

Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)

On February 21st 2019, my life as I know it changed forever. Most of you are aware that I was in the hospital recovering from lung surgery when our Pawnee County Sheriff had to come and inform me that my husband “Monty Johnson” had been on duty and was hit and killed by a man who crossed over the center line and hit him head on.

My Eastern Star family, Law Enforcement family and my immediate family are the ones who helped me pull through this and are continuing to help me through.

Before this time I had only heard of this organization. I did not know what all they did for the law enforcement survivors.

Each year, between 140 and 160 officers are killed in the line of duty and their families and co-workers are left to cope with the tragic loss. C.O.P.S. provides resources to help them rebuild their shattered lives. There is no membership fee to join C.O.P.S., for the price paid is already too high.

C.O.P.S. was organized in 1984 with 110 individual members. Today, C.O.P.S. membership is over 54000 survivors. The survivors include spouses, children, parents, siblings, significant others, and co-workers of officers who have died in the line of duty according to Federal government criteria. C.O.P.S. is governed by a national board of law enforcement survivors. All programs and services are administered by the National Office in Camdenton, Missouri. C.O.P.S. has over 50 chapters nationwide that work with survivors at the grass-roots level.

The programs for survivors include National Police Survivors’ Conference held each May during National Police Week in Washington D C, scholarships, peer-support, “C.O.P.S. Kids” counseling reimbursement program, Summer Camp, Teens Outward Bound Adventure for young adults, special retreats for spouses, parents, siblings, adult children, extended family, and co-workers. Also, trial and parole support, and other assistance programs.

C.O.P.S. knows that a survivor's level of distress is directly affected by the agency's response to the tragedy. Therefore, they offer training and assistance to law enforcement agencies nationwide on how to respond to the tragic loss of a member of the law enforcement profession. They are a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. C.O.P.S. programs and services are funded by grants and donations.

I choose this organization for my charity project because they have been with me during this whole process and I would like to give back so they can continue to do good for the survivors and it will be used to help other families who have or will go through something similar as myself and will stay here in Oklahoma. We will be accepting a \$5.00 donation for a replica pin of Monty's badge for our charity project, C.O.P.S. (Concerns of Police Survivors).

In Loving Memory,

Auntie Jo Johnson

