



The One Hundred Club

NEWSLETTER

The One Hundred Club of Contra Costa County provides immediate financial support for the spouses and children of police officers and firefighters who lose their lives as a direct result of physical injuries sustained in Contra Costa County in the line of duty.

DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

Mary Knox
President

Jason Wentz
Vice President

Mary Melgoza
Treasurer

Jason Bleier
Secretary

Ross Hillesheim
Membership Chair

One Hundred Club Members,

As we move into the second half of 2026, the One Hundred Club Board of Directors continues to make steady progress on the initiatives shared during our April Member Appreciation Dinner.

Secretary Jason Bleier and Membership Chairman Ross Hillesheim have been working diligently on the new One Hundred Club website, which is on track to go live in July. Once the site is launched, we will send an email to all members with instructions on how to access and navigate the new platform.

We are also excited to share that the One Hundred Club participated in Danville's 4th of July Parade in celebration of our nation's 250th birthday. Many thanks to the One Hundred Club members who cheered us on along the parade route.

Looking ahead, National Night Out—an annual celebration of partnership between First Responders and the community—will take place the evening of August 4th.

The One Hundred Club will host a booth at the Martinez National Night Out, featuring music, food, and presentations from law enforcement and fire personnel. On August 30th, we will also have a booth at the Danville Car Show, located just south of the Veterans Hall. Please stop by and say hello.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our Annual Membership Dinner on Thursday, November 5th at the Blackhawk Auto Museum. The Board of Directors is in the process of selecting a dynamic speaker for what promises to be an exceptional evening. More details will be shared soon.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with the
One Hundred Club.



Announcement -The New Website is Coming!

We will soon be launching a new website. This marks an exciting milestone for our organization and another important step in our ongoing effort to modernize The 100 Club of Contra Costa County while honoring the legacy, mission, and values that have guided us for more than 40 years. Our refreshed identity reflects who we are today, an active, engaged community dedicated to supporting the families of fallen and catastrophically injured first responders—and who we aspire to be in the future.

As we work to re-energize the Club, our new brand is designed to strengthen our visibility, expand community awareness, and make it easier for people to connect with our mission. A key part of this effort is our redesigned website, which will offer a more user-friendly, intuitive, and visually compelling experience. Visitors will be able to learn about our work more easily, understand how their support makes an impact, and find new ways to get involved.

Over the coming weeks, we'll begin rolling out our updated identity across our website, social media, marketing and fundraising materials, apparel, merchandise, event signage, and membership recognition. This unified look and feel will help us tell our story more clearly and inspire more people to stand with us in supporting the heroes who dedicate their lives to serving our communities.

We are excited for our members, partners, and the broader community to see this new chapter come to life. Thank you for being part of our continued growth, and for your unwavering commitment to the mission of the 100 Club of Contra Costa County.



WELCOME

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Connie Batchelder
Nolan Evola
Alex Meyer
Carolyn Ricinak
Catherine Ghiselli
Donna Raziano
Tony Quintong, Jr.
Mickey Morris
Jason Bleier
Everett Lebherz
Mark Bustillos
Robert Kopp/KOPP Productions
Jason Wentz
Michael Carpenter
Mary Knox
Calvin Skinner Robie
John Compaglia
Janice Gentry
Betsy Berk Smith
Connie Batchelder

NEW MEMBERS

Louis “Skip” George
Ronald and Ashley Latteri
Jeanne Pearl
Doug Andersson
Rick and Susan Russell
S Jason Salfen

DONATIONS

Donation April - June

John Ross	\$100
Fred Well	\$12,000
Richard Denin and Lynn Law	\$50
Knights of Columbus	\$1,000
Linda Sandsmark	\$25
(In honor of Robin Costa)	

This is why we do, what we do, for Survivors like Cody. We have assisted Cody with costs for his college education and other benefits, all because of your generosity.



Cody is all smiles at his favorite restaurant in Capitola.

Don't miss the heartfelt message from Survivor, Morgan Haynes on the next page.

A Message from Survivor, Morgan Haynes!

For the past six years, I have had the incredible opportunity of attending the Adult Children's Retreat hosted by Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.). When I attended for the first time, I honestly questioned how a retreat could help me after more than 30 years had passed since losing my dad. I believed I had already done much of my healing. Looking back now, I realize I couldn't have been more wrong. Today, I look forward to this retreat every year, and I cannot imagine my healing journey without it.

There is something comforting about being surrounded by people who understand a loss that so few others truly can. We have all become members of a club that none of us ever wanted to join, but within that shared grief, we have found compassion, understanding, and a family. The friendships I have built through this retreat have become some of the most meaningful in my life. They remind me every year that while grief may change over time, we never have to carry it alone.

The retreat offers group breakout sessions, outdoor activities, time for quiet reflection, opportunities to connect with counselors, and endless conversations that are often the most healing moments of the weekend. After attending for four years, participants have the opportunity to choose between the sessions or the float trip on the first day.

This year, I chose the float trip. Floating down the river gave me a sense of calm and reminded me how important it is to simply breathe and appreciate the beauty around us. Even though I truly enjoyed the float trip, I realized how much I missed being in the sessions.

The sessions are about much more than learning coping skills. They give us the opportunity to share our stories, listen without judgment, and remind one another that our loved ones are never forgotten. Whether someone's loss occurred one month ago or seventy-five years ago, the emotions are familiar. We find pieces of ourselves in each other's stories, and through those connections, our healing continues. Together, we learn that healing is not about forgetting, it is about learning how to carry our loss with love, hope, and purpose.

Every year, this retreat meets me exactly where I am. As a child, I grieved the loss of my father very differently than I do as an adult. Life changes, perspectives evolve, and grief continues to unfold in new ways. This retreat has given me the space to grow through each stage of that journey. It has helped me honor my father's memory while also allowing myself to continue living a full and meaningful life.

One of the moments that touched me most this year was a conversation with another attendee whose father, a Detroit police officer, was killed in the line of duty on December 14, 1951. He asked if I had ever heard of the One Hundred Club. When I shared that I am involved with my local chapter, we spent a long time talking about its history. He showed me a newspaper article featuring a photograph of himself as a young boy. I was amazed to learn that the Jerlecki family was the very first family to receive assistance from the One Hundred Club. It was even more meaningful to realize that I have had the honor of building a friendship with that little boy from the newspaper article—Stan Jerlecki. In that moment, I was reminded how beautifully connected our survivor community truly is. Decades may separate our losses, but our hearts speak the same language. Because of your generosity, I have been given so much more than the opportunity to attend a retreat. You have given me a place where healing continues, where lifelong friendships are formed, where hope is renewed, and where my father's sacrifice is remembered alongside so many others. The support you provide reaches far beyond a single weekend—it creates lasting connections that continue throughout the year and reminds surviving families that they will never be forgotten.

Your kindness has made a difference in my life and in the lives of my family. I will forever be grateful for your generosity, your compassion, and your commitment to ensuring that no survivor has to walk this path alone.

Morgan Haynes
Surviving Adult Daughter
Officer David T. Haynes
EOW December 28, 1992



A Tribute to a Legend- Sue Rainey



It is with deep sadness that the Board of Directors of The 100 Club of Contra Costa County shares the news of the passing of our longtime member, Sue Rainey, on Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

Sue and her husband, Richard “Dick” Rainey, played an instrumental role in the founding of The One Hundred Club of Contra Costa County in 1984 during Dick’s tenure as Sheriff of Contra Costa County. Together, they were steadfast supporters and true champions of our mission. Sue had hoped to join us at our Membership Appreciation Event this past April, and she will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Sue’s family and to the many friends whose lives were brightened by her kindness and dedication.

Thank you, Roberta Healy!

On behalf of The One Hundred Club of Contra Costa County, we want to extend our deepest appreciation to Roberta as she steps down from the Board of Directors after 22 remarkable years of service.

Since joining the Board in 2004, following the passing of her husband and former Club President Mike Healy, she has carried forward his legacy with strength, compassion, and unwavering dedication. Through countless hours of volunteer work and her constant presence at nearly every Club event, she helped shape the spirit of the One Hundred Club. Her warmth made every gathering feel special, and her commitment ensured that each event honored the families we serve with the dignity and care they deserve.



Her greatest gift has always been the heartfelt connection she has with the survivors, the very core of our mission. She has embraced every family with genuine love, support, and respect, reminding them that they are never alone and always part of our community.

We are profoundly grateful for her decades of service, leadership, and compassion. While she will be greatly missed on the Board, her impact will remain woven into the foundation of the Club for years to come.

Although Roberta will no longer be a Board member, she plans to attend all future 100 club events. We wish her continued fulfillment, good health, and happiness in the next chapter of her life, and we thank her sincerely for all she has given to the The One Hundred Club of Contra Costa County.

HONORING THE FALLEN Washington, D.C. May 15, 2026

Every May, thousands of people from across the United States gather in Washington, D.C. to honor the courage, service, and sacrifice of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. This annual observance, known as National Police Week, centers around the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, a solemn and powerful tribute located in Judiciary Square.

The Memorial itself features gently curving blue-gray marble walls engraved with the names of more than 24,000 fallen officers. Each year, new names are added during a moving candlelight vigil, where families, colleagues, and supporters come together to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The vigil, illuminated by thousands of candles, is one of the most profound moments of the week, offering comfort, unity, and a shared space for grief and gratitude.

Throughout the week, ceremonial events, remembrance services, and educational programs highlight the dedication of law enforcement professionals nationwide. Officers participate in the Police Unity Tour, a bicycle ride that brings awareness to the memorial and honors fallen colleagues. Families attend the annual memorial service on Capitol Hill, where the newly added names are formally recognized.

For many, National Police Week is both a somber reminder of loss and a celebration of unwavering commitment to public safety. It provides an opportunity for the nation to reflect on the challenges law enforcement officers face and to express appreciation for their service.

This year Kyle, Philip and Morgan Haynes travelled to participate in the events.



THEY GAVE IT ALL - Firefighter Memorial Service, July 21, 2026

Matt Burton • Scott Desmond • Ron Wiley

On Tuesday, July 21, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District gathered with family members, friends, retired and active firefighters, and community members to honor the lives and sacrifices of Fire Captain Matt Burton, Fire Engineer Scott Desmond and Ron Wiley during the department's annual Firefighter Memorial Service.

Held at the Contra Costa Fire Training Division Memorial Wall in Concord, the ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the courage, selflessness and unwavering commitment these men demonstrated in service to their community. As names were read, memories were shared and moments of silence were observed, those in attendance reflected on lives devoted to protecting others, often at great personal risk.

This year's service marked the 19th anniversary of the line-of-duty deaths of Captain Burton and Engineer Desmond, who lost their lives on July 21, 2007, while courageously attempting to rescue an elderly couple from a house fire in San Pablo. Their extraordinary bravery and dedication continue to inspire every member of the fire service.

The ceremony also paid tribute to Ron Wiley, whose service and sacrifice remain an enduring part of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's history. His legacy, like those of Captain Burton and Engineer Desmond, continues to live on in the hearts of those who knew him and in the firefighters who follow in his footsteps.

The memorial was more than a ceremony—it was a promise. A promise that these heroes will never be forgotten, that their sacrifices will continue to be honored, and that their legacy of courage, service and compassion will live on for generations to come.

Their watch may have ended, but their legacy continues to guide and inspire us every day.

Matt Guichard represented The One Hundred Club of Contra Costa County this year.



Member Appreciation Dinner













FREE EVENT Hosted by Downtown Martinez

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 | 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Martinez Marina Waterfront Park: 245 N Court St. Martinez, CA 94553

MEET YOUR LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

Join in this **free** Award winning Community-Building event to meet with police, fire and public safety under positive, enjoyable circumstances. The evening is filled with opportunities to foster relationships between First Responders and residents. It's more than just a great evening out... it is a visible show of comradeship and unity to make our neighborhoods and city a safe and more caring place.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT

- ★ One-on-One opportunities to meet our First Responders
- ★ View an array of Police & Fire vehicles & equipment
- ★ Visit over 45 community booths & family activities
- ★ Home Security & Safety exhibits including Drone Demos
- ★ Live Music of The Eagles by Midnight Flyer on the green
- ★ Children's entertainment - Petting Zoo
- ★ Food Trucks of all flavors - Sweets, Shaved Ice, Treats, giveaways & much more!!

EVENT INFO



Scan QR Code or visit:
NNOMartinez.com



National Night Out Martinez is Hosted by Downtown Martinez & Co.

Save the date!
The Annual Membership
Dinner
November 5th
Blackhawk Museum
5:00 pm - 11:00 pm.



More information to follow
in September.