

SURVIVORS

National Organization of

Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

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

Dedicated to the Aftermath and Prevention of Murder.



Summer 2013

Volume XXXI Issue 2

Was Justice Served?

By **Mary ELLEDGE**



In my nearly 27 years as a survivor of a victim of homicide (what I call a “co-victim”), I have never heard of this happening.

Neither my friends who work in the criminal justice system nor Dan Levey, Executive Director Of Parents Of Murdered Children, had ever heard of anyone dying just before they were to be tried for murder.

Roark Smith had been brought to trial for the brutal murder of Patti and Randy Hong. Just days before the jury selection was to begin, he died of a heart attack. The Greater Portland Area Chapter had

been busy making sure that some of our members would be available to attend the trial. That support is important for survivors attending the trial of their loved one.

On Feb. 25, 2009, Patti Hong left for work early in the morning. Before she drove off, Roark Smith, a nearby neighbor, came over and shot Patti twice with a 12-gauge shotgun. After killing Patti, he broke into their home and shot her 23-year-old son, Randy Hong, while he was asleep in his bed. Her husband and son, Kent and Brian Hong, were out of town.

There had never been a problem between the Smith and Hong families.



Lady Justice

Smith was arrested and there was never a question of who did the shooting. The police had the gun and a witness.

Kent and Brian waited four years for the trial to take place. There were so many delays. One of the delays was that Smith’s attorney wanted competency hearings and an insanity defense. This, as many of us know, takes a long time.

The defense attorneys also wanted to find fault with the victims of the crime. No one wants their loved ones to be spoken badly about. Although Patti and Brian were well respected, they dreaded what the attorneys might say.

They also dreaded seeing photos of

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Kent Hong wrote the following statement to *The Dalles (Ore.) Chronicle*

Our family is relieved and grateful in hearing the news of Roark Smith’s death. We believed that justice was served. However, we will never know why he did this to our family. He has taken the lives of two beloved people in cold blood. Our family and friends will have to continue on without an explanation of the actions of this coward and selfish individual. With the anniversary of Patti and Randy’s deaths coming up on Feb. 25, the death of Roark Smith couldn’t have come at a better time. We are definitely satisfied with the outcome.

This man killed Patti and Randy in cold blood. Smith will not face prosecution for his evil actions. He

has used the mental health defense to drag this case on for nearly four years. Our family couldn’t proceed forward with our lives while Smith was taking advantage of the judicial system. We truly believe that if we would have been home that tragic day, he would have killed all four of us.

Words cannot express the pain and anguish our family and friends have endured since Patti and Randy’s murders. It took everything from us. It took our security and our innocence. We have lost our faith and trust in people. We have trouble finding joy in the simple pleasures of life.

Our family would like to thank

our friends and community for all of their support. Not only our family has closure, but the community has the satisfaction of knowing that Roark Smith can’t harm anyone else.

We all can have peace of mind knowing that Patti and Randy can rest in peace and cherish their moments. It’s been a long dramatic four years, but imagining that the nightmare is over with us is unimaginable. This grief has been such a huge burden on our shoulders. Now our family can put Roark Smith behind us and start living our lives again. The memories of Patti and Randy will never be forgotten.”

Kent and Randy Hong

Working toward the national conference

SURVIVORS

With

Executive Director
DAN LEVEY



It is hard to believe that summer is here already and in Arizona that means heat. I hope that everyone is doing well. I look forward to seeing many of you at this summer's POMC National Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. I know that Sherry Nolan and Terry Ford Barton, the conference co-chairs and their conference committee, have been working hard to ensure success for this year's conference.

The many outstanding workshops and speakers include Dr. Marlene Young, who is among many things the co-founder of the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA) and a longtime

friend of POMC. In addition, Brooks Douglass will share his family's incredible story—his personal story—and information about House Judiciary Resolution 40, the victims' rights amendment that was introduced this past April.



POMC is also honored to have our beloved POMC founders Robert and Charlotte Hullinger both presenting, albeit separately, at our conference. I encourage everyone to try and attend this year's conference, which promises a weekend of sharing, tears of joy and remembrance, friendships old and new, and hope and healing.

We recently completed an Effective Leadership Training which 16 people

attended. When Bob Hullinger presented the history of POMC, it was like listening to James Madison talking about drafting the constitution. It was inspiring to hear Bob talk of the early days of POMC and how because of their vision we have POMC today. We can never thank the Hullinger's enough.

I also want to thank the POMC staff and POMC Board President Howard Klerk for their outstanding efforts. The staff has been working really hard and I want to thank them, publicly, for their commitment to POMC.

The Cincinnati national office and the Phoenix satellite office take many calls for assistance. We are happy to be a resource to so many. I've been on a continual hunt to seek funding/support, and we have had some victories, but we need the help of all of you to help ensure that National can

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POMC welcomes 16 Effective Leadership Training trainees



FRONT ROW (left to right): **Amanda Rodriguez**, Los Angeles Chapter; **Cynthia Cowell**, Wisconsin; **Amber Cochlin**, Antelope Valley Chapter (Cal.); **Ida Gonzalez**, San Antonio Chapter; **April Frazier** and **Barbara Hall**, Northeastern Kentucky Chapter.

BACK ROW (Left to Right): **Robert Garcia**, Rio Grande Valley Chapter (Texas); **Beatrice Ortega-Bernardo**, Monterey County Chapter (Cal.); **Andy Tovar**, Rio Grande Valley Chapter (Texas); **Linda Mandacina**, Kansas City (Mo.) Chapter; **Dan Levey**, National POMC Executive Director;

Catherine Familathe, Los Angeles Chapter; **Dan and Debbie McIntosh**, Mich.; **Howard Klerk**, National POMC President Board of Trustees; **Natalie Rose**, Ventura County Chapter (Cal.); **Jan Reger**, Central Wisconsin Chapter; **Susan Ventura**, Ventura County Chapter (Cal.).

Upcoming National Conference

SURVIVORS

Friday's Lunch Speaker, Brooks Douglass

Brooks Douglass is a film producer and actor, lawyer, businessman, and former Oklahoma state senator. His 1990 election at 27 made him the state's youngest state senator ever. His signature legislation was a bill championing the rights of crime victims in 1992.

As a 16-year-old, Douglass and his sister survived the 1979 murder of his parents and the attempted murder of his sister and himself. Two drifters broke

into their home, robbing and shooting the family.

In 2010 Douglass produced and starred in *Heavens Rain*, recounting his family's horror and the story of his sister's and his path to forgiving the killers. On the Mike Huckabee radio show in 2011, they told how Christian faith helped them find such forgiveness.

The same year, the U.S. Dept. of



Brooks Douglass

Justice selected Douglass for the Ronald Wilson Reagan Innovations in Public Policy Award for his work in crime victims' rights. Last year he supported House Judiciary Bill 106 before Congress, seeking congressional support for the Victims' Rights Amendment (VRA).

Douglass has made passage of the amendment a full-time commitment.

Saturday's Lunch Speaker, Dr. Marlene Young

For more than a generation, many who have worked in the victims' movement have seen Marlene Young as the pre-eminent professional victims' advocate, bringing knowledge, experience, and leadership to the emerging field.



Dr. Marlene Young

Dr. Young was a member of the founding board of the US National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA). She served as its president (1979-81), and its executive director (1981-2005).

She is a past president of the World Society of Victimology (WSV) and the president of the International Organization for Victim Assistance (IOVA). She also chaired WSV's 12th International Symposium on Victimology (2006).

Young has published some 200 articles, chapters, and monographs. She has spoken about victim-related issues throughout the United States and in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. She has served as

a consultant to six different U.S. cabinet-level departments and to the United Nations. She has presented at more than 2,500 conferences and training seminars.

Honors for victims' movement leadership marks her career:

1985—the Hans von Hentig Award of the WSV for her scholarship.

1987—The World Federation of Mental Health established the Marlene A. Young Public Policy Award in honor of her contributions to

public policy and presented it to her

1988—one of the annual awards of the Foundation for Justice Improvement in Atlanta

1992—to commemorate National Victim Rights Week, President George H. W. Bush honored her at a Rose Garden ceremony

1997—New Zealand's National Merit Service Award for contributions to victim assistance

1999—in March, presented with the National Association of School Psychologists' President's Award

2002—the Ohio Victim Witness Network created the Marlene A. Young Leadership Award

2003—the NOVA Board of Directors also created the Marlene A. Young Leadership Award

2009—honored in Oregon for leadership in victim advocacy

Once before, at the 1996 Cincinnati Conference, Dr. Young was a keynote speaker.

Awards to be conferred at the National POMC Conference in Cincinnati

Lisa Hullinger Memorial Award

This Award is given, "for exemplary contributions to all survivors of homicide victims, acts of compassion that have contributed to the recovery of survivors, and dedication in supporting full rights for victims/ survivors."

Becky Reed Memorial Award

This award is given to recognize outstanding efforts on behalf of the MURDER IS NOT ENTERTAINMENT (MINE) program.

Dorothy Lobes Memorial Award

This award is presented to a POMC Chapter

for their outstanding achievements in the area of public awareness, superior programs of assistance to survivors, success in fund raising, and their unfailing support of National POMC and compliance with its by-laws.

POMC Courage Award

This award is given to extraordinary individuals who have shown outstanding courage on behalf of victim/survivors.

Empty Shoe Award

This award is presented to an outstanding individual in recognition of their contributions

to the memory of those who have died by violence.

Making A Difference Award

This award is given in recognition of work which promotes and supports the image of POMC, and has contributed to the memory of those who have died by violence.

National Service Award

This award recognizes persons, businesses, schools, etc., that support or promote the philosophy of POMC.

From the Board Room

With President POMC National Board of Trustees **HOWARD KLERK, JR.**



At our last board meeting in April 2013, we welcomed three new members to the POMC National Board of Trustees: Martha Lasher-Warner, Chapter Leader, Albany, N.Y.; Gabi Birkner, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Carroll Ann Ellis, Office for Victims Of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center, Washington, D.C.

We wish to thank outgoing members June Ginty, Elaine Colclasure, Genell Cozart and Ann Reed for their work and wish them all the best in the future.

In mid-May we held our POMC Effective Leadership Training course at the Garfield Suites Hotel in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. Sixteen people attended and completed the 3 1/2 day course. The training was noteworthy for several reasons: It was the first training not given by recently-retired Nancy Ruhe; the training has been traditionally given in October, and it was held at the

Garfield Suites Hotel for the first time.

After breakfast on Thursday morning, the first training segment was the history of POMC.

We were honored to have that segment presented by Bob Hullinger himself. Who better to present the history of our great organization than one of the co-founders?

Aside from myself, the other presenters were Sherry Nolan, Bev Warnock, Donna Slone, and Dan Levey. Overall, the training was a great success, and we look forward to having some new people in leadership roles. Each training-session-day ended at 5:00 p.m., and dinner was served in the training room. After dinner, all of the attendees were free to explore downtown Cincinnati, which most people enjoyed.

We are exploring the possibility of the next training program being given next year around the same time. Everyone seemed to enjoy staying at the huge suites at the Garfield, as opposed to cramped motel rooms. Deb and Dan (from Michigan) and I enjoyed Fountain Square, watching the Reds baseball game on the giant screen, and eating some great ice cream.

If anyone is thinking about attending the next Effective Leadership Training, we should have some details coming in subsequent newsletters.

Speaking of Cincinnati, please don't forget the National Conference coming up in August. It isn't too late to make

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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** or e-mail them to

(www.actiondonationservices.org),

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.

your reservations for what is shaping up to be a great conference with numerous new workshops and presenters.

See you at the conference! Stop by and say "Hi." It will be great seeing you again. Until then...

Sincerely,

Howard



Recalling a 21-year lesson in compassion

By **Krista RAMSEY**



This column breaks the first rule of sending thank-you notes, which is that they be prompt. This thank-you is 21 years overdue. But sometimes gratitude takes time to grow, and memories have to settle before we can see what we've been given. What I was given, on a warm May night in 1992, was a lesson in compassion.

The Guilford School prom was the antithesis of other proms. The dresses were repurposed or borrowed. The boys showed up in a suit coat, if they had one, or just a shirt and tie.

Teachers and students did their best to disguise the second-floor auditorium with balloons, streamers and handmade artwork, but it still looked like an auditorium and nobody minded. Dates could be anybody—a student's grandmother, dad or kid sister.

Guilford, on Fourth Street, was a school for students with disabilities and, like its prom, it was the antithesis of what some experts said schools for special-needs kids should be. It was segregated. It was isolated. It was also loving, inclusive and warm.

My husband, 2-year-old daughter and I basked in that warmth as guests who danced in gawky abandon with students and family members, plastic leis—to celebrate the island theme—around our necks.

Then, in the midst of the festivities, a circle formed around a single student. She was wrapped in one set of arms and then another, teachers whispering a word in her ear, students reaching out to pat her shoulder if they couldn't get closer. When the crowd finally parted, I saw that she was trembling, almost violently.

"Her little brother was murdered this week," someone whispered in my

ear. "She's Aaron Raines' sister."

Ten-year-old Aaron's killing was an act of such brutality it made it seem shameful to be human. Still recovering from being hit by a van while on his skateboard, he was lured to the basement of an abandoned house by an offer of \$10 to remove scraps. There, two men beat him to death.

It was hard to find words even to pray after such horror. Now here was a sweet, grieving teenager before me and I couldn't think of what to say. No amount of goodwill could make up for what was taken from her. A fount of our tears couldn't relieve her grief.

And then I noticed what was happening before me.

A gentle, endless stream of students—some with autism, some with Down syndrome, some with multiple handicaps—was waiting in line to embrace her. Words came, or they didn't. Hugs were intense or a little awkward. "A lot of the kids probably couldn't articulate what they were feeling, but you saw their emotion," former Guilford Principal Tom Shaver told me last week. "That's a pretty rare thing to see."

In us, he means. Not in them.

That night the Guilford students taught me what to say to a grieving person when you don't know what to say. Something—say something.

And they taught me to move closer to people who are mourning, not farther away.

I have never forgotten.

Yesterday was the 21st anniversary of Aaron Raines' death. Early May is still the season of proms, except at Guilford. The prom I attended was the school's last. It closed that year.

But to a nation reeling from the Boston bombings, the murder of a little girl in California and the unfolding story of degradation and abuse to three women in Cleveland, the lesson of the Guilford students is still as beautiful today.

If you can speak, then speak a word of kindness. If you can stand, then stand in unity with hurting people.

You will never relieve their sorrow. You'll just make sure they don't carry it alone.

(Reprinted from The Cincinnati Enquirer, May 12, 2013. Used by permission.)

FEEDBACK—Thanks for the DNA article

The front page article, "My Life in Forensics" by Davere Jackson, was a terrific article. My daughter's cold case of 20 years was solved through DNA analysis. Finally DNA technology of today using a very tiny, probably microscopic, evidential substance was matched to a sexual predator in prison for another murder after my daughter's using the "CODIS" database system Y-STR. I was fortunate that a detective received this case 20 years later and informed me of the match. In February 2013 the suspect died, never to have gone before a grand jury and eventually to trial.

The DNA ratio Y-STR though was 1:50, which was not high, which still bothers me, though the suspect had a long criminal record dating back to 1974. He was discharged in 1985 after having served only 13 years for murder and sexual assault. Then on March 15, 1992, he allegedly murdered my 21-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, in Gainesville, Fla.

I wish to thank you for the job you are doing. It is such a great service to the parents, siblings, and friends of the victim.

Helen Foster

MURDER WALL...Honoring Their Memories

SURVIVORS

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, 2013. Names after this date will appear in the next issue.

The Wall consists of solid walnut panels with each holding 120 brass plates inscribed with the name of the victim, along with the date of birth and the date of death. A donation of \$75 is required before a name will be inscribed on a plate and permanently mounted on a panel. (See order form inside this edition.) Not only is this donation a tribute to the memory of your loved one, but it is a tribute that will help keep alive the memory of those we miss so deeply.

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

senselessly killed by others. Not only does it give comfort, but also hope, because every name on it cries out silently for awareness, prevention and justice.

Scott D. Bossey
(Laskowski)
8-21-1994 — 11-19-2004

Andrea Regina Cochlin
Boyer
10-21-1981 — 1-23-2007

Savannah Katheryn Cross
12/30/2009 — 12/11/2012

Alexis Olivia Harris
3/19/92 — 7/21/12

Chelsea Marie Johnson
12-13-1996 — 4-15-2012

Donald Glynn Morrow II
12-22-1975 — 10-18-2012

Richard James O'Connell
7-13-1980 — 3-14-2011



Darius Isaiah Robinson
4-25-1995 — 8-21-2012

Jerry Schild
9-1-1954 — 8-4-2012

Kimberly S. M. Wells
3/31/79 — 6/16/97

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**

Thank You for Your Donation to Maintain the Murder Wall

Kandice Gargus, from *Walter & Beverly Burns*

Michael Grasa, from *Michael/Lazella Grasa*

Kathy Miller Maples, from
Michael & Melanie McGuire

Michael Nagel, from *Christa Poole*

Bert Rich, from *Shirley Rich Brinegar*

Jim Roback, from *Joan Roback*

Timothy Staunton, from *Denise Coleman*



27th Annual POMC National Conference

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

**Parents Of Murdered
Children, Inc.**

**August 15-18, 2013
Cincinnati, Ohio. Hosted by:
Greater Cincinnati Area Chapter**

Expert says we recognize only first phase of grief

After a 10-year study based upon 1,200 bereaved adults, Dr. Glen W. Davidson identified four traits of mourning, but that Americans recognize only those of the first phase.

Davidson was Professor and Chairman of Medical Humanities, Professor of Psychiatry, and Chief of Thanatology at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Although he first presented the results of his study in 1980, they have been confirmed many times since. The chart below (lower right) is based upon his findings.

In crisis, he said, we are open to a wider spectrum of stimuli around us and may read too much into it. We need to talk things out in order to re-focus our interpretation of what's happening. It's important to know that we can't get through the mourning process alone. We must reach out during the first phase when our motivation is high. Even in the recovery phase, we may

Snap out of it, Jones. It's been almost four months!



have periods of crying and preoccupation with our loss. Recovery does not mean "forgetting," he said.

All four phases peak on "significant" days: anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, religious celebrations, graduations, weddings, or other days of joy. Whether we "lose" someone through death or other major changes (leaving home, moving to new jobs), we mourn. Depression is nature's way of getting us to simmer down, to get "de-pressed."

Survivors of a homicide death may find that trials and news coverage may prolong the first three stages of mourning. Each phase may differ significantly for each individual. Davidson also said that the reorientation for children may stretch into adulthood, that it may take that long to put their loss in place for themselves. He further emphasized the importance of self-help groups in working through the loss.

"In My Own Time"

By Lisa Blen

I was able to say your name
And look at your picture without breaking down.
To read through letters your hopes and dreams
While cleaning your room, under the mattress I found.
In my own time . . . I found the strength . . .
To sort out your things and with your friends share
The many treasures you kept through the years.
I went to the movies without the pang of guilt
For enjoying the simple pleasures in life,
Knowing you were there sitting by my side.
I was able to wake up one day,
Walk outside and feel the warm summer rays.
I was able to laugh at something funny someone said
And for a moment I didn't just exist; I lived instead.
The empty space you left behind will always be there.
Nothing in this world will ever fill that void.
It's just that in time I found there were things I could enjoy.
The other day I was able to see you again as you were.
I watched you through home movies that before I could not bear,
And through tears and smiles I relived
all the good times we shared.
I still see your face sometimes among the crowds,
Listen to your favorite songs, and when I look up...
I see your angel wings between the clouds.
The life we once knew . . . Is no more . . .
In our own time strength and comfort we will find.
Every day just thank the Lord
For the loved ones He sent us... however brief,
Allowing us to share with them precious time.

(Lisa Blen is the POMC Sacramento Chapter Area's Secretary. Used by permission.)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOURNING PROCESS

Behavior Characteristics Often Overlap During Mourning

SHOCK AND NUMBNESS

- a. Resists input (trying to find shelter)
- b. Judgment-making difficult, concentration limited
- c. Functioning impeded ("zombie, robot")
- d. Emotional outbursts

SEARCHING AND YEARNING

- a. Very sensitive to stimuli
- b. Anger and/or guilt feelings
- c. Restless, impatient
- d. Feeling uncertain
- e. Testing what is real

DISORIENTATION

- a. Disorganized
- b. Depressed
- c. Guilt
- d. Weight loss/gain more than 10 pounds
- e. Aware of reality
 1. very aware of reality and consequences
 2. time of turning to physician
 3. psychosomatic dimension (colds, etc.)
 4. temptation to see mourning as a disease
 5. low compliance with doctor's orders
non-compliance with other expectatins
 6. beware of trying to live as if nothing had happened
 7. beware if urge to flee setting of loss is strong

REORGANIZATION

- a. Sense of release (no longer obsessed by loss)
- b. Renewed energy
- c. Makes judgments more easily
- d. Stable sleeping and eating habits

With **Bev WARNOCK**



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 web site at 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. Use the donation form shown on p. 9.

Support for the Parole Block Program:

- Kandice Gargus**, from *Walter & Beverly Burns*
Robert James Hansen, from *Frances Hansen*
Tod McQuaid, from *Roger & Jan McQuaid*
Jessie Harris Pejko, from *Berkie Harris*
Jim Roback, from *Joan Roback*
Timothy Staunton, from *Denise Coleman*

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



1458

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

RESULTS SINCE THE SPRING 2013 SURVIVORS

Paroles Denied because of National POMC efforts

Robert Bedzyk, Jr.
Douglas Hinton Bell
Matthew Bortles
Bobby Easterling
Allen Jordan
Warren Mackey
Shawn Novak

Tommy Pandur
Edward Pearl
Robert Robbins
William Scythes
Michael York

Early Release/ Paroles Granted

Katherine Courtney
Gary Ecchernes

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Parole Block Petitions

Bret Alan Arbuckle — ID #175533

On June 20, 1989, Angela Lyn Fortner, age 17, was murdered about two miles from her rural home. She and two friends had set up camp on Billy's Creek, a small stream behind the home of one of her friend's parents. Angie's boyfriend and a few other friends were planning a fun evening when Bret Alan Arbuckle, age 23, showed up at the camp, uninvited, and began threatening them with a loaded gun. When Angie went to leave, Arbuckle pulled her from her truck, placed her in a headlock, pointed the gun at her throat, and pulled the trigger. The bullet severed her carotid artery, exited her

neck and lodged in Arbuckle's arm. He left the scene as Angie bled to death.

Arbuckle was convicted of second degree murder and armed criminal action and was sentenced to life plus 30 years in prison. He will have served only 23 years when he is considered for parole.

To protest write to:

Missouri Board Of Probation & Parole
Attn: Sheri Hildreth
3400 Knipp Dr.
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Dominic Canale — ID #355100

On the night of May 28, 2008, after a high school graduation party, a fight broke out. Dominic Canale went to the trunk of a friend's car to get a baseball bat that he had seen earlier in the evening. Instead of hitting the man he was fighting, he hit 19-year-old Michael Mitchell from behind as he was walking towards his truck. Michael never saw it coming and was hit with such force to the right frontal lobe that it severed his

spinal cord. After Michael was hit, Dominic and his friends jumped in their car and fled.

Canale was convicted of manslaughter and 2nd degree assault and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. He will have served only 5 years when he is considered for parole.

To protest , write to:

Eastern Correctional Institution Annex
30420 Revells Neck Rd.
Westover, MD 21890

Parole is society's gamble that the prisoner has changed.

Parole Block is a victim survivor's belief that the odds are mistaken.

Victim survivor inspires bill to give survivors a voice at parole hearings

HARRISBURG, PA— The Pennsylvania State Senate on April 9 approved legislation sponsored by Senator Lisa Baker (R-20) that would allow crime victims, or their families, to provide testimony to the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole when a perpetrator is being considered for parole.



Susan Hooper

Current law permits a crime victim to present written or oral comments for parole board consideration, and also to testify before a hearing examiner, but does not allow for direct testimony before the board. Senate Bill 508 would address that gap in the process.

“We afford families the chance to make victim impact statements during sentencing. But we do not afford them an equal

opportunity when the minimum sentence has been served and the perpetrator is seeking to return to the community,” Baker said during remarks on the Senate floor. “Putting words on paper cannot match the emotional impact of face-to-face input from survivors. The purpose of this bill is quite simple—to give a

victim or their representative the chance to meet with, or provide electronic testimony to, the board members charged with making the decision, or a hearing examiner, should that be the preference.”

Baker credited Susan Hooper, from Luzerne Co., who served on the Victim Advocate’s Task Force, pushing the measure for several years. Her brother, Robert Curley, died over a two-month period—in severe pain—in 1991. His wife, Joann,

later pled guilty to third-degree murder for systematically poisoning her husband. She has applied for parole five times since she was first eligible in 2006, and been denied each time.

Each time Curley applied for parole, Hooper wrote letters, launched petition drives, and made numerous trips from Luzerne Co. to Harrisburg to lobby state legislators to deny the parole petition. It paid off. She was quoted in the *Times Leader* newspaper of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Pa., “I want them to know who Bobby really was and what she did to him. Writing it in a letter is not the same as telling the story.”

“The decision to grant parole...should be made with the fullest understanding of the implications,” Baker said. “This bill helps accomplish that goal.”

Senate Bill 508 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration and still needs Gov. Tom Corbett’s approval.

Parole Block Letters from Victim Survivors

(Continued from page 8)

3/26-2013

Hello,

Just wanted to let POMC know we successfully had the parole of Tommy Pandur A217-358 denied. He had his parole hearing on March 8, 2013, and we received the results yesterday. The outcome is that he will remain incarcerated for 5 more years.

The Sinclair family would like to thank you and

everyone for all the support and the help you have given us in the past years in keeping him locked up. Please keep the donation on our behalf, and again, please thank everyone involved. We will do it again in another 5 years.

Sincerely,

The Sinclair Family

Kim

Denver, Colorado

Dear Friends,

This is to inform you that on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013 the Colorado Parole Board denied Michael R. Cecil for the second time. Under Colorado Statue 17-22.5-403, paragraph 5 he is to be reviewed again in one year.

This is projected to be in February of 2014 with allowances for earned time off for good behavior, of course. This is a small victory but it will never make up for the loss of our beloved son, Jesse Harris

Pejko.

We resubmitted the Parole Block petition that had been sent one year ago. It seemed to be as effective this time as it was the last. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Parole Block Program and to the efforts of your staff in running this program. Here is a donation in memory of our son.

Sincerely,

Berke Harris and Charles Pejko

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

Canadian Parents Of Murdered Children

Elder abuse leads to murder in Canada

By "ANONYMOUS"

I wish to share my story with you of one of the newest publicized forms of crime: elder abuse.

The abuse itself is not new, but it surfaced only recently in the news as more and more sad cases come to light. It happened to my widowed mother, a beautiful lady who was 80- years-old when her companion, aged 57, brutally murdered her and then took his own life. I will never know why.

This is my story, or rather my mother's story. I choose anonymity to protect my siblings, who are still dealing with personal issues as a result of this crime.

It was the summer of 1997, and I remember an acute feeling of dread the day my mother was murdered in another town and province, 200 km [125 miles] away from where I lived. Some of you reading this might know what I mean; a feeling of listlessness, of waiting for something to happen, a knot in the stomach, and being in a state of frozen anxiety.

Two days later real worry set in. My brother felt the same thing. Something was wrong! Together we phoned all known contacts, including hospitals, for news of our mother. To no avail. The car my mother and her companion shared was not in the garage, so they must be away on a short trip. Mother always let one of us know if she was going on a short trip with her neighbour, especially after her medical scare a year earlier. My regular Sunday phone call to her went unanswered. My worry deepened to acute anxiety.

Early Monday morning, the local police in our mother's town called my brother, notifying him that a horrible crime had taken place; then he phoned me. At the same time, I was watching the early morning news and was horrified. The event was already headline news in the national media, showing my mother's condo build-

ing. I still remember the news anchor saying that the identity of the victim would not be disclosed until the next-of-kin were notified.

The report said that the body of our mother's companion was found floating in the river, and the car was abandoned on a bridge. The keys on his person were those of his home and those of my mother's. At my mother's home, the police found her body, with multiple stab wounds. Her throat had been slit, and her head was partially severed from her body.

Eventually, I managed to get a copy of the police report. The attack was brutal; first with a bottle smashed over her head, then a frying pan, then the knife. The coroner's report also showed that she suffered defensive stab wounds to her hands and wrists, so she was aware of the attack

My regular Sunday phone call to her went unanswered. My worry deepened to acute anxiety.

before she bled to death. In a twisted show of remorse, the killer placed a comforter on our mother's body, before he jumped in the river and drowned.

Those are the facts. The motive remains unknown; it died with the killer. There was no trial, no sentence, no last words. Case closed, but no justice for my family and me.

So one day, not long ago, I joined CPOMC (Canadian Parents of Murdered Children and Survivors of Victims of Homicide, Inc.). Surely there is something I can do to help others find the tools to help them through part of the process of traumatic grieving, I thought.

The issue of elder abuse struck me as the place to start, and I'll tell you why. My siblings and I were shocked to find out

(The author of this article wishes to remain anonymous due to other family members still struggling with personal issues as a result of this crime.)

that the killer had used another identity and nationality during the three years he knew our mother. Having to unravel the lies about his real identity was a torturous act of futility; it wouldn't bring our mother back, but I had to know. At each step of discovering yet another lie, I found that my mother had gradually become a victim of elder abuse.

I'm told that one of the first signs of elder abuse is the victim being kept away from his or her family or loved ones (the "separate from the herd" mentality). This was the case, as my offers to visit had been turned down due to an unusual increase of short trips on their part. Even the phone calls were shorter. I had very little information about my mother's activities.

On the one occasion I was invited for lunch, my mother expressly told me not to mention the Vietnam War. Her friend (the killer) claimed he was shot down after his third or fourth tour of duty with the US Air Force and suffered debilitating headaches and memory loss. So I tiptoed around the conversation, and the more I heard, the more red flags went up. I couldn't put my finger on them at the time, but I do remember feeling ill at ease and intruding in my mother's life. I was never allowed to question my mother on anything, especially a relationship.

She was an intelligent and beautiful lady with an amazing life story, which included sailing off to the U.K. days after her wedding to my father and his deployment overseas. She stayed the whole duration of WWII in the U.K., while my father answered the King's call to join the war effort in western Europe. I might explain

(Continued on p. 11)

Canadian homicide survivors identify with American grief over Sandy Hook massacre. *SURVIVORS*



Abuse leads to murder

(Continued from p. 10)

now that my father died in 1963 and my widowed mother was only too willing to talk to someone about her late husband's distinguished military service to another "military figure."

I can only assume that my mother's companion felt that he had to impress her by inventing his own, foreign, military career, complete with Purple Heart. How sick is that? It is not only an insult to those men and women of every military body who have and are still putting their lives on the line for their country, but to use a false identity to claim compassion from my mother surely is an offence.

I wish that I had known more about the killer and been able to protect my mother, but the brainwashing was already well established. He weaseled his way into her confidence to the extent that she changed her will, but thankfully, it had not been notarized nor signed. She must have known that there was something amiss and she might well have said something, innocently or on purpose, to have made him angry enough to take her life? I will never know the answer to that.

My healing started when I accepted the fact that I would never know why she was murdered. Another major step was talking with a psychologist specialized in PTSD, grief

(In a Dec. 20, 2012 letter from Yvonne Harvey, Chairperson of the Canadian Parents Of Murdered Children, to Howard S. Klerk Jr., president of POMC, we see identical concerns expressed about the Sandy Hook massacre. These two organizations are cut from the same bolt of cloth.)

Dear Howard,

On behalf of all members of Canadian Parents Of Murdered Children and Survivors of Homicide Victims (CPOMC), I am writing to offer our heartfelt condolences to you and your fellow Americans following the horrific massacre in Newtown, Connecticut. Such a senseless, tragedy brings terrible memories flooding back to survivors of homicide victims. I can only imagine the appalling anguish the parents and loved ones of those poor victims are enduring; especially, as the Christmas season is upon us.

It is times like these when one realizes that the work of POMC is so important. As you well know, dealing with the aftermath of a homicide is not something that can easily be overcome. The grief process is extremely laborious, difficult, and does not follow a predictable course. It is a process, which affects each person differently. I am certain that the support and understanding of POMC will be extremely vital in helping the families and friends of the Newtown murder victims.

If there is anything CPOMC can do to help please let us know.

Sincerely;

Yvonne Harvey

Chair, CPOMC

counsellors, and an array of friends and colleagues. To this day, I am ever grateful for their compassion; still, I was missing a "grounding point" (grief tool), that of a homicide bereavement support group. You'll be pleased to know that, through my volunteer work with the CPOMC, I have found that tool.

My main activity with this group is the development of a series of counselling sessions entitled "Rebuilding Shattered Lives," soon to be available to the grieving public. Stay tuned!

It was a long road, and there is an even longer one ahead of me. Still, I am energized about working on this project. I do it in my mother's memory, for she's the one who gave me life.

POMC supports Federal Victims' Rights Amendment

The Federal Victims' Rights Amendment will be reintroduced in this upcoming session of Congress and POMC will keep you posted on its status. We will need your help in contacting your member of your Congressional delegation to urge them to sign onto the Victims' Rights

Amendment. The Victims' Rights Amendment would extend to crime victims a series of rights, including the right to be notified of court hearings, the right to attend those hearings, and the right to speak at particular court hearings (such as hearings regarding bail, plea

bargains, and sentencing). Similar proposed amendments have been introduced in Congress since 1996. For more information on the Federal Victims' Rights Amendment, please go to the website —

<http://nvcap.org>

CONTACT PERSON & CHAPTER CORNER *SURVIVORS*

With **Sherry NOLAN**



3 new contact persons have joined the National POMC family since our last *SURVIVORS* Newsletter:

Kristine and Rob Salomonson

(Parent-Survivors)
Sanger, California
559-348-0301

559-246-7245-Kristine cell
559-970-4252-Rob cell

kristinesalomonson@gmail.com Kristine
rsalomonson47@gmail.com Rob

We want to take this opportunity to thank the following new volunteers for the invaluable services that they provide to other survivors on behalf of POMC, Inc. If you would like more information about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Sherry Nolan, National Volunteer Coordinator, at: 888-818-7662, or snolan@pomc.org

Catherine Romero-Martinez

Taos, New Mexico
575-751-3693

djd2000cam@yahoo.com

1 new chapter has opened its door to offer support:

The Saginaw County Chapter of POMC

Chapter Leader—Barbara Clark

(Parent-Survivor)
Saginaw, Michigan
989-330-9095

barbaraclark501@gmail.com

Co-Leader—Tiffany Goodman

Saginaw, Michigan
989-493-3937

tiffany.goodman@yahoo.com

CHAPTER NOTES...

Miami-Dade (Fla.) Chapter

APRIL 24 — During the Broward Victims' Rights Coalitions' Annual Victim Rights Week Training and Awards Luncheon, **Jo Longstreet** received the Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with POMC. Jo is the secretary of the POMC Miami-Dade Chapter.

MAY 22 — **Dawn Terrizzi**, also from the Miami-Dade (Fla.) POMC Chapter, presented a program about grief to The Kiwanis Club of Delray Beach—Sunrise. She explained the purpose of POMC and identified what she sees to be the most important element in our grieving: great kindness and fair expectations for ourselves.

(Continued on p. 15)

Ohio Two Days in May Conference

MAY 14 — Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine sponsored a conference in Columbus. Cincinnati Area Chapter members Susie Chrisman and Sherry Nolan joined POMC Executive Director Dan Levey to present the workshop, "Tragedy to Triumph." Levey and Chrisman (photo at right) attend the POMC materials table.



The next day, Susie and husband, Rodney Chrisman, returned to host the table. Lori King and Amanda Mappes, also Cincinnati Chapter members, presented a workshop on sibling grief at the conference.

IN MEMORIUM

(POMC chapter leaders and contact persons have given much of their lives to helping victim survivors. We are grateful for such special people. They will be sorely missed. We invite notices and photos of those deceased, who have served as chapter leaders and/or, as contact persons.)



RUSS SIMPSON (1934-2013), died March 12. He and his wife, Pat, started the Toledo Chapter in 1983. Their daughter, Stacy Sue, 4, was strangled near their home in 1969, a murder for which an 18-year-old neighbor was charged and convicted. In 1981 their 19-year-old son, Scott, was shot to death 12 years later while trying to stop a shoplifter at the supermarket where he was a guard.

Russ served several years on the National POMC Board of Trustees. He helped organize the first POMC national conference in 1987 in Cincinnati and also served as the POMC Ohio State Coordinator. After

years of Russ's promoting the idea with the Lucas Co. prosecutor, the county organized a victim assistance program.

Adding to the family's sadness, his son, David, died the day of Russ's funeral. He served as Chapter Co-Leader for a couple years.



FRANK R. PARISH (1934-2013), died June 5. Frank was a former National POMC Board member. His 20-year-old step-daughter, Kimberly Ann Strickler, was kidnapped and murdered in 1979. Her mother, Shirley, and he joined POMC in early 1983, soon after the Houston Chapter was formed. She served the Chapter in many capacities before her 2002 death. Frank also was active in the chapter, and served on the National POMC Board of Trustees for several years.

As an attorney as well, he testified before Texas Legislator committees, helped to write legislation, and took part in public demonstrations. He also served as chairman of the State Bar of Texas Crime Victims Committee.

POMC—for some a way of life and a way of reaching others

By MARY ELLEDGE

When I think of the month of February, I think of love and being loved. I am grateful to Joan Synarski, the founder of our Greater Portland Chapter, for bringing a letter we had printed years ago from one of our members, Penny Bergford. Penny passed away, but she left a legacy of hope and love to all of us who knew her.

Her only son, Fred J. Bergford, was murdered in 1980 by a stranger in a mass shooting. She had waited years to have a child and “Freddy” was the joy of her life. He was in the service and was out with fellow officers for an evening of fun, when he was murdered. Penny shared with us that when she was told of his murder, she was unable to function. She fell to the floor and was not able to walk.

Yet, this wonderful, loving, intelligent, woman joined us and spent time with us healing and then spent more time to help others on their unbearable road to “a new normal.” I see this same love and understanding as new members come to our

meetings and as the long time members stay on to help others on their journey. Though all of us have felt the pain and loss of a loved one murdered, we seem to know that it is a journey we cannot do alone. It will be a journey that will change us forever. Yet, the fact that the end result brings out the best in those who have lost so much is like a miracle.

POMC members develop new priorities. We don’t worry about things that are not important. Those we love and care for become what is important. This is the “gift” we get. Love for others is what really matters. We learn the true meaning of “unconditional love.” We don’t judge those who were murdered to make us feel safe as some people might. We all now understand justice, even if there was none in our case. We know that justice is important in all of our lives. Most important, we know that we need each other. We know that we will never forget those who stayed to help us through the “loneliest time of our life.” Loving others and being loved is what keeps us stable. Being together gives us strength.

(Mary Elledge has been Co-Leader of the POMC Oregon Chapter for more than 20 years.)

POMC’S MISSION STATEMENT

POMC makes the difference through on-going emotional support, education, prevention, advocacy, and awareness.



POMC’S VISION STATEMENT

To provide support and help to all survivors of homicide victims while working to create a world free of murder.

Parole Block Petition Results

(Continued from p. 8)

Jason White

Paroles Denied because of POMC chapter efforts

Arizona Chapter

Marwan Williams

Arkansas Chapter

James Acton

Travis Brook

Cody Chism

Walter Haynes

Francis Holland

James Isaac

Michael Love
Dean Alan Parks
Robert Robbins
Kellian Scott
Justin Thabit
Ben Thomas
Clarence Williams

Houston, TX Chapter

Adam Valle

Oregon Chapter

Conrad Enzweiler

Mandatory Release

Richard Donald Glenn

Trumbull County, OH Chapter

Richard Anderson
Roosevelt Gray
Wayne Jackson
Darrell Jones
Druce Martin
John Smith

Wichita, KS Chapter

Jose Avalos
Leonardo Alvarez-Flores
Steven Bailey
Delisha Branch
David Brooks
Joel Butler
Duereal Campbell
Jose Chavez
Micahel Coyote
Shakeer Davis

Toney Dementruis
Raymond Gill
Cory Hamons
Shawn Herman
Calvin Bruce Higdon
Cornelius Johnson
Troy Dale Johnson
Corey Jones
Charles Jorgenson
William Kessinger
Roy McClanahan
Stacy Speed
Gregory Starr
Michael Tomlinson
Lance Stephens
Allan Stofferan
Kelela Straughter
Carrie Vincent
Michael Walker

IS THERE A POMC CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA? IS ONE NEEDED?

In Loving Memory Of:

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

Lest We Forget!

Joshua and Sue, from
George & Lynda Fucarino
Cherica Adams, from *Sandra Adams*
Mark Allen Auria, from
Rebecca McCallon
James Balderson, from
Frank & Betty Balderson
Gregory Allen Barnes, from
Clarice Barnes Amann
Rae Marie Bennett, from
Raymond & Marilyn Bennett
Kevin Berrigan, from
Edward & Christina Berrigan
Vinay Bhatia, from *Lucy Bhatia*
Eva Birkner, from
*Linda Alonge, Melitta Anderman,
Grant Blindbury, Carol DiAddezio,
Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene
Inc., Howard Cohen, Rashel Ellsmore,
Christine Fargo, Daniel Glucksman,
James Hornstein, Dorothy Loebel,
Margaret McGrath, David Pressler,
Peter Reichard, J. Rudolfer, Gabriel
Serbulea, Frederick Trombley, Waite,
Jacobs and Atkinson—Attorneys at
Law, Herbert Wiener*
Carli Ann Bitterman Dennis, from
Jill Bitterman
Treye Blythe, from
Dustin & Cheryl Blythe
**Shannon Marie and Alexandra
Jordan Nolan-Broe**, from
Garry & Lou Ann Barnes
**Shannon Marie and Alexandra
Jordan Nolan-Broe**, from
Sharon Nolan
Lawrence Carnegie, from
John & Rita Carnegie
Jarrold Chrisman, from
Rodney & Susie Chrisman
Dwayne Chubb, from
Albert & Dorothy Chubb
Christopher Charles Cigainero,
from *Danny & Bernadette Wooten*
Cody Crabtree, from
Kimberly Wolfford
**Michael Crump, Becci Johnston,
& Pam Walker**, from *Dee Engle*

Tom Czillinger, from
*Kenneth Czillinger, Raymond Gaugler,
Ralph & Barbara Knue, Timothy &
Eileen Mitchell, L.C. & Sharon Nolan*
Torrance Davis, from *Sandra Foulks*
John dePunte, from *Barbara Mattie*
Rhona Eiseman, from
Harriet Pownall
Mark Evans, from *Patti Evans*
Edgar Paul Fortin, from
Benjamin Fortin
Kandice J. Gargus, from
Walter & Beverly Burns
Stephen Ronald Goebel, from *George
& Patricia Goebel*
Rebecca L. Gordon, from
Mary Gordon
Michael Grasa, from
Mike/Lazella Graza
Ellen Rae Greenberg, from
Joshua & Sandra Greenberg
Charles Hall II, from
Billy & Ann Hall
Ryan Hargens, from
Roger & Jane Hargens
Ryan Hargens, from
Carey Verschuure
Michael Healy, from *Joan Healy*
April Henderson, from
Harry & Gloria Henderson
Gregory Wayne Hines, from
Terel & Judy Hines
Lisa Hullinger, from
Robert & Charlotte Hullinger
Steven Isheim, from
Terry & Frances Isheim
Brian Jenny, from
Joseph & Patricia Jenny
Paul Kapitz, from
Kenneth & Carolyn Kapitz
John Kippert Jr., from
David & Patricia Kippert
Lindsey Leean Knight, from
Mark Knight
Howard Levey, from *Dan Levey*

SURVIVORS

Scott Jonathan Lewis, from
John & Jean Lewis
Johnny Maddox, from *James &
Margaret Maddox*
Tom & Phil Matthews, from
Robert & Patricia Matthews
Ruby Mays, from *Jeanne Mays*
William & John McCabe, from
Carolyn Dooley
Richard McGann, from
Evelyn McGann
Travis Monroe, from *Christi Berry*
Peter Dodd Nichols, from
Lee Freeman Nichols
Karen Synarski Olive, from
Joan Synarski
Frank Thomas Olivieri, from
Frank & Madeline Olivieri
Shaun R Ouillette, from
Jeanne Quinn
Isaiah Pittman, from *Lisa Jason*
Dana Pliakas, from *Cindy Lang*
Tony & Bridget Reed, from
Edward Hieshetter
Bert Rich, from
Shirley Rich Brinegar
Amie Riley, from
Michael & Charlotte Riley
Jim Roback, from *Joan Roback*
Jason Rodriguez, from
Anne Waisgerber
Andrew Sandoval, from
Luis & Carmen Luquez
Sandy Hook victims, from *Just Give*
Cynthia Hodge Sedgwick, from
James & Barbara Sedgwick
David Self, from *Barbara Self*
Tori Ann Shupe, from
M. Louise Parker
Michael Simmons, from
Reginald & LaToyce Lee
Stacy & Scott Simpson, from
Russell & Patricia Simpson
Steve Singer, from *Carole DiAddezio*

(Continued on p. 15)

Thank You for Your Donation

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 Appriss Inc.
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 Candace Padgett
 Cheryl Peckenpaugh
 Mary Sykes
 Truist

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 Beverly Adams, from
 Jennifer Spadine
 Dunia Alherr, from
 Christina Sciarrotta
 Devin Margaret Cassidy, from
 Ben Wallis
 Dan Levey, from Dennis Burke;
 Gallagher & Kenndy, P.A.; Pinal
 County Attorney, Hon. M. Lando
 Voyles; Navajo County Attorney, Brad
 Carlyon
 Dan Levey & POMC Staff, from
 John and Jean Lewis
 Julia Ann Woodward, from
 Robert & Cecily O'Connor

SURVIVORS

In Loving Memory of:

(Continued from p. 14)

Kyle R Smith, from
 Jeffery & Patricia Cooker
 Timothy Staunton, from
 Denise Coleman
 Audrey Sweet, from Joan Getz
 Melissa Thoma, from
 Frank & Dorothy Thoma
 Amy Nicole Tuttle, from
 Timothy & Michele Tuttle
 Kyle Underhill, from
 Kelcey Stevens
 Lisa Weaver, from
 Howard & Ann Klerk
 Jeffrey Wilkerson, from
 Russell & Sherry Wilkerson
 Monica Sue Williams, from
 Phillip & Rebecca Potter
 Kelly Williamson, from
 Marsha Williamson
 Steven Woodruff, from
 Ruth Woodruff
 Terry Eugene Woods Jr., from
 John & Christine Perry
 Jason Cody Wright, from
 Stacey Wright
 Jack Stewart Wyman, from
 Dorothy Scott Wyman and Safeway
 Karen Young, from Nancy Young
 Jennifer Zani, from Marilyn Zani

CHAPTER NOTES.....

(Continued from p. 12)

CP/CL UPDATES

If you have a message of interest—a great fundraising idea, upcoming chapter events, awards or recognitions received—that you would like to share with our “POMC family,” please mail them to my attention: Sherry Nolan at National POMC, or email them to

snolan@pomc.org

The next deadline for newsletter articles is Oct 10. Deadlines or overflow of articles may require holding those received for future newsletters.

Thank You for Your Chapter Donations

Southwestern Louisiana	San Gabriel Valley
Minnesota Hope	(CA)
Valley of the Sun (AZ)	Central Ohio
Queens	Maine
Miami Dade (FL)	Southwestern Florida
Contra Costa County/ East Bay	Central Wisconsin
Merrimack Valley	Clarksville
Antelope Valley	Metropolitan (TN)
	Peninsula/South Bay
	(CA)

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.

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime number: () _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ for _____ year (s)

Payment method: Visa MC Am Ex. Dis. Check

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Enclosed is an extra \$ _____ donation for someone in need and is given in:

Memory of: _____

Honor of: _____

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

Honoring Laura's memory benefits POMC & other charities



Laura Pizzini
(internet photo)

CENTER MORICHES, NY — The Nov. 2, 2012 benefit concert/auction/fundraiser in memory of Laura Pizzini took place at the Long Island Rotary Club of Seatuck Cove. It featured "Piano Man" Henry Haid, with a tribute to the music of Billy Joel.

Laura Pizzini, 25, was murdered Oct. 16, 2009, in her apartment in Mastic, Long Island.

Robert Dovale, uncle of Laura Pizzini, and Seatuck Cove Rotary hosted the concert/dinner fundraiser in memory of Laura. Margie Dovale (Laura's Mom) and Billy Dovale (Laura's step-father) also were there.

The \$85-per-person tickets covered all of the entertainment, as well as food and an open bar. Proceeds benefited POMC, established a scholarship in memory of Laura Pizzini, and supported other charities, as well as the local Rotary Club.

National POMC Office Manager Bev Warnock represented the organization at the Rotary benefit dinner.

AMAZON CONTRIBUTES TO POMC

Amazon.com is a supporter of National POMC. Please visit our website — www.pomc.org — and click on the Amazon link. Purchase through them, and POMC will receive a percentage (4-13%, depending on the item). For answers to questions about the link, email:

Donna Slone - dslone@pomc.org

With **Donna SLONE**



Support our outreach to those cruelly bereaved

Tee off at POMC's Golf Scramble

National POMC is excited to announce the 1st Annual POMC Golf Scramble at the Kings Island Golf Center on Oct. 12, 2013. This fundraising event will bring community, professionals, corporations, small business owners, and volunteers together in support of all survivors of homicide victims. It will be a day of collaborated efforts to support the mission of POMC and the programs that are so valuable to those who have lost loved ones to murder.

The Kings Island Golf Center, at 6042 Fairway Drive in Mason, Ohio, is centrally located near Interstate 71, 275, and 75. Those who wish to travel to the event can find many hotels and restaurants nearby. The Kings Island Amusement Park and The Great Wolf Lodge Resort also are nearby.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., and golfers will tee off at 1:00 p.m. Registration fees are \$125 per golfer, or \$475 per foursome. This includes: 18 holes of golf, riding carts, prizes, lunch hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and an awards banquet with live entertainment. All golfers participating will also have use of the driving range and free practice balls. Those who do not wish to play golf, but would like to join us for the award banquet—you can do so for a fee of \$50.

Various contests are scheduled throughout the day, such as the Hole in One, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, and Free Toss. Sports memorabilia will be auctioned off during the event, and several prizes will be raffled off.

Anyone wishing to donate prizes or to sponsor the event can do so by contacting the National Staff at 1-888-818-7662, or by emailing Donna Slone at dslone@pomc.org. Several levels of sponsorship are available, and we welcome all to participate. As always, we thank you for supporting POMC!

Fundraising is not the focus of POMC, but it is crucial to sustain very important programs and services. They are vital in the healing journey for so many survivors. The Golf Scramble will help to support a very important cause, while promoting awareness and prevention. We greatly appreciate everyone who supports POMC, and we hope that you can join us for the event.

Your Help Is Needed

Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. has been helping to change lives for more than 34 years, bringing about hope, healing, love, and a renewed life to survivors of homicide victims.

We could not have done this without you.

Your trust and financial support has enabled us to assist hundreds of thousands of loved ones for 35 years. We hope that through these difficult economic times you will continue to make POMC your charity of choice.

Every donation, regardless of the amount, is vital if we are to continue making the difference in the lives of those who have faced the ultimate tragedy—the murder of a loved one.

Thank you.

Arizona prosecutors help POMC

In Arizona, POMC would like to thank and recognize the Navajo Co. Attorney, Hon. Brad Carlyon and Pinal Co. Attorney, Hon. Lando Voyles. Both provided POMC with important financial support, enabling Ex. Dir. Dan Levey to attend the June 7-8 National Crime Victim Law Institute Conference (NCVLI) in Portland, Ore.

Now in its 12th year, the Conference

is designed for attorneys, advocates, medical and mental health professionals, and others working with victims. It continues to be the only conference in the country focusing on rights enforcement in criminal cases, which is a critical—but often overlooked—component of holistic victim services. Attendees gain the important knowledge and practical skills to best protect victims' rights. POMC is also a non-funding sponsor of

the conference.

Levey said, "I cannot thank enough county attorneys Brad Carlyon and Lando Voyles for their generous support and quick response to offer assistance. They have set an example of how prosecutors and POMC can, and do, work together. Arizona is a leader in victims' rights, because of the support of our prosecutors."

Heading toward the conference

(Continued from p. 2)

be sustained. One easy way is to order from Amazon. Please go through our website, www.pomc.org, as POMC gets a donation each time you order.

POMC National has actively raised awareness of POMC by presenting workshops at: •the Ohio Attorney General's "Two Days in May" Conference; •Navajo County, AZ Victims' Rights Symposium; •the Association of Prosecuting Attorney's/ Department Of Justice Bureau of Justice Administration

Innovative Practices Conference in Miami, Fla.; and by

•speaking in the media on HLN (formerly known as CNN Headline News) or on Yahoo news.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your support, and if you are a newly-bereaved survivor or a longtime survivor, please know that POMC is always here for you. Together, we do survive and make a difference in the lives we touch.

Thank you to all of our chapter leaders, contact people, state coordinators, our friends in law enforcement and prosecutors' offices, and to all survivors—for all you do.

Was Justice Served?

(Continued from p. 1)

their murdered loved ones and of the crime scene. The trial-to-be was like another victimization waiting to happen. What if he was found not guilty or given a short sentence? We are not guaranteed a "just trial."

I will never forget when Kent called me on the phone to tell me that the trial was cancelled. I heard relief in his voice. It was like he could finally breathe. Yet, is it wrong to be relieved when someone dies?

It is sad that people can commit such horrific acts and can continue to cause havoc.

Kent and Brian are at least spared the horrors and agony of a trial. Yet murder cannot be resolved.

Getting to a "new normal" takes a long time and we will always be here for them. They are both loving and sensitive men. In asking others their opinion of Roark Smith, most people were glad he would not be here to harm others. They hope that the Hongs could find relief, knowing they do not have to go through the trial. Yet,

everyone felt sad that a person could be so cruel and could change the present and the future of so many. Was justice served? Or, is justice ever served in a homicide?

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After 29 years, a cold-case murder is solved, a hope fulfilled

SURVIVORS

By **Yvonne POINTER**



After 29 years, a cold-case murder is solved, a hope fulfilled

(The following account is condensed and edited from an article shared by the author. For 29 years, she has been often interviewed, often publicized, often honored. Her career has had many facets. A fuller account is found on her webpage:

<http://www.yvonnepointer.com/>)

The Audacity of Hope

On Dec. 6, 1984, I received a phone call telling me that “Your daughter is missing,” a mother’s worst nightmare. I will never forget that morning. The immense snowfall made everyone scramble for boots, hats, gloves, and scarves. It came from nowhere, unpredicted, catching us all off guard. But snow wasn’t the only thing that day that would leave us wondering!

Gloria Pointer, my 14-year-old daughter, my oldest, was extra excited when she left home. Not only had she finally made the girls basketball team after numerous tryouts, but she was also honored for perfect attendance. Her excitement was written all over her face. Now I can see that the glow coming from her was an omen. I would never see her again—alive.!

Gloria’s raped and beaten body was found a few hours later in a basement stairwell near her school. Due to the severity of the beating that she endured, it took a few days to identify her. Her case was labeled as Cleveland’s most notorious unsolved homicide.

When the call finally came that I could come to the funeral home, I wanted to go alone. My family protested, feeling that I needed their support; but I wanted to

be the first to walk through the gates of the unimaginable.

I stood looking at her body in the satin-lined casket. She looked as if she were asleep. Had it not been for the lines of dirt beneath her fingernails, no one would have known that the casket also contained the secrets of brutality.

How could this have happened? Who could have done this? How was I going to live without her? I promised her that her death would not be in vain. I would find the person who had killed her. This seemed like a simple promise, after all. I thought that everyone would be as appalled and as outraged as I was—that there was a child killer loose in our city. I had not anticipated how long it would take.

It would take **29 years** to keep that promise, before our family would finally hear the words, “We have a suspect in the 1984 murder and rape of your daughter, Gloria Pointer.”

In 1984, in a three month period, Gloria was the fourth 14-year-old girl murdered in Cleveland: Leslie Cross, Lecora Robinson, Trina Middleton, and Gloria Pointer. The cases were unrelated. Nevertheless, the homicides left an air of fear smothering the city like a heavily woven quilt.

Life would never be the same. The first five years after her murder were unbearable. Deep depression changed the world as I knew it. Everything looked gray! Gray trees, gray grass, gray skies, gray flowers. Colorless. The was no internal life or laughter!

Strangely, Gloria’s homicide catapulted me into notoriety. I was looking for a killer, and that labeled me as a community activist! I wrote letters, looking for a famous celebrity to come to Cleveland and help me fight against child abductors



Gloria Pointer

and take up the banner of child protection, but no one came! Eventually, I became the person that I was looking for.

Governor George Voinovich inducted me into the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame. President George H. W. Bush named me the 908th Point of Light. I received an Essence Award at Madison Square Garden, appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, appeared in national magazines, and more. All to flush out the killer.

I planned to seek public attention, until one day he would tell me how sorry he was. Then I could retreat to the land of “happily-ever-after,” so I thought. How was I to know that it would take **29 years**, only to realize that it would never happen?

On May 12, 2013, police arrested a 58-year-old Cleveland man on suspicion of aggravated murder. The man had served 15 years in prison after being convicted of a 1985 felonious assault and rape that happened during a burglary, according to records. According to Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine’s spokesperson, a DNA match connected the suspect to the murder.

Everything looked gray! Gray trees, gray grass, gray skies, gray flowers. Colorless.

Hope kept me moving forward, in hope of one day seeing the face of the person who altered the course of the life of the entire Pointer family.

[As reported in The Cleveland Plain Dealer, Yvonne said that she needed to ask him, “What happened on that day? Why did you take my daughter’s life?” Only face-to-face questioning will give her needed answers to those questions. “Because,” she said to The Plain Dealer, “even with the arrest, it still leaves so many questions in my mind that are still not being answered, that maybe only this person can answer.”]

My definition of the audacity of hope is “a desired, bold expectation to obtain that which is unusual or not normal.” I thank God for providing me with a reason to live, early on, at that time when all I wanted to do was to die.

Forever
Loved
and
Missed.
Mama
and
Daddy,
Julia
and
Harry Sr.
Fontenot

Tony Fontenot
(12-9-1971 — 9-21-2004)

Precious Son - Tony

God, I know you gave your precious Son
To give us life with You.

But we didn't want our son to leave,
Cause he was precious too.

We all are special in Your eyes
And all to You return.

We know our son will not come back,
And for this our hearts still yearn.

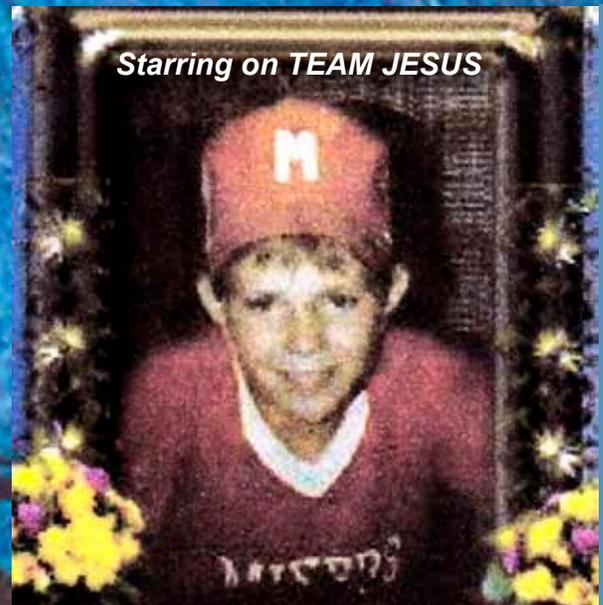
Our time on earth is for learning,
And when our lessons are through,
Our Lord will choose the time we leave,
And we come back to You.

Our precious son is with You,
And there will be a day,

That we too will leave this earth,
And You will light our way.

His arms will be wide open,

And the wait will be worthwhile,
When we see again our precious son,
And the splendor of his smile.



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Thirteen authors have committed their books to the project, and several others are pending.

AUTHORS, use the bookstore at a stress-

Authors Support Bookstore Project



free venue—the “Open Hearts, Sharing Hope with Trusted Friends” National Conference.

This project is also the ideal platform for book promotion. It also will raise awareness of crime victims’ rights — and remedies.

We hope that this project not only will

raise funds, but also bring new material to survivors and professionals to inspire and empower, and to bring hope and healing.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the project, please contact:

Donna Slone
 National POMC
 1-888-818-7662
 dslone@pomc.org

We greatly appreciate everyone who has contributed to make this project possible.

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