time.

I want to end this with some words which describe my 3 day journey at the In-Law Retreat.

Friends; Laughter; Safe Place; Understanding; Respect; Love; Compassion; Life Renewed; Healing; Caring; Tears; and most of all, "Hope".



MN C.O.P.S.

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Phone:

(763) 269-1000

We're on the Web!

See us at:

MNCOPS.ORG



Check the MN C.O.P.S. website.

www.mncops.org

Concerns of Police Survivors began in 1984 and consisted of 110 members. Today C.O.P.S. is a nationwide program with a membership of over 15,000 families. C.O.P.S. mission is:

"Provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families and affected co-workers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty as determined by Federal criteria. Furthermore, C.O.P.S. provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors."

MN Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors



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MN C.O.P.S. Newsletter

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