



The 2019 CPOF Project 2000



The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation Project this year (2019), held in Louisville, Kentucky, was one of the most amazing experiences I have had. It was truly eye opening. The love this organization shows to officers and their families is inspiring.

At last year's Project, I was in such awe and amazement, that it was hard to remember everything that we had the opportunity to see. This year, in my true OCD fashion, I decided to take notes to detail the events, so that I could share it with each of you.

For those of you that are not aware of CPOF or their mission; CPOF is a national non-profit organization whose primary function is to preserve and support the surviving families of correctional and probation officers who lose their lives in the pursuit of their chosen profession of protecting the public from those re-

manded to correctional custody and supervision. CPOF has representatives in every state in the US and in Canada, that work hard to support officers. Their motto is "Taking Care of Our Own".



In addition to their amazing work supporting the families of fallen officers, whether it be financially or emotionally, CPOF also has a Catastrophic Assistance Program where if a peace officer is needing assistance as the result of a recent catastrophic event in their life, help can be requested from the organization. Many staff members have been helped all over Division III and right here in our own district.

To date the organization has assisted 36,000 correctional families for over \$21 million dollars. Please consider becoming a supporting member of the only national organization for corrections for just \$5 a month (payroll deducted) if you are not one already. It is with your help that they can continue to do the wonderful things I have mentioned above.

Each year CPOF holds a gathering called Project 2000, including a memorial service where fallen officers are formally remembered and honored. Below are just some of the events at this year's Project 2000.

Families of the recognized fallen officers are flown to the Project to participate in the memorial service, project events, and specialized seminars created just for them to





help with deal with their grief. When the families arrive at the airport, they are met on the plane by the CPOF Honor Guard. The Honor Guard escorts the families off the plane first while the rest of the plane stands to honor the fallen officer's service. The families are assigned an Honor Guard member who stays with them throughout the Project to make sure they have everything they need.



On Thursday evening, the Project held its annual Welcome Dinner. The Fallen Families were walked in

to the dinner by the Honor Guard while everyone stood to recognize them. The New York Department of Corrections Pipe Band played a few selections for attendees, and then the Honor Guard posted the colors. There were opening remarks and the Honor Guard was recognized for their service.

During the dinner, a very special event happened. The US Deputy Warden's Association, for the last 15 years, has provided travel bags for each of the fallen family members children. These bags are rolling backpacks filled with toys and other items customized for each child. The children are called up to receive their bag and have their picture taken. I should also mention that there is a kids room throughout the entire Project that allows these children to socialize with others that are going through the same things that they are, provides games and fun, the children have pizza parties, ice cream socials, and even take fun trips during the Project. It helps these children realize that they are not alone.

Then a video was played that talked about several things involved with CPOF. This video in-

cluded a welcoming, a history of CPOF, recognition of survivors of assault, trauma or accident in the



last year, it talked about the catastrophic assistance program, it spoke about the CPOF kid's program and the kid's room, it recognized of the CPOF National Honor Guard, and lastly each fallen officer's picture was shown in recognition of their end of watch.



On Friday, the focal point of the Project occurs and that is the Memorial Ceremony for the fallen officers from the last year. Previous years the ceremony was held outside, but due to rain the ceremony was held inside this year. The Honor Guard escorted the fallen families into the hall while the bag pipes played. The colors were



presented, and both the US and Canadian National Anthem were played. Then a member of the honor Guard presented the wreath which stayed in place for the remaining events of the Project, in remembrance for those who could not be with us. The board of directors were introduced and then the National Chairman Glenn Mueller did a welcoming and thanked the staff, Honor Guard and guests. There



two more speeches welcoming those in attendance; Warden Jessie Ferguson from the Kentucky Department of Corrections and Steven Durham Assistant Director of Louisville Corrections. The pipe band then played some selections. Then each fallen officer was recognized. Each name was called individually, and a bell was rung for each officer. The story of their end

of watch was read and the fallen family members were recognized. The families were given a remembrance plaque and a shadow box with two flags in it; a US or Canadian flag depending on location and their state flag. At the same time, the Honor Guard brought up the state flag for the state that the officer was from and placed it in a holder on the stage. When the families came forward, they each carried a red rose that was placed in a red, white and blue vase near the stage. Once each fallen officer was recognized the ceremony concluded.

A short time later that same day, a memorial luncheon was held. Again, the Honor Guard walked in the fallen family members and a short prayer was given to start the luncheon. The Mayor of Louisville Greg Fischer came and gave a speech thanking CPOF and recognizing all who attended the luncheon. The pipe band again played a few selections, including Amazing Grace which was simply stunning.

The Honor Guard then posted the missing officers table. This is a table set for one that represents Correctional Staff who have given their

lives in the line of duty. Every piece of the place setting represents something:



The table is round – to show our everlasting concern for our missing loved ones.

The tablecloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The sword – symbolizes honor.

The single red rose – displayed in a vase, it reminds us the life of each of

the missing loves ones and friends of these Correctional Staff who keep the faith.

The vase – is tied with a yellow ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to remember and “Take Care of Our Own.”

A slice of lemon – reminds us of the bitter fate of those killed or crippled while protecting society.

A pinch of salt – symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.



of the Kentucky Derby. Participants could walk through the museum, tour the grounds and have a delicious dinner. Everyone was wearing their derby hats to get into the spirit (also provided by CPOF). After dinner, it was time for some mock races. Attendees got to sit in the luxury boxes and bet (fake money of



After everyone had a chance to enjoy their meal, there were more events to be seen. A speech was given by the American Correctional Association. Then another truly remarkable presentation was made. Each fallen family was presented with a mounted set of three spent shell casings that were previously fired for their loved ones. There was also presentations of plaques to be displayed at the facility of each fallen officer. This concluded the luncheon.

Friday evening, everyone was invited to Churchill Downs the home

course) on the race that was being displayed on the TVs. If you won your bet, your name went into a drawing for a prize. We even got to meet with some of the buglers who played for us! It was a fun evening getting to know people from across the country and enjoying some fun times together.

Saturday morning started with many seminars for those that were interested. There was a Staff Suicide seminar, a Gangs in Prison seminar, and a Remembering Attica Seminar. There was also a special seminar for Survivors of Assaults and Families of Assault Survivors, that was only available to this



group of individuals. The kids took a trip to Altitude Trampoline Park and later that evening there was a Pizza and Sundae Party for the kids as well as a Teen Night Out for the teens.

Also held on Saturday was a Recognition Luncheon. This luncheon was held to recognize assault survivors, to recognize corrections personnel



who have demonstrated on-the-job bravery Above and Beyond the Call of Duty, and to recognize scholarship recipients. The Honor Guard escorted in the fallen families, a prayer was given, and the Pipe Band played a few selections. Both the Larry Corby and Richard





and the story of their bravery was told for all attendees to hear. It was truly inspirational!

This is also the ceremony where new Lifetime Sponsorship Awards are announced and plaques are presented to the new sponsors. This year DCC Division III received three plaques, which means we now have 8 lifetime sponsorships for the division.



Waldo scholarship recipients were recognized first at the luncheon with three young people receiving a scholarship for college. Then a few families that received catastrophic assistance were recognized.



and donate monies to either CPOF, the Kids Room, or both.

On Sunday morning a Farewell Breakfast is hosted featuring a special "Group Sing" by the CPOF Kids and Teens. It is also a time to say goodbye to your friends new and old,

Then came the recognition of the assault survivors from the last year where each recognized survivor was called up, the story of the assault was told, and they received a crystal award. Then a special presentation was made for those recognized for Bravery Above and Beyond the Call of Duty. The recipient of the award was called up

Two more and we will have one for each district. So far Division III has lifetime sponsor plaques for NCDPS Community Corrections, Division III, District 17, District 19A, District 19B, District 20, District 22, and District 23. The state of NC received so many new lifetime sponsorship plaques this year, that our state was called last to receive plaques. **Nine new lifetime sponsors came out of NC this year!**

and look forward to next year's Project.

The Project is an amazing experience like no other, filled with wonderful caring people. Crystal and I can't wait for next year!

Thank you CPOF!

Crystal Allen & Ashley Alley



After this the floor was opened-up for anyone that wanted to say a few words. Several people took this opportunity to thank CPOF

