

# SURVIVORS

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

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



Spring 2016  
Volume 34, Issue 1

## After a Violent Death: What the Victim's Family Needs to Know

As a forensic pathologist, I perform autopsies in cases of sudden, violent, and unexpected death. As seen on TV? No. Not exactly.

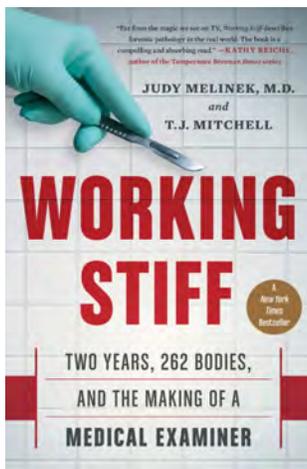
By **Judy MELINEK, M. D.**



Television dramas rarely show the pathologist helping a grieving family understand the circumstances of a death. This is something I do frequently, one of the most difficult and most rewarding aspects of my job. It's been my experience, though, that despite (or, perhaps, due to) the popularity of "true crime" shows, most people have a poor understanding of what really happens in a death scene investigation.

Here are the most common questions I get asked—and the answers that I hope might help survivors cope with the sudden loss of a loved one.

### 1. What's going on at the scene and why does it take so long? When a



Dr. Judy Melinek's New York Times bestselling memoir, co-authored with her husband, writer T.J. Mitchell, is a personal account of the time she worked as a forensic pathologist in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of New York City. She performed autopsies on accident, homicide, and suicide casualties. She also counseled grieving family members.

person dies and the death appears violent or suspicious, several agencies will arrive at the scene. The police secure the area and keep a list of who comes in or out, limiting access to trained personnel. Inspectors or detectives will question witnesses, while crime scene analysts photograph and document the evidence. The coroner or medical examiner—a completely different agency from the local police department—will then arrive to examine and document the position and condition of the body. No one can move the body until all photographs are taken and all evidence collected. Coordinating this activity so that everyone can do a thorough job without stepping on the toes of any other member of the team takes time. In most cases, a death scene in a private residence will be released to the family within a few hours, but in some cases it can take days to process a complex crime scene. During that time the people who live there may need to stay elsewhere.

2. What should I do if I know something or have suspicions about the death? If you have any information about the decedent's prior whereabouts or state of mind, or if anything in the appearance of the scene makes you suspect that a crime occurred, speak to the police investigators right away so that they can preserve the evidence. Cell phone records or screenshots of text messages that indicate where an individual was at a certain time, information about their whereabouts and intentions, missing items, or medications taken by the decedent are all potential evidence.

It's a good idea to write down your recollections immediately after the incident. If you give these notes to the officers, retain a copy for your own records. Ask the police investigator for a business card with contact information, so you can call if you think of or discover anything later.

3. What happens when the deceased gets taken to the coroner's office? The coroner or medical examiner will decide whether an autopsy needs to be performed, based on the information collected by the police and by their own investigators at the scene. Autopsy death investigation is usually done on the county or local level, and different jurisdictions have different criteria for reaching a conclusion about cause and manner

*(Continued on p. 7)*

# Together, we must support each other

## SURVIVORS

With Executive Director  
**DAN LEVEY**



A grant from the Dept. of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention VOCA Training and

All the National POMC staff have been busy, always providing support, advocacy, and resources to the survivors of homicide victims. I would like to thank them for their continued commitment to helping survivors.

I have been involved in several projects in addition to the busy daily activities of providing ongoing support to homicide survivors. The Dept. of Justice, National Institute of Justice appointed me to participate on the Cold Case Investigations working group. The group is developing a "best practices guide" for sustaining and developing cold case units within police departments. If you have any feedback or insight on cold case best practices in homicide cases, please contact me.

Technical Assistance for Child Abuse Prosecutors—in conjunction with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys—enables my participation in training prosecutors. I will train them to use POMC as a resource when a homicide involves a sexual assault crime.

The POMC National Conference Committee has been hard at work planning the 2016 Conference, and I hope everyone can attend this summer in Orlando. National POMC has several fundraisers coming up, including on April 14 a night of laughter with the Improv with Clayton English, best known for his role as Peanut on "Tyler Perry's House of Payne" and winner of the 2015 sea-season of "Last Comic Standing." On May 21 the third annual "Strike Out Violence" Bowling fundraiser will be held in

Phoenix, Ariz. We hope that both these fundraisers will help with the cost of the POMC conference and other expenses.

We continue at the National Office to serve survivors on a daily basis. We receive many Parole Block petitions, Second Opinion requests, and Ask the Experts requests. Together we have a powerful voice, and together we must be there to support each other.

I hope that this spring and summer bring us all a ray of sunshine and remind us that our loved ones are always with us. We are all survivors, and together we can make a difference.

Holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal said,

*"Survival is a privilege which entails obligations. I am forever asking myself what I can do for those who have not survived."*

And so it is with us as survivors. I ask, what can we do for those who did not survive, and I say, it is to honor them with all that we do. Ω

## "My friend just died. I don't know what to do."

*[Someone on reddit wrote this heartfelt plea online. A lot of people responded. Then there's one old guy's incredible comment that stood out from the rest that might just change the way we approach life and death.]*

"All right, here goes. I'm old. What that means is that I've survived (so far) and a lot of people I've known and loved did not. I've lost friends, best friends, acquaintances, co-workers, grandparents, mom, relatives, teachers, mentors, students, neighbors, and a host of other folks. I have no children, and I can't imagine the pain it must be to lose a child. But here's my two cents.

I wish I could say you get used to people dying. I never did. I don't want to. It tears a hole through me whenever somebody I love dies, no matter the circumstances. But I don't want it to 'not matter.' I don't want it to be something that just passes. My scars are a testament to the love and the relationship that I had for and with that person. And if the scar is deep, so was the love. So be it. Scars are a testament to life. Scars are a testament that I can love deeply and live deeply and be cut, or even gouged, and that I can heal and continue to live and continue to love. And the scar tissue is stronger than the original flesh ever was. Scars are

a testament to life. Scars are only ugly to people who can't see.

As for grief, you'll find it comes in waves. When the ship is first wrecked, you're drowning, with wreckage all around you. Everything floating around you reminds you of the beauty and the magnificence of the ship that was, and is no more. And all you can do is float. You find some piece of the wreckage and you hang on for a while. Maybe it's some physical thing. Maybe it's a happy memory or a photograph. Maybe it's a person who is also floating. For a while, all you can do is float. Stay alive.

*(Continued on p. 3)*

# Come to Orlando for POMC's 30th

# SURVIVORS

The 30th annual Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. (POMC) National Conference will be held in Orlando, Fla.

**July 21-24, 2016**, at the **Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort**. The theme for this year's conference is "*We Are The Survivors, Joined Together We Are Strong.*"

POMC provides ongoing emotional support, education, prevention, advocacy, and awareness programs to thousands of family members of those who have died by violence. Our conferences

provide numerous workshops on traumatic grief, navigating the confusing maze of the judicial and investigative process, and trainings for survivors and professionals who serve them.

The National POMC Conference Committee has been hard at work to line up the great workshops and speakers we have. POMC has applied to the the Office of Victims of Crime for Survivor Scholarships and awaits their decision.

We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker will be Mr. Patrick Knight, a lawyer and professional speaker from Miami, Fla. He grew up in the western suburbs of Chicago and cites his Midwestern values as a factor in keeping him grounded in the fast-paced world of Miami.

Patrick Knight is a civil defense litigation attorney who has tried more than 100 cases to jury verdict. He is also a

## 30th Annual POMC Conference

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

**Date: July 21 -  
July 24, 2016**

**Place: Sheraton  
Lake Buena  
Vista Resort  
12205 S  
Apopka  
Vineland Road  
Orlando,  
Florida  
32836**

**Phone:  
(800)423-3297**

**The Hotel Price is \$99.00 which includes the  
resort fee of \$19.95**



**Patrick Knight**

his wife and other family members and his own nearly fatal gunshot wound. His book, *Blessed to Survive: The Thanksgiving Day Massacre*, describes his journey from tragedy to triumph after being the victim of one of the worst mass shootings in South Florida history. Since the shooting incident, he has also begun to speak in churches, organizations, and government agencies about overcoming tragedy and moving forward with a positive attitude.

Knight has given away hundreds of copies of his books to victims of tragedy in order to give them some hope in the face of adversity and help them realize that God will give them the strength they need to get through anything. This journey has given Patrick a new topic to discuss as a speaker, and he has continued to speak to a wide range of audiences with his message of hope. Ω

professional speaker who has presented more than 400 speeches and seminars around the United States and in 25 other countries on topics of leadership, communication, management, and business ethics. He has authored several leadership manuals and e-books like *Jumpstart Your Organization, Medicine Through the Legal Lens, Teach-Coach-Train!*, *Positive Seduction*, and *Metro Synergy-Community Impact Projects from Around the World*.

Knight survives the murder of

## "My friend just died."

*(Continued from p. 2)*

In the beginning the waves are 100 feet tall and crash over you without mercy. They come 10 seconds apart and don't even give you time to catch your breath. All you can do is hang on and float. After a while, maybe weeks, maybe months, you'll find the waves are still 100 feet tall, but they come farther apart. When they come, they still crash all over you and wipe you out. But in between, you can breathe, you can function. You never know

what's going to trigger the grief. It might be a song, a picture, a street intersection, the smell of a cup of coffee. It can be just about anything... and the wave comes crashing. But in between waves, there is life.

Somewhere down the line, and it's different for everybody, you find that the waves are only 80 feet tall. Or 50 feet tall. And while they still come, they come further apart. You can see them coming. An anniversary, a birthday, or Christmas, or landing at O'Hare. You can see them coming, for the most part, and prepare yourself.

And when they wash over you, you know that somehow you will, again, come out the other side. Soaking wet, sputtering, still hanging on to some tiny piece of the wreckage, but you'll come out.

Take it from an old guy. The waves never stop coming, and somehow you don't really want them to. You learn that you'll survive them. And other waves will come. And you'll survive them, too. If you're really lucky, you'll have lots of scars from lots of loves. And lots of shipwrecks." Ω

# From the Board Room

With

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



conduct the Effective Leadership Training just prior to the annual conference.

Gosh, it seems like we just got back from the 2015 National POMC Conference in Las Vegas, Nev., and here we are getting ready for 2016.

On Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016, I drove to Orlando to meet with our office manager, Bev Warnock. We went to the Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Hotel for further conference planning and looked at the physical layout of the hotel to determine the locations of the book store, break out rooms, registration area, etc.

For the first time ever we will

This will allow all the trainees to go to the training and to attend the National Conference, avoiding the inconvenience of an additional trip and saving a considerable amount of time and money. We hope you like the change.

When you make conference plans, you may want to include a few extra days to enjoy the local attractions. Downtown Disney (now called Disney Springs) is the shopping, dining, and theater district. There is also free transportation boat service to the “Westside” and four Disney Resort Hotels. At the west side you will find Cirque du Soliel’s “La Nuba,” a fantastic show. The four Disney Theme Parks are a short drive from

the conference site.

A short distance away from the conference site you can also visit Sea World, a theme park designed around sea life, thrill rides, and beautiful gardens. You might wish to see Shamu and the other killer whales. Be aware of the splash zones, unless you enjoy getting soaked.

A little beyond Sea World is Universal Studios, a theme park about movies. A recent addition to Universal is the Harry Potter area for all you fans of the series about a magical, mystical, young man.

As always, all the details regarding the 2016 conference and leadership training may be accessed on our POMC.org website. We expect the conference registration to fill up quickly, so please register very soon so you don’t miss out. Ω

## Leaving the National Board



Tim Woods is the Director of Government Contracts at the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) in Alexandria, Va. NSA represents the more than 3,000

**Tim Woods**

Sheriffs’ Offices across the United States.

His work brought him into contact with Dan Levey, today’s Executive Director. Tim told him of his friendship with Lisa Hullinger in Germany as exchange students in the American Field Service program. When Levey invited him to associate with POMC, Woods accepted and soon became a member of the POMC National Board of Trustees. He served on the Board for four years (2012-15). We thank him for his years of service. Ω

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

**TROY, OH, DEC. 9, 2015** — The annual Miami County Victim Witness Program’s Candlelight Service was held Tuesday evening at the First Lutheran Church in Troy. Approximately 50 people attended, including family and friends who lost their loved ones. National POMC Staff Member Sherry Nolan offered guidance to help those cope with the sudden loss of their loved ones. Nolan’s 24-year-old daughter and unborn grandchild were murdered in a domestic violence incident on Sept. 7, 2001.

**SAN ANTONIO, TX, Dec. 14, 2015** — The lives of murdered children were honored at a candlelight vigil Monday. The San Antonio POMC Chapter held the event at St. Luke’s Catholic Church, open to anyone who lost a loved one to violence.

**FAIRHAVEN, MA, Dec. 20, 2015** — The Southeastern Massachusetts POMC Chapter organized an annual candlelight vigil for non-violence and to remember those who have died from violence. The vigil was held at the Fairhaven Unitarian Church at 3 p.m.

**DURHAM, NC, Feb. 18, 2016** — The 24th Annual Vigil Against Violence was held at Shepherd’s House United Methodist Church. The vigil was sponsored by the Durham POMC Chapter, the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham, and Durham Congregations in Action. Ω

## MURDER WALL . . . . . Honoring Their Memories

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

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

The Wall is a powerful statement of the violence in our society and of the numbers of loved one 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.

**Alberto Garcia**  
9/21/78 - 2/17/10

**Marcus Tafari Samuel Downer**  
7/14/92 - 7/26/15

**Kinsley Raelynn Kinner**  
10/2/13 - 12/3/15

**Rita Sybil Rabalais**  
10/31/11 - 10/24/94

**Rev. Billy J. Shuler**  
2/20/45 - 5/21/14

**Mauricio Jonathan Suarez**  
2/11/83 - 10/30/03



**Curtis Theodore**  
5/12/88 - 6/13/08

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

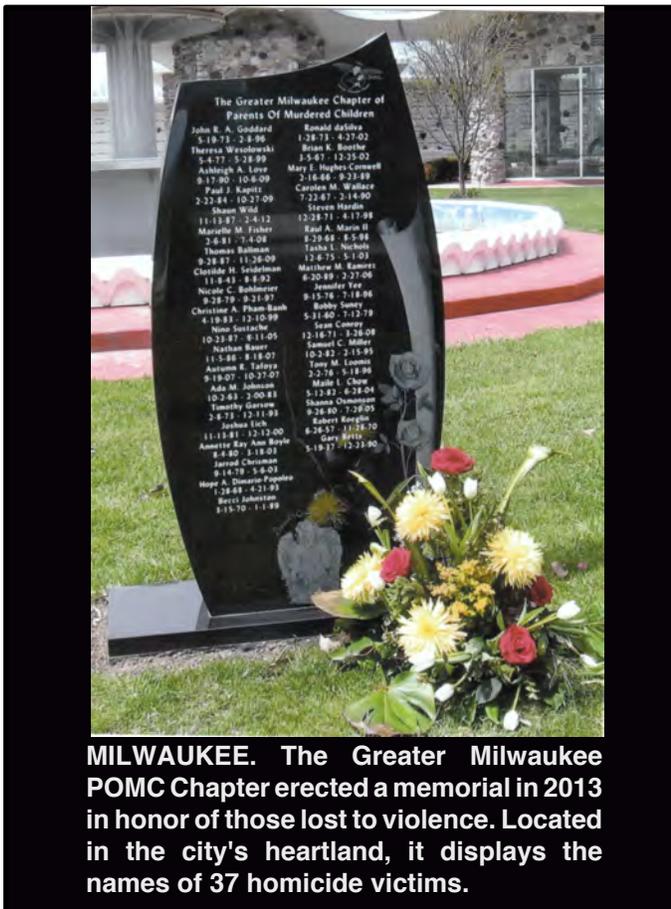
Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ MO: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



**MILWAUKEE.** The Greater Milwaukee POMC Chapter erected a memorial in 2013 in honor of those lost to violence. Located in the city's heartland, it displays the names of 37 homicide victims.

**MURDER IS NOT ENTERTAINMENT**

**POMC lodges complaint about dinner theater murder mystery**

By **Liz GOTTHELF**

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH, ME.** — The National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children has expressed its objection to a murder mystery dinner theater performance being shown at The Pier.

Dan Levey, Executive Director of the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, wrote a letter to Pier owner Paul Golzbein in protest of the Mystery for Hire dinner theater production ("Who Killed Jolly Roger"), which is playing at The Pier on Tuesdays through Aug. 5.

Parents Of Murdered Children offers support groups and other resources to those whose loved ones have died as a result of an act of violence. In 1993, it launched the "Murder is Not Entertainment" nationwide campaign to alert society to murder and its aftermath, said Levey.

Dan Morois, chief entertainment officer at Mystery for Hire and Mainely Improve, responded to a press inquiry in an email that was also sent to Golzbein.

"Our venture on the OOB Pier in no way is intended to trivialize the trauma that people go through as victims of murder," said Morois. "In the same way that people enjoy mystery novels, stage shows with mystery themes, or

mystery shows on television or at the cinema, our mystery-themed dinner theater shows are designed for audiences to solve a mystery and, in no way, to glorify violent crimes and the victims such actions leave behind."

Morois said the current show at Old Orchard Beach is a spoof about gold smuggling pirates who used to sail the seven seas, and the plot centers on how the pirates try to outdo each other in a quest for their fortunes.

"It is a combination of what happens when a comic mystery meets *The History Charmer*," said Morois. He said the company's intent is to provide a fun time for people who want to dine out and solve a mystery.

"The folks at the OOB Pier and we, at Mystery for Hire, sincerely apologize if our entertainment brings harm to anyone who has lost loved ones to murder," he said.

Ω

**Jeff**

Oh, Jeff, I miss you so!  
 I'd have given anything for you not to go.  
 But, somehow, it was your time to leave,  
 And slow days pass, now, while I grieve.

Oh, Jeff, it hurts so bad!  
 I never knew life could be so lonely and sad.  
 Did you have to die such a terrible death?  
 A flash of a knife, then you drew your last  
 breath.

Oh, Jeff, will it ever end?  
 Reliving the tragedy over and over again.  
 The cold, cold fear as I watched Dad's face,  
 Saying, "Jeff's dead"; the words no one can  
 erase.

Oh, Jeff, my baby brother,  
 You were so unique, not like any other.

The whole world is poorer because you are  
 gone,  
 And there are times I wish you had taken  
 me along.

Oh, Jeff, I love you so,  
 I'm learning to accept, though the going is  
 slow,  
 Trying so hard to bring good from the pain,  
 Through growing and learning, your death  
 won't be in vain.

So, goodbye, my dearest, beloved friend,  
 I will miss you 'till the day when we meet  
 again.

From your sister, Dea Abrams

[From *Thanks for Asking: A Collection of Remembrances*. Cincinnati: Parents of Murdered Children, 1991, 111.

## "Grief Is Like A River"

By Cinthia G. Kelley

My grief is like a river,  
I have to let it flow,  
But I myself determine  
Just where the banks will go.

Some days the current takes me  
In waves of guilt and pain,  
But there are always quiet pools  
Where I can rest again.

I crash on rocks of anger;  
My faith seems faint indeed,

But there are other swimmers  
Who know just what I need ...

They are loving hands to hold me  
When the waters are too swift,  
And someone kind to listen  
When I just seem to drift ...

Grief's river is a process  
Of relinquishing the past.  
By swimming in hope's channel,  
I'll reach the shore at last.

*From Valley of the Sun newsletter, January 2016*

## What the Victim's Family Needs to Know

*(Continued from p. 1)*

of death. Some may not perform an autopsy on an apparent suicide, for instance, or if there was a prolonged hospitalization before death. If you suspect that a crime occurred or that the manner of death is not as it appears to the police, make sure you communicate with the investigating medical examiner or coroner. Your opinion may influence what decisions they make.

If they do perform an autopsy, you can ask to speak to the pathologist to find out about the preliminary findings and share any information about the decedent's medical history or medications. This information can affect the doctor's interpretation of the autopsy findings. If you are worried about funeral arrangements, be aware that in most cases it is still possible to arrange an open casket service after the coroner or medical examiner has concluded the death investigation. Very few autopsies affect the outside appearance of a clothed body.

**4. What happens after the autopsy and why does it take so long to get a report?** As part of the autopsy, the investigating pathologist collects specimens from the body and sends them to a laboratory for

analysis. Blood and urine are tested for the presence of drugs or medications. In some cases the doctor will do histological studies—examining tissues for signs of disease or injury under a microscope. Toxicology testing can take anywhere from two weeks to three months, depending on the lab's workload and staffing, and the complexity of the required tests. When the lab results come back, the pathologist needs to take time to examine everything, come to a conclusion, and complete the report. Remember, however, that people die every day. With new autopsies to perform, a doctor in a typical urban coroner's office might have difficulty finding the time to sit down and review a complicated case after all the information comes in. The National Association of Medical Examiners recommends that its accredited offices complete 90 per cent of their cases within 30 days—but if your loved one's death falls into the complicated 10 per cent, it can take many months to get closure. That's not because the pathologist or investigative staff isn't trying. Believe me. Our offices are often understaffed and underfunded. We labor under a time burden, and good science takes time.

**5. What to do if the case stalls or there is a resolution you don't agree with?** The necessary (and often overlooked) first step in challenging a death investigation ruling is to ask to meet with the pathologist for a better understanding of the findings. Some jurisdictions hold inquests or other official hearings to resolve families' concerns about the manner of death.

Other options include hiring an independent consultant to review the case, then going to court seeking to overturn the death certificate. The latter is a difficult, time-consuming, and expensive route to take. If you plan on pursuing court action, be sure to get all the investigative materials from the police and the coroner or medical examiner. Request in writing that they preserve all evidence. If you receive these materials yourself, please do not look at the death scene and autopsy photos. Spare yourself having these pictures seared in your mind. Hire a trained professional to analyze the photos for you.

Not all crimes are identified. Not all criminals are successfully prosecuted. You have recourse in the civil courts, but that route can take many years. Reach out to victim organizations for support and practical advice about how to navigate the legal system. You may not realize how many families share the trauma of sudden death. Often we don't talk about it. But we are here for you. You're not alone.  $\Omega$

**[Dr. Judy Melinek (<http://www.pathologyexpert.com/drjudymelinek/>) performs autopsies for the Alameda Co. Sheriff Coroner's office in California. Her memoir, *Working Stiff: Two Years, 262 Bodies, and the Making of a Medical Examiner*, (<http://www.drworkingstiff.com>) is now out in paperback. She is the CEO of PathologyExpert Inc.]**

With **Bev WARNOCK**



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

## 1546

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

### SINCE THE FALL 2015 SURVIVORS

**PAROLES DENIED**

Jeffrey Blair

Frank Gordon

**Doyce Wade Gargus**

**RELEASED**

Darrel Moira

#### Support for the Parole Block Program:

- Kandice Johnson Gargus, from Walter & Beverly Burns
- Michael Simmons, from Reginal & LaToyce Lee
- Timothy Staunton, from Denise Coleman
- Lisa Weaver, from Howard & Ann Klerk

## Parole Block Petitions

Parole Hearing  
June 2016

RE: Kenneth Lonnie Cook  
ID#: 119820

On June 29, 1981, Kenneth L. Cook kidnapped, raped and shot to death 18-year-old Lori Ann Mann. Lori's nude body was found four days after she had been dumped in the weeds along a dirt road.

Cook was convicted of murder and was sentenced to life in prison. He will have served 34 years when he is considered for parole.

To protest, write to:

Oklahoma  
Board of Pardon and Parole  
2915 N. Classen  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Parole Hearing  
July 2016

RE: Javier Valenzuela

TDCJ-ID#: 00629125  
SID#: 03405767

On Sept. 20, 1991, Javier Valenzuela robbed a convenience store and took the store clerk, Lorena Haynes, 23, to the back of the store and shot her execution style. As he was leaving, he shot a customer, Barney Hudson, 57. Both lived a couple of days and died later in the hospital from their injuries.

Valenzuela was convicted of two counts of murder with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to life. He will have served 25 years when he is considered for parole.

To protest write to:

Victim Services Division  
8712 Shoal Creek Blvd,

(Continued on p. 9)

## Help Keep Murderers Behind Bars

- Write letters protesting the parole of those convicted murderers listed in each issue of the SURVIVORS newsletter. Petitions can also be downloaded from POMC's website at [www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org).
- Contact National POMC if your loved one's murderer is going to be considered for early

release or parole.

- Contact National POMC to be placed on the list of those willing to circulate monthly petitions.
- Support the program by sending your tax-deductible donation.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amt Encl: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_ Money Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ AMX \_\_\_\_\_ Dis \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sec. Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Parole Block Petitions

*(Continued from p. 8)*

Suite 265  
PO Box 13401  
Austin, TX 78711-1441  
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**Parole Hearing  
November 2016**

**Re: Jonathan G.  
Flores  
ID#: K79912**

On July 15, 1996, Jonathan G. Flores murdered his estranged wife, Michele Rene (Necochea) Flores, 25, after an argument they had over the telephone.

Michele left to get something to eat but never returned home. On July 18, 1996, her badly decomposed body was found in the trunk of her car at the airport in Tijuana, Mexico. Flores fled to avoid capture, but was apprehended trying to cross to Texas. He was extradited to California to face murder charges.

Flores was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 25-years-to-life with possibility of parole. He will have served 20 and one-half years at the November hearing.

Previously, Flores had charges of spousal abuse.

**To protest write to:**

Board of Parole Hearing  
Attn: Pre-Hearing  
Correspondence  
PO Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA  
95812-4036  
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**Parole Hearing  
April 2016**

**RE: David Hinchey  
DIN#: 88C0999  
NYSID#: 04930881M**

On July 30, 1987, David Hinchey choked and beat Jesse Powers, eight-years-old, and then left him in a train boxcar for six days. This happened a day before Jesse was to testify against him for sexual crimes. Jesse was supposed to meet with detectives on July 31 to give a statement about Hinchey molesting him. Jesse was beaten badly and his head was kicked in. Hinchey participated in the six-day search.

Hinchey was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25-years-to-life in prison. He will have served only 28 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest write to:**

Department of Corrections  
Board of Parole  
97 Central Ave.  
Albany, NY 12206  
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**Parole Hearing:  
April 13, 2016**

**RE: Lawrence R. Cowell  
ID#: D21718**

On April 17, 1982, Lawrence R. Cowell, along with a hired accomplice, brutally murdered his lifelong friend, Scott M. Campbell (27) and stole Scott's expensive Panera sports car.

Cowell planned Scott's murder and then rented a plane he would pilot. Scott thought he was a passenger in the plane with a flight instructor, who, in reality, was the hired killer sitting behind him.

Cowell's accomplice beat and strangled Scott from behind, as Scott was helplessly strapped in his seat.

Prior to throwing his body in the Pacific Ocean, Cowell and the accomplice both laughed and joked as they bloodied Scott so the sharks would eat him.

Scott's parents and authorities searched for 11 long months for their son.

Cowell was convicted of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder, and robbery. He was sentenced to two concurrent terms of 25-years-to-life in prison and an additional six years enhancement. His co-

conspirator received life without parole, but Cowell got off with a much lighter sentence. He will have served 25 years when he is considered for parole.

**To protest write to:**

Board of Parole Hearing  
Attn: Pre-Hearing  
Correspondence  
PO Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA  
95812-4036  
-----

## Letters from Families

**Bret Alan Arbuckle  
Prisoner #00175533**

**Parole blocked  
Friday, Nov. 27, 2015**

Bev, We heard this week from the Missouri Dept. of Corrections that Arbuckle's parole eligibility hearing is scheduled for November 2018— **three** years, instead of two years—as they've done in the past. This extra year will give us a chance to recuperate some-what before we have to start all over again.

Arbuckle was convicted of second-degree murder and armed criminal action and sentenced to life, plus 30 years, for the murder of my 17-year-old daughter, Angela Lyn Fortner, on June 20, 1989, in Lawrence Co., Mo.

We thank all who participated in the Parole Block Program, because we feel all the petitions were a big factor in keeping the murderer in prison. He was transferred back to Missouri in May 2015 for evaluation and

was removed from protective custody. This is the first parole hearing we have been able to attend in 26 years. Because of the protective custody status, we weren't allowed to know where he was incarcerated or anything about him.

Please keep the \$25 donation in gratitude for everything POMC does for all victims.

Thank you so much.

*Paul and Shirley  
Hollingsworth*

-----  
**Doyce Wade  
Gargus**

**Parole blocked  
1/29/2016**

Thank you POMC for all the work you do. This [November hearing] was our last parole hearing. Wade will serve until the end of his sentence. Thank you for being there for us.

Please keep the money as a donation.

*Beverly Burns*

*(Continued on p. 11)*

**COLD CASE CORNER**

**DNA leads to arrest in 1986 Marietta double rape, murder**

**MARIETTA, Ga.** — In November authorities in Cobb County said a man was arrested for the 1986 double rape and murder of a Marietta woman and her 13-year-old daughter.

Sharon Brady and her daughter, Samantha, were found dead in their Marietta apartment on Sept. 12, 1986. Brady's three-year-old daughter was also in the apartment, but unharmed.

The case went unsolved for nearly three decades after all leads were exhausted, investigators said.

In 2013, Cobb County District Attorney Vic Reynolds formed a cold case unit in his department. He invited local law enforcement agencies, including the Marietta Police Department, to review unsolved murder and sex crimes. After reviewing evidence in the Brady case, the unit submitted samples to a private lab in Salt Lake City for advanced forensic DNA testing.

That testing led to the arrest of a 60-year-old man who had lived in the same apartment complex as the Bradys in 1986. Police say that Ronald Lee Kyles got into the apartment through a bedroom window and committed the crimes. He's charged with two counts of murder, two counts of rape, two counts of aggravated assault, and one count of burglary in connection with the Brady murders.

Former Marietta Police Detective Wayne Kennedy said Kyles was a suspect back in 1986—he was arrested two weeks later on a different charge—but investigators didn't have evidence to make the case for murder.

Kyles is currently serving a nine-year sentence for aggravated assault in Pennsylvania. He will be extradited to Cobb County to face charges. **Ω**



**Valley of the Sun Chapter notes that the Phoenix Police Dept. has an online Cold Case Registry. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) also has a cold case registry for any victim, victim's family member, or other lawful representative of a victim of a cold case who requests to be included in the registry. For information about this service, check the POMC webpage ([pomc.org](http://pomc.org)), Chapter tab, Arizona, Feb. 2016 newsletter, p. 4.**

**Cold Cases in Los Angeles**

Of the 11,244 homicides in Los Angeles County from Jan. 1, 2000, to Dec. 31, 2010, 46 per cent remain unsolved, according to a Los Angeles News Group analysis of data provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, and dozens of other police agencies across the county. **Ω**

*[Database: Los Angeles County's Unsolved Homicides]*

**New Texas parole law lengthens time between parole hearings**

**HOUSTON, TX** — In 2015 the Texas Legislature gave parole board members the power to extend the time between parole hearings for rapists and murderers from three to five years.

The enabling legislation took effect in September. The choice gave the board a chance to lengthen the time gap to equal the five-year gap for lesser crimes.

Gov. Greg Abbott's signing the legislation climaxed a ten-year effort to allow a longer time between parole hearings for convicted murderers. Houston's Victim Advocate Andy Kahan played a large part in the prolonged effort. **Ω**

**Letters from Families**

*(Continued from p. 9)*

**Parole Hearing  
February 2016**

**RE: John Eastle Brewer  
ID#: A175066**

On April 17, 1983, 19-year-old John Brewer and 19-year-old John Byrd burst into a King Kwik store in Mt. Healthy, Ohio, robbing and stabbing to death Monte Tewksbury. He was moonlighting this second job only two blocks from his home. They ripped out the phone, but Monte was able to get to the pay phone and call his wife, Sharon. She got to him a few minutes

later and found him lying on the floor with a gaping wound in his side. He bled to death, living for only two hours.

John Byrd was executed Feb. 19, 2002. John Brewer was convicted of burglary, breaking and entering, aggravated robbery, and aggravated murder. The duo said they wanted to know what murder was like. Brewer was sentenced to life. When he came up for parole in February, he had served 33 years of that life sentence. But the parole board has not yet acted as we go to press. **Ω**

## Letters from Families

(Continued from p. 9)

**Robert James Nutt**  
parole blocked

Jan. 13, 2016

To: Beverly Warnock

Dear Beverly,

Thank you for sending the February online newsletter.

I wanted you and the POMC chapters to know that the many parole block petition signatures (more than 2,000) collected by chapters, friends, family, law enforcement officials, and others throughout the US and overseas, has been a grateful, bittersweet, undertaking.

Robert Nutt ID# J 61749, who murdered our beloved Michelle, agreed in late October 2015 to have the scheduled Dec. 3, 2015 parole hearing cancelled on grounds of a very bad psyche report, including the June 2015 assault with a deadly weapon causing great bodily harm. He cannot request a new hearing for three years.

Thank you, POMC, for the design, online exposure, and circulation of the petitions; and thank you everyone who took the time to add your signatures and sent R. J. Nutt back to Corcoran State Prison, Cal.

The petitions are kept on file and used when and where the new hearing takes place. Ω

Sincerely,

*Astrid Lang*

March 1, 2016

**William Robert Geiger**

Next parole hearing,  
2023

My name is Olga Heldt. My daughter Nancy was murdered by her estranged husband, Wm. Robert Geiger, Dec. 25, 1976. She left him when he forced her to have an abortion and charged him with physical and mental abuse.

He was a compulsive gambler. Ninety per cent of their three-year marriage, she was the sole support. After she left him he started to stalk her, threatening her with a loaded gun. She had him arrested, but he made bail pending trial, which was set for January 1997. Nancy and I were subpoenaed to appear at the trial.

On Christmas Eve, Geiger followed Nancy, her grandmother, and me to our home after midnight mass and parked behind my car after I pulled into our garage. I ran into the house to call the police and he forced his way into the driver's side of my car and shot Nancy four times in her torso. My husband got his mother into the house and returned to the garage to help Nancy, but Geiger dragged her body out of the car and shot her twice more in the head to make sure she was dead.

When I confronted him, he pointed the gun at me and shot at me; luckily, my husband pulled me

back into the house. The bullet punctured the door frame where I had been standing. He shot again into the wall where we were running up the stairs. Luckily the wall was a fire wall and didn't penetrate it. He was convicted of premeditated first degree murder, and of having an unlicensed weapon at the November 1977 trial.

He has been up for parole seven times. We have been able to block the parole by appearing

## SURVIVORS

and pleading to the Parole Board. Our last hearing was July 8, 2015. He was denied and received an FET (future eligibility time) of 96 months (8 years).

My family and I would like to thank you and your staff from the bottom of our hearts again for the letters and petitions. You did a great job for us.

My family and me, Ω

### Sentencing Statistics\*

- The average maximum sentence length for murder was 20 years and 11 months.
- The average maximum time served was 9 years and 2 months - 44 per cent of the actual sentence.
- Twenty-nine percent of parole discharges returned to prison were reincarcerated for murder.

\*U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics

### *"In Our Hearts"*

*We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new.*

*We thought about you yesterday, and days before that too.*

*We think of you in silence, we often speak your name.*

*Now, all we have are memories and pictures in a frame.*

*Your memory is our keepsake with which we will never part.*

*God has you in His keeping, we have you in our heart.*

**- Rose DeLeon**

*[Michelle Matson, Victim Advocate with the Prosecutor's Office in Calhoun Co., contributed this*

With **Sherry NOLAN**  We thank the following new volunteers for the valuable services that they will provide to other survivors on behalf of POMC, Inc. If you would like more information about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Sherry Nolan, National Volunteer Coordinator, at:

**888-818-7662, or [snolan@pomc.org](mailto:snolan@pomc.org)**

1 new Contact Person has joined the National POMC family since our last SURVIVORS Newsletter:

**Lisa Marie Jacques** (Sibling-Survivor)  
 Bullhead City, Arizona  
 928-444-7351 cell  
[lisamarie.1975@outlook.com](mailto:lisamarie.1975@outlook.com)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

|              |   |                  |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| Alabama      | These states need volunteers to offer support services, such as (1) phone and email support, (2) support group meetings, (3) court accompaniment, | Oklahoma         |
| Connecticut  |   | Rhode Island     |
| Mississippi  |   | Utah             |
| Montana      |   | Vermont          |
| Nebraska     |   | Washington, D.C. |
| North Dakota |   | Wyoming          |

etc. Hundreds of survivors across the U.S. volunteer for the National Organization of POMC as Chapter Leaders, Co-Leaders, and Contact Persons. Are you able to help? Contact Sherry.

### CP/CL UPDATES

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

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

The deadline for receipt of articles for the next newsletter is **May 10, 2016**. Deadlines or overflow of articles may require holding those for future newsletters.

## Milwaukee Chapter Leader voices outrage at online murder market

**MILWAUKEE, WI.**— Chapter of the Greater Milwaukee POMC Chapter Leader, recently objected to the market of murder memorabilia and was quoted in a Scripps Media, Inc., article.

The occasion was Netflix's new “Making a Murderer” TV documentary series, which features convicted murderer Steven Avery. He receives an income from the series.

Prevort has joined Houston's Victim Advocate Andy Kahan in calling attention to the objectionable—but legal—trade in murder relics. Three years ago *SURVIVORS* featured Kahan's article, "Marketing Memorabilia," which explained that the Son of Sam laws apply to media sales, but not to sales of murderabilia. You can read about the current issue online at [www.tmj4.com/news/i-team/convicted-killers-could-be-making-money...](http://www.tmj4.com/news/i-team/convicted-killers-could-be-making-money...) and Kahan's article in the *SURVIVORS* Summer 2014 issue.

Kahan received the POMC 2013 Becky Reed Memorial Award at Cincinnati. Barbara Prevort and her husband, Frank, received the POMC 2015 Lisa Hullinger Memorial Award at Las Vegas. Ω

## IN MEMORIAM

**GEORGE W. FUCARINO** ( ? -2016). George was a devoted Anniversary Note writer, along with his wife, Lynda and daughter, Amy. The Mesa, Ariz. family wrote anniversary cards in remembrance of their children, Joshua Samuel Fucarino and Sue Jane Fucarino.

## (Why POMC?) I feel good when I...

"When I find myself giving a hug to a father, a mother, a surviving family member of murder, but more so when I am hugged by them. Somehow, one never forgets the hug, even though words are many times forgotten." Hyman Eisenberg, *The Inner Grief of Men...*, Cincinnati: POMC, 1993.



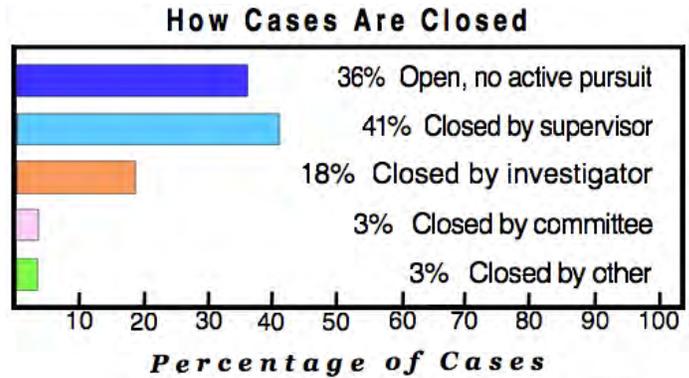
**VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT PAID...NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE WORTHLESS, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE PRICELESS.**

By **Mary ELLEDGE**



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

**A survey of victim service agencies gave the information about homicide investigations on their way to becoming cold cases.**



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

*[MARY: Is there anything that can make a murder even worse? YES! Not having the crime solved is worse. When a loved one is murdered, co-victims can suffer from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Experts believe that reliving the murder again and again causes PTSD to be worse.*

*When a crime is not solved, it plays over and over in our minds. It is harder for us to cope when we constantly are searching for the murderer. Not having justice for our loved one complicates our loss. As co-victims, we feel that their lives were not valued. If the murderer murders again because he or she was not apprehended, then not even our loved one's deaths could prevent another horrid loss of a life!*

*In the Portland Chapter, several survivors tell how they are affected when their loved ones are cold cases.]*

-----

### How having an unsolved case hinders you from getting to a New Normal

By **Dan McCann**

There are so many rings of hell-on-earth for the parents of murdered children. Who can say, with the powerful vision of a Dante Alighieri,

which is the lowest? Who suffers the worst? Here's a snapshot most of us will understand: A tiny, tiny part of Beth Holloway probably still secretly hopes dear Natalie is found, somehow, somewhere, on the other side of the world, damaged but alive. We all suffer. Uniquely. Hideously. It's a prism of piercing pain. For all of us, a never-ending tooth-ache in the soul.

My prism, as the father of Annie McCann? I've been beaten so low, I've descended through so many hellish rings, through so many new normals, that I don't even yearn now for Annie's murder to be solved. I've been mercilessly dumbed down. By life. By death. Humbly. Piti-fully? I simply pray now that her murder be honestly examined by the police. Acknowledged, even seven years too late. I pray the police put down their bureaucratic shields and look objectively at the evidence Mary Jane and I have marshaled. And that they confess their failure.

*"Yes, we see the clear evidence of torture and rape. Yes, we see the opinions of world-renowned experts. Yes, we realize now that your daughter was murdered. Yes, we were wrong. We failed her, and we failed you. We'll give it our best shot. We hope it's not too late..."*

But that's fantasy. Like the cartoonish fantasy of wishing I were Liam Neeson in "Taken," heroically

rescuing my daughter from diabolical traffickers. When, in reality, I couldn't even get the local police to issue an Amber Alert for my missing Annie. And now she is dead. Brutally tortured and dead.

Still struggling here on earth, I seek a worldly justice for my beautiful daughter. I don't know how not to. I guess it's my new and enduring normal. Beyond this normal, though, I glimpse an Eternal Normal. An Eternal Justice. Perversely, because of this sometimes wicked world, Annie got There first. But, if Mary Jane and I play our cards right, we can still catch up to her. We'll finally learn the Truth, the Whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth. And by then, it won't even matter.

Because every tear will be wiped away.

-----

*[MARY: Mary Jane and Dan McCann wrote. They have the additional burden that the authorities do not believe that Anne, their daughter, was murdered. The evidence from professionals is disregarded. All families should not be victimized by the very system that should be helping them. Losing a loved one is hard enough—but not getting treated well makes it worse.]*

*(Continued on p. 19)*

## In Loving Memory Of:

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

### Lest We Forget!

**Charles Adamson**, from Lilly Linen  
**Jefferey Armstrong Patterson**, from Ann Armstrong Patterson  
**Kirk Barrett**, from Priscilla Barrett  
**Rae Marie Bennett**, from Marilyn Bennett  
**Bryan E. Bensfield**, from Regina Knezevich Hardin  
**Deana Lynne Bowdoin**, from Leslie James  
**Demetrius S. Bryant**, from the National Board of Trustees & National Staff, Child, Adolescent & Family Services unit of Columbia Area Mental Health Center  
**Jarrold Chrisman**, from Rodney & Suzie Chrisman  
**Dwayne Chubb**, from Albert & Dorothy Chubb  
**Jeanette Cohen**, from Yoland Roeber  
**Adam J. Cortes**, from Robert & Deborah Cortes  
**Irene Darley Pierce**, from Richard & Marilyn Pierce  
**Chad (C.J.) Davis**, from Diana Davis Hehn  
**Dino Dizdarevic**, from Zlatko & Jadranka Dizdarevic  
**Deborah Sarah Dorian**, from Sara Loven  
**Anthony Fontenot**, from Harry & Julia Fontenot  
**Elizabeth Foster**, from Helen Foster  
**Daniel Fox**, from Michael Goldstein  
**Stephanie Alexis Gach**, from Mary Kate Gach  
**Anna Kay Adam & Mark Goldstein**, from Martin Goldstein  
**Ryan Gray**, from Anna Kingsbury  
**Robert James & Frances P. Hansen**, from Martha Collins  
**John Hardeman III & Gail Haines Hardeman**, from Elisabeth Hardeman  
**John Thomas Harris II**, from Jeri Harris  
**James Joseph "Jay" Hitt**,

from Debbie Hitt  
**Lance Hoskins**, from Lelia Hoskins  
**Keith Hunter**, from Roby Robinson  
**Dan King**, from Dennis & Toni King  
**Joy Anna Kosisky**, from Christina Andrae, Eric Andrae, Thomas & Priscilla Jackman  
**Michelle Lang-Klotz**, from Astrid Lang  
**Jessica Lynn Lange**, from Gay Hynds  
**Howard Levey**, from Dan Levey  
**David H. Liu**, from Ying Liu  
**Leslie Aaron Mann**, from Go Dance Go Dance, Kathy Williams  
**Michele Matteucci**, from Dante & Gwen Matteucci  
**Ruby Mays**, from Janice Galespie, Annette Mundon, Marcella Trice  
**Kevin McKinley**, from Loretta McKinley  
**Jessika Messmer**, from Edward & Lorraine Messmer  
**George Wesley Montgomery**, from Denese Montgomery  
**Susanne Mullin**, from Joan Mullin  
**Renee Mullins**, from Cheryl Peckenpaugh  
**Peter Dodd Nichols**, from Terry & Lee Freeman  
**Shannon & Alexandra Jordan Nolan Broe**, from L.C. & Sharon Nolan and Nelson & Margarita Torres  
**Danny O'Donnell**, from Chuck & Donna O'Donnell  
**Christina & Jeanne Oyer**, from Clarence Oyer

**Ray Podell**, from Gerald & Marilyn Lipson  
**Paul Rodgers**, from Bonnie Gay  
**Estee' Natasha Sawyer**, from William Sawyer  
**Kurt Schaefer**, from Peter & Margaret Schaefer  
**Steven A. Schaffer**, from Andrea Maisel  
**Frederick Schmidt**, from Wilbert Schmidt  
**Johnny Schuh**, from Harriet Winkeler  
**Patricia Scoville**, from David and Ann Scoville  
**Cynthia Hoge Sedgwick**, from James & Barbara Sedgwick  
**Stephen Senator**, from Stewart & Joan Senator  
**Michael Simmons**, from Reginald & LaToyce Lee  
**Darrel Smith**, from Barbara Smith  
**Timothy Staunton**, from Denise Coleman  
**Brent Edward St John**, from Judie St John  
**Lee Story**, from Karen & Lee Story  
**Melissa Ann Stromeck**, from Thomas & Judith Stromeck  
**Daniel & Jason Swanson**, from Alicia Swanson & K.E.L.C. Corp  
**Melissa Thoma**, from Frank & Dorothy Thoma  
**Rachel Helena Timmerman**, from L.C. & Lillian Timmerman  
**David Vostatek**, from Rudy & Stella Vostatek  
**Bryce Waldman**, from Richard Waldman  
**Carolyn Marie Wallace**, from Claudia Place  
**Lisa Weaver**, from Howard & Ann Klerk  
**Laura Marie Williams**,

from Nana & Jamie Young  
**Nicole Anne Willson**, from Anne Spielman  
**Steven Woodruff**, from Ruth Woodruff  
**Julia Ann Woodward**, from Robert & Cecily O'Connor  
**Jason Cody Wright**, from Stacey Richards  
**Ryan Young**, from Rick & Sharon Young

### IN HONOR OF

**Kelcey Stevens**, from Capital One  
**Dr. Harry Bonnell**, from La Jolla Legal Publications Inc.  
**Melinda Snyder**, from Jerry & Geretha Snyder  
**All POMC Chapter Leaders**, past & present, with gratitude, from Bob & Charlotte Hullinger  
**Action Donation Services Appriss Inc.**  
**Francisco Brandon CBRE Foundation, Inc.**  
**Kenneth Czillinger**  
**Community Foundation of Louisville**  
**Kathleen Dubose**  
**Philip Dumas**  
**Neal Frentheway**  
**Erin Fitzgerald Jacobs**  
**Geoffrey Harris**  
**Adam Heston**  
**Burt Heyman**  
**Venus Kent**  
**Nicole Luscombe**  
**Bill Markowitz & Nancy Greiw**  
**Carlos Montoya**  
**Eric Nichols**  
**Pettit Family Foundation Inc.**  
**Prosecutors Bar Association**  
**Dana Railsback**  
**State of Michigan Kinross Correctional Facility**  
**Valley of the Sun Chapter**  
**Jerome & Vivian Willging**

## Donations to and support of National Non-profit POMC have several indirect avenues

There are many ways to help with much needed funds for POMC including any items you buy on Amazon.com, as well as if you shop the Kroger Stores. It is very simple and does not cost you anything, yet your purchase allows a percentage from these companies to go directly to National. Please go on-line to [www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org) and see how you can sign up for this or contact Bev Warnock - [bwarnock@pomc.org](mailto:bwarnock@pomc.org)



POMC Goodsearch donates money to POMC when you search the Internet, shop online, or dine out at local restaurants! Use Goodsearch. They donate a penny-per-search to POMC. Use Good-shop.com when you shop online and they donate a percentage of every purchase and offer over 100,000 coupons to help you save money too! Sign up for

their Good dining program and they'll donate a percentage of your restaurant bill when you eat at any one of thousands of participating restaurants.

It's really easy. It's free. It turns simple everyday actions into a way to help POMC. Please sign up today to help support Parents Of Murdered Children—POMC. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to get started.

*[Adapted From Valley of the Sun Chapter Jan. 2015 newsletter.]*

**New Fundraiser** - No need to worry about parking or getting a designated driver—we've partnered with [Uber](#) to get everyone to and from events safely! Uber is evolving the way the world moves. By seamlessly connecting riders to drivers through our app, Uber makes cities more accessible, opening up more possibilities for

riders and more business for drivers. New to Uber? Sign up with promo code **POMCORG** to get your first ride FREE, up to \$20! Plus Uber will donate \$5 back to POMC.

Check out Uber pro tips here: [uber.com/features](http://uber.com/features).

PromoCode: **POMCORG**

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**[Uber.com/go/pomcorg](http://Uber.com/go/pomcorg)**

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### **POMC RECEIVES HALF OF NET PROFIT FROM DONATIONS TO ACTION DONATION SERVICES.**

Donations to Action Donation Services (ADS) will give POMC 50% of the net profit. ADS accepts donations of cars, trucks, boats, RVs, and heavy equipment, etc. They will pick up the donated item, fix it up (if necessary), and auction the item for the highest possible price. All you have to do is call them at 1-866-244-8464.

Tell them what you want to donate, and designate POMC as the recipient. They will instruct you on how to proceed. A POMC member donated a 20-year-old 5th wheel camper, which netted POMC \$1,397.80. Upon request, ADS will issue you a 1098c form. You can file it with your tax returns as a charitable donation. This is a chance to get rid of equipment and help POMC at the same time.

# Daisy, comfort-giving K-9 dies, POMC conference friend for many

By **Laurie SCHLOSSNAGLE**



*"The heart, like the mind, has a memory. And in it are kept the most precious keepsakes."*

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

We said goodbye to our best friend last week. K-9 Daisy passed away peacefully, surrounded by people she loved, and people who loved her. Our hearts are broken.

Daisy's memory and legacy live on through all of us. I hope you will join me this spring and plant some daisies in honor of Daisy's well lived and loved life (and please share photos with me— [rlydogs@gmail.com](mailto:rlydogs@gmail.com)).

Daisy and our family began our relationship with POMC at the 2009 Cincinnati Conference. I was nervous and scared being the human at the end of her leash, but Daisy made it easy for me. With a wag of her tail, that soulful look in her eye, and her wonderfully soft ears, she won the hearts of many. She helped people to cope, to grieve, to love, to talk, to hug, to be present, and to understand a little more fully the impact of comfort dogs. Her quiet, calm presence was a cornerstone at several conferences: 2009 Cincinnati, 2010 Philadelphia, 2011 Milwaukee, and 2013 Cincinnati. Many of you asked every time we saw you how she was doing. We also were fortunate enough to spend time with the Cincinnati Chapter for several National Days of Remembrance.

We loved sharing our beloved dog with all of you. We loved all the photos. We loved all the hugs. We loved watching you love her.

We rescued Daisy as a very young puppy when a family turned her in to the local humane society saying "She was too much trouble." She was so

small that I could put her on the couch on a blanket, and she couldn't get off. She grew up to be a sweet, understanding, smart, compassionate, forgiving dog. My daughters, Meagan and

Kendra, and I all trained with her and competed in Junior Showmanship, Rally, Obedience, and Games. As much as Daisy loved therapy/comfort dog work, she also loved dog shows and competing with all of us. She won a number of awards and national rankings with all of us. She officially retired in Fall 2014 with a series of perfect scores.

Because of Daisy, I explored dog training and decided to make it my career. Daisy was my classroom dog for many, many dog-training classes and workshops. She attended seminars with me and was always ready and willing to go and do whatever was on the agenda!

Daisy is the reason I am so passionate about therapy/comfort dog volunteering.

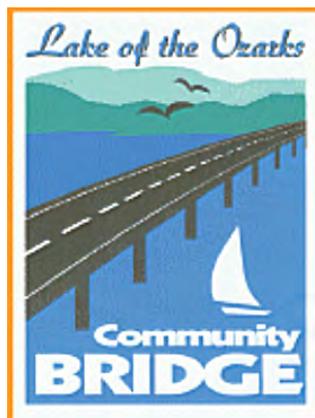
We started our therapy dog journey listening to kids read in Kendra's first grade classroom. Since then we have visited nursing homes, assisted living centers, libraries, classrooms, and special events. We became involved in crisis response and comfort-dog ministry. Daisy visited college campuses, high schools, natural disaster sites, and memorials in the aftermath of crises.

Daisy's passing has left a huge hole in our hearts and our lives. We take comfort in knowing how much our POMC family also loved her. Thank you for your love, support, and acceptance throughout the years. We came to give to you and, in return, you gave us so much. We will continue our journey with you with our other dogs because it's what Daisy would have wanted. Ω



**Daisy the comfort / therapy dog is also a comfort to Laurie Schlossnagle, her owner/trainer.**

Contrary to what a lot of people believe (or hope), comfort doesn't take the pain away. Comfort slides in beside the pain, pulling up a chair so that we have something more than sorrow in our hearts. Comfort gently expands our spirits so that we can breathe again. Comfort opens our eyes so that we can see possibility again. And on those days, whether it is the next day or five years removed, on that day when grief rears its dark head again, comfort helps us remember that pain is not all there is.  
Peggy Haymes  
- sayinggoodbye.org



## POMC joins community awareness event

Citizens Against Domestic Violence/Victim Outreach Center and Ameren Missouri will host a tri-county community event, *Light Up the Night*, on the Bagnell Dam on April 14, 2016. The project aims to magnify the focused prevention of crime in the Lake of the Ozark communities. POMC will join Mothers Against Drunk Driving and other community helping agencies in this second annual observance.

# U.S. - Canada, victim compensation

*[SURVIVORS asked POMC Executive Director Dan Levey to compare a recent Canadian court decision to the United States court policy.]*

**QUEBEC, MONTREAL, CANADA,** Dec. 21, 2015—Isabelle Gaston, the mother of two children who were murdered by her husband, listed ways in which the Canadian criminal justice system fails homicide-victim survivors.

**A.** One has to do with Quebec’s compensation policy: normally, financial compensation is restricted to dependents of crime victims.

Quebec’s compensation fund—IVAC—does not fully recognize the parents of murdered children as victims themselves, and therefore they are eligible only for a relatively small amount of compensation.

**Levey:** *Victim Compensation in my experience here in the United States does recognize surviving family members as legal victims (as do most states through state statute or constitution).*

**The Canadian fund:**

- Will cover funeral expenses and, crudely, the cost of cleaning up a crime scene.

**Levey:** *In the United States, Victims Comp does cover funeral expenses and crime scene clean up.*

- They and other close relatives of victims can also be reimbursed for psychotherapy.

**Levey:** *Family members are eligible for counseling.*

- Homicide-victim survivors must bear other expenses brought on by the murder, such as lawyers’ fees and lost income.

**Levey:** *Typically, homicide survivors do bear the brunt of legal cost, albeit there is a strong movement for pro bono victims’ rights legal assistance programs that will provide victims with legal representation (these are not part of victim comp).*

- Homicide-victim survivors may seek compensation, but they must plead their case in front of a tribunal every time.

**Levey:** *Typically survivors do not have to plead their case in front of a tribunal of any kind*

*unless they are appealing a decision of the comp board.*

**B.** The use of medical and psychiatric witnesses—plus experts paid by the defense—sometimes resulted in questionable testimony. In the event of two trials, drastically different results may result.

The Quebec Association of Psychiatrists made one sensible recommendation: judges, not lawyers, should choose experts to testify in court.

**Levey:** *Currently, in my experience psychiatrists are chosen by lawyers, not necessarily by the court. Sometimes it does happen that a judge chooses the experts. However, a highly respected judge said that, normally, the parties hire their own experts. Although there can be instances where a judge calls a “court expert”—this is something that has been advanced for several years by the American Association for the Advancement of Science—there are many outstanding experts who refuse to testify for either side, but will testify as a neutral court expert. Ω*

## Victims of crime programs lose some funding in recent Congressional action

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The federal budget deal agreed to by Congress in November 2015 and signed by the president took \$1.5-billion dollars out of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund.

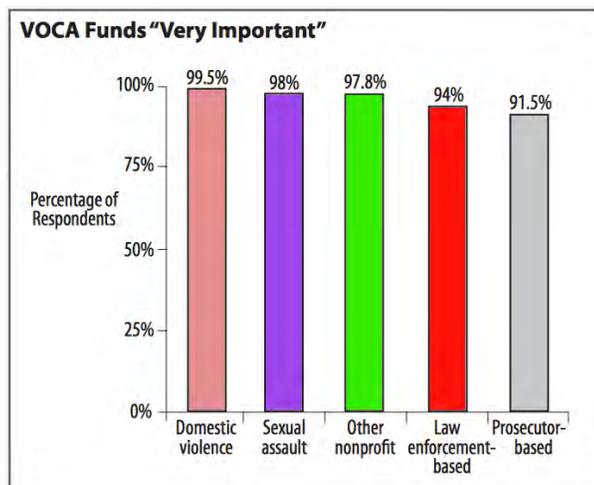
VOCA funds come from fines levied with federal convictions. By law, they are supposed to support programs that help victims of child abuse, parents of murdered children and families of other homicide victims, drunk driving homicide survivors, and victim witnesses.

POMC has received some VOCA funding in recent years—

1) POMC chapters (there may be more examples):

- \* Valley of the Sun, (Phoenix-area)
- \* Greater Kansas City Area
- \* Greater Portland
- \* Central Arkansas (Little Rock)
- \* Maine (Augusta), past recipient

2) National Office (Cincinnati) received four new computers, staff pay raises, and new phones are coming.



The graph above is based upon a survey of VOCA-funded agencies, most of whom could be greatly affected. VOCA funds are not raised by federal taxes.

**National  
Crime Victims'  
Rights Week  
—April 10-16**



In 1987, United States Attorney General Edwin Meese presented POMC founder Charlotte Hullinger with an award for her work. Future POMC people who received the award were John W. Gillis, 1991, and Nancy Ruhe-Munch, 1993. The press release (right) is typical for the 10 persons chosen for the annual award.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The U. S. Department of Justice is preparing to observe the April 10-16 **National Crime Victims' Rights Week** in the nation's capital. Across the nation, victims service agencies, crime victim advocates, and law enforcement agencies are preparing their local observances to honor and celebrate 31 years in securing rights, protections, and services for crime victims. The bipartisan Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed by Congress in 1984, created a national fund to ease victims' suffering.

Financed by fines and penalties paid by offenders, the Crime Victims Fund supports services for victims of all types of crime, including assistance for homicide survivors, survivors of child sexual abuse, and victims of human trafficking, as well as rape crisis centers and domestic



**Department of Justice**

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ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 12:30 P.M., EDT OJP  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1987 202/724-7782

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Charlotte Hullinger of Cincinnati, Ohio and her husband, the Reverend Robert Hullinger, are founders of Parents of Murdered Children. They established this self-help organization after their 19-year-old daughter was killed by an ex-boyfriend while the two of them were exchange students in Germany. Parents of Murdered Children maintains a national hotline for survivors of homicide victims, publishes a national newsletter and an annual directory, and provides education and literature for survivors and for professionals in various helping fields about the needs of survivors of homicide victims.

Mrs. Hullinger was named one of the ten "Women of the Year" by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* for the year 1984. She has served on the Ohio Advisory Board On Victims and on President Reagan's Taskforce for Law Enforcement.

violence programs among others. VOCA also funds victim compensation programs that pay victims' out-of-pocket expenses, such as counseling, funeral expenses, and lost wages.

*"If victims are to trust that the criminal justice system will work for them, we must meet them where they are—physically, culturally, and emotionally,"* said Joye E. Frost, Director, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice. *"When we take the time to focus on the victim in the aftermath of crime—to address their needs for safety and justice—we can begin to build trust and restore the hope of those victims and their communities. We all play a role in helping victims as they rebuild their lives."* Ω

**Dedication Page Information**

*Dedication Pages can be included in each publication of SURVIVORS newsletter. 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. A donation of \$25.00 is requested for each 3 1/2 x 4 inch square used, 2 squares for \$50.00, 3 squares for \$75.00, whole page \$100.00. Send item and appropriate donation to "Dedication Page," POMC, 4960 Ridge Ave., Suite 2, Cincinnati, OH 45209. Please include your name and daytime phone number in case we have to contact you for clarification.*

*(Continued from p. 13)*

**After Twenty-eight years...**

**By Gayle Moffitt**

“Having an unsolved case: I ask myself if I am a “new normal”? If that means that I have changed, I can say yes. After my daughter was murdered, she gave me a gift of courage, strength, and confidence I never thought I had. Do I miss the old Gayle? At times I do. I miss the carefree woman I was. Some of the emotions I felt before the murder are not as strong. However, others are stronger. Having an unsolved case for 29 years makes me question a “new normal.” It is hard for others

to understand what emotions you feel when you are experiencing this for so long. The hopelessness, helplessness, anger; injustice, anger, and the disappointment you feel when the authorities in San Diego won’t listen to you or thoroughly investigate her case. These emotions affect your whole being and also your mental and physical body. “I wish this heavy burden would be lifted by solving Diana’s murder.”

*[MARY: Gayle Moffitt has*

*suffered by not knowing any justice, and by the feeling of an open wound inside her heart from living with an unsolved murder case. What has made it even worse is the way she was treated by the police in San Diego where her daughter was murdered. When she flew down to talk to them about her case, they asked her why she wanted to know. When a co-victim does not get the help needed to solve their case, they are again victimized. Ω*

**“These families may not have to go through the agony of a trial, but often they feel they would prefer to endure one simply to know who killed their loved one and why. They want desperately to clear up the mystery.”**

*Doug McGee, What Murder Leaves Behind.*

*“Grief is a journey. We move from seeing the person by sight to seeing them in memories. At first they are too painful and every memory breaks our hearts,.... Gradually they help us establish the significance of our loss. In time, they wrap themselves in our being and our loved ones are born inside our hearts. That is called the journey of grief.”*

*[By Rev. Doug Manning, pastor and grief author/speaker. Quote provided by Sherry Nolan, Dec. 9, 2015.]*

**SURVIVORS Newsletter Subscription**

*Please find enclosed \$10.00 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.*

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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.

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# Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

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

*4960 Ridge Ave, Suite 2*

*Cincinnati, OH 45209*

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## In memory of Scott Jonathan Lewis

*Jean and John Lewis have provided this issue of SURVIVORS in memory of their son,*

**Scott Jonathan Lewis**

(1959-1980)

## Development of POMC logos



Durham (NC)  
Chapter logo



Original logo



Front Range  
(CO) logo



Valley of the  
Sun (AZ)  
Chapter logo



Virginia Beach  
Chapter logo



SE Minnesota  
Chapter logo

