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Contact us at:

Iowa C.O.P.S.
 P.O. Box 52
 Granger, IA 50109
 (319) 481-COPS (2677)

Join us on Facebook:

@Iowa-Cops-Chapter

Visit us at:

Iowacops.org

Iowa C.O.P.S. is a 501C(3) registered non-profit. All donations stay in Iowa to support and assist Iowa survivors.

A survivor is any family member, friend, or colleague of a fallen officer. Iowa C.O.P.S. supports officers at every level: municipal, county, state and federal.



Iowa's Fallen Officers to be Honored During National Police Week 2012

This year the National Police Week will be held May 12-17 in Washington, DC. This is a significant year for Iowa as two of our fallen officers, Keokuk County Sheriff Sergeant Eric J. Stein and Iowa State Trooper Mark E. Toney, will be added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall.

Iowa C.O.P.S. is attempting to raise at least \$30,000 by May 1 to cover the cost of sending survivors of these two families to participate in this ceremony.

If you would like to make a contribution, you can mail a check to Iowa C.O.P.S., PO Box 52, Granger, Iowa 50109 or contact Melisa Wissink at president@Iowacops.org. Iowa C.O.P.S. is a 501C(3) registered non-profit and all proceeds stay in Iowa to benefit Iowa survivors. Any and all donations are very much appreciated.

2012 RAGBRAI Team

Have you ever wanted to ride on RAGBRAI but you were too weak, timid, or scared to actually do it? Make 2012 the year that you join the Iowa C.O.P.S. RAGBRAI team as a rider, driver, companion, or contributor. Iowa C.O.P.S. will be well represented by the survivors of our fallen officers during the biggest bike ride in Iowa July 22-28. Anyone can join the team, but hurry because we are only accepting the first 25 riders. The 2012 RAGBRAI team hopes to raise over \$30,000 for the Survivor Fund.

Riders are being asked to raise \$1000. Each rider who raises \$1000 in pledges will be provided:

- a complimentary 2012 team bike Jersey
- purchase of official RAGBRAI ticket
- transport your gear and bicycles from Des Moines to the beginning town (Yet to be determined by RAGBRAI) and back to Des Moines at the end of the week
- transport your gear from each host family to the next each day
- provide complimentary beverages at the half way town every day along the route

The team hopes to start each day riding together as a team then spread out as the day goes on. We will also plan to get a team photo at every Law Enforcement Agency along the route.



If you are unable to ride but would like to assist, we are looking for sponsors to donate items for the ride or be a host family in one of the overnight cities.

To join or support the team, visit our Web site iowacops.org or contact the 2012 RAGBRAI team coordinator, Mark Ludwick, at trustee@iowacops.org. The rider and sponsor applications are online.

Iowa Fallen Peace Officer License Plates

The Iowa General Assembly House File 651 was passed during last year's legislative session. Iowans will soon be able to purchase the Iowa Fallen Peace Officer license plates through the Iowa Department of Transportation. Iowa C.O.P.S. will receive \$10 per plate. The Iowa Department of Public Safety will distribute the funds in the form of grants to our non-profit organization. The design of the plate has not been finalized.

You can pre-order your license plate today by going to the Iowa Department of Transportation site, www.lowadot.gov, and place your order today. The cost is an additional \$35 for a regular plate or you can have your Fallen Peace Officer license plate personalized for \$60. The Iowa C.O.P.S. Chapter benefits from the program while we raise awareness to the fallen officers that have paid the ultimate price.

Golf Anyone?

This has been an amazing winter and spring is just around the corner. With it comes all of the spring fun, including golf. Iowa C.O.P.S. is once again hosting two golf events, the Sean Wissink Memorial Golf Tournament in Grimes, Iowa on May 11 and the 2nd Annual Iowa C.O.P.S. Golf Classic at Riverside Casino and Blue Top Ridge Golf Course in Riverside, Iowa on July 1 and 2. Please visit iowacops.org for more information and registration forms.

Participate in Monthly Meetings Remotely

It is imperative that the Iowa C.O.P.S. chapter grows and diversifies its membership. The Chapter's goal is to have representation from across the entire state of Iowa. Having members in multiple areas will assist us being able to better serve survivors in the event of a line of duty death.

Currently the chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Des Moines Police Department in Des Moines, Iowa. We realize it is not convenient for everyone to come to the meeting so to facilitate growing and diversifying our membership we are offering everyone who wishes to participate in the monthly meetings the opportunity to participate remotely via phone. If you would like to participate please contact president@iowacops.org or trustee@iowacops.org. If we call you

there is no charge to participate.



New Web Site and Logo

iowacops.org has a new look. The new site and logo went live in January. Please visit this site regularly to see what is on our calendar of events, what fundraising opportunities are available, and how to become a member of the local chapter. We also have a Facebook page that is used regularly to share information. Please feel free to add the Iowa C.O.P.S. link to your Web site.

How You Can Help Make Iowa C.O.P.S. Better

Iowa C.O.P.S. needs your help to make it better. Our Iowa Chapter is just barely over a year in existence and we need your help in making grow across the state of Iowa. You can donate time, resources, experience, or money. We really need to expand our sworn police officers to the elected board so we can have a better and stronger representation of law enforcement all over Iowa, to include local, county, state, and federal law enforcement. We could use everyone's help to be better.



You can participate by:

- Seeking grants and grant writing
- Becoming a funeral response team member
- Becoming a C.O.P.S. elected board members
- Becoming a newsletter contributor
- Becoming a sponsor for events
- Obtaining a funeral response trailer
- Making mourning bands
- Assisting with fundraising



Iowa C.O.P.S. First Annual Survivors' Christmas Party

Iowa survivors came together to celebrate the 2011 Holiday Season and remember those who were lost. The party was held at the Des Moines Police Recreation Hall, provided free of charge, where the survivors from across the state enjoyed meeting one another. After a delicious meal provided by Great Caters of Iowa, the

survivors memorialized the 174 Iowa police officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The attendees were blessed with a beautiful blue Christmas tree and enjoyed some blue punch. The surviving children received a special gift from none other than Santa Claus himself, played by Polk County Sheriff Deputy Keith Romp. The event was a great success and is hopefully the first of many. Thanks to all who participated by volunteering goods, services, and time.

On the Road

Iowa C.O.P.S. President, Melisa Wissink, and Trustee, Mark Ludwick, have been on the road presenting to officer groups across the state in an effort to build awareness and participation. They recently visited Bettendorf and Burlington to discuss preparing for and dealing with line of duty deaths. A copy of Your Personal/Financial Diary is distributed and discussed. Participants also learn about the role Iowa C.O.P.S. plays in assisting with line of duty deaths and the services for survivors. If your organization would like to learn more about Iowa C.O.P.S. please contact Melisa Wissink at president@iowacops.org. We are happy to talk to community groups as well as law enforcement groups.



9,334 Days by Mark Ludwick

Iowa made it 9,334 days since the last police officer was killed feloniously in our state. As police officers in the State of Iowa, we fortunately do not have to hear the words "officer down" very often. It's not because police officers in Iowa do not face the same dangers as our brothers and sisters in New York, Chicago, or Houston. It's not that police officers in Iowa don't face danger every shift. I like to believe it's because Iowans are more respectful to our law enforcement and Iowa provides good training to its officers. I would like to believe that all of us look out for each other and that we make a vow with our partners to always ensure we are doing the right thing, the safest way we can. It still pains me like an edged piece of glass to my soul when I think about Sgt. Stein being murdered. While I never had the opportunity to meet Sgt. Stein, I know he was a man of honor and integrity.



Iowa C.O.P.S

Vol. 1

Honoring our fallen officers by providing support for survivors and their families

Sgt. Stein was the type of man who was always looking out for his brothers and sisters in public safety, whether as paramedic, firefighter, or as a deputy. Sgt. Stein was looking out for his fellow man when he would not allow other law enforcement officers to come rescue him and his partners. He knew they would be in as great a risk as he was currently in. However, more than anything else in the world, he was looking out for his nine year old daughter, Shelby. Sgt. Stein leaves behind his daughter, Shelby, his fiancée, Kari Wyatt, his father, Lonnie Stein, and his grandparents, Lyle and Mable Stein.

It had been 9,334 days since Newton Police Officer Daniel M. McPherron was killed when responding to an armed robbery. Less than 40 air miles from the two sites, the officers share something that very few families have to endure. While I hope and pray that more than 9,334 days pass before we lose another officer, the statistics do not support my desire. Statistically another officer will be killed way too soon. While the officers on the street are protecting our freedom and safety, we hope for another 9,334 days come and go before we have to hear the words "officer down" again. We have heard the words "nothing routine" more times that we can count. We all accept the fact that when we put our gun and badge upon us and leave our home, we might not return. My promise to my wife, kids and to myself is that I will do everything in my power to come back

home in the same physical condition as I left. I accept that I will do everything in my body to make Iowa a safer place while I'm on my tour of duty.

Mark Ludwick