



**GREATER ORANGE COUNTY  
CHAPTER OF  
PARENTS OF  
MURDERED CHILDREN**

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

**FOR THE FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED BY VIOLENCE**



**Come join our Facebook Community!**

Find us on Facebook!

POMC-Greater Orange County

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gocpomc>

## NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

September 25th at 1pm is our Annual Picnic at the park for National Day of Remembrance! This will be a Potluck We're asking everyone to bring their favorite side dish and desserts. The board members will provide Chicken and sandwiches.



There will be raffles and 50/50 tickets!  
We're looking for two more baskets to raffle off.  
There will also be games and a craft table!



# PAUL PAULSEN ATTENDS ANNUAL POMC CONFERENCE

I had the privilege and honor of emceeding the 36th Annual POMC Annual Conference on July 21-24, 2022, in St. Louis. This year's theme was "Journey Through the Gateway to Healing & Hope." The St. Louis Arch is known for being the Gateway to the West, and for the conference it is the gateway to healing and hope for everyone. The objective of the conference each year is to give you hope that you will survive the murder of your love one and the healing that you need from such a devastating tragedy. There were 229 attendees, all benefiting from compelling featured speakers and a wide range of workshops which offered something for everyone. The Annual Conference is a combination of education, inspiration, camaraderie, and yes, even fun!

The Annual Conference offers a truly unique experience and an environment in which you can safely share your story with people who truly understand what you are going through. Meet new friends, or reconnect with old friends. Most importantly, you will come away realizing you are not alone, that your POMC family supports you today, tomorrow, and always.

There are so many wonderful traditions at the Annual Conference. The poignant Murder Wall unveiling ceremony on Thursday night, Opening Ceremonies on Friday morning, the Memorial Video on Friday night, and the Awards Banquet on Saturday night. There's even a D.J. spinning tunes for dancing to wrap up Saturday night. And, of course, the Conference finale after Sunday brunch: Everyone stands in a circle, holds hands, unified as one, and sings the POMC anthem "We Are The Survivors". It is truly a beautiful moment.

One of the speaker highlights was an address by Kristina Rose, Director, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) at the U.S. Department of Justice. In her position as Director, Kristina oversees programs and services that support crime victims and survivors, and with a \$9 billion budget in grant funding to provide vital compensation and assistance to persons impacted by crime. Director Rose was responsible for obtaining grant funding which resulted in many scholarships for POMC Annual Conference attendees. One other notable event that occurred during the award ceremony on Saturday night was the announcement of a \$10,000 contribution to POMC from The California Corrections Police Officer Association (CCPOA). That is certainly appreciated!

Overall, this year's Annual Conference certainly lived up to its theme of offering healing and hope. Next year's Conference will be held on July 20 - 23, 2023, in Atlanta, GA. I hope you have the opportunity to attend! - Paul Paulsen -

# 20 YEARS GONE

It's been 20 years since John Maldonado lost his son Mathew. Here is his letter to his son.

"Matthew,

This coming August 30th 2022. It will be 20 years since you were taken from us. All because some senseless 16 year old kid was brainwashed into taking an innocent life. Everyone should recognize good and evil by that age. But he didn't care. You were only 16 when he murdered you. We got justice and lost it. How did that happen? Those nasty lawmakers that haven't experienced what I have.

I think about you everyday for the past 20 years. And I know you're always close by. I often wonder what you would be doing in our present day. You would be 36 this year. A NFL Football player? A owner of his own business? A husband and his beautiful wife? My precious grandchildren? When you were murdered so were all that i just mentioned. And as everyone has moved on, I have to live with that for the rest of my life. I miss you son and love you very much. I'll see you when I get there. Have a deck of cards ready and gather all the old timers.

Dad"



## Words From Your Editor

Allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Rick Maldonado and I'm your new editor for your POMC Newsletter and among other things.

I was first introduced to POMC by my brother, John Maldonado, at one of your Christmas events. Then attending more events. After attending one meeting, (which is on the second Wednesday of every month), and after seeing, at first hand, a glimpse, into your lives, pain, struggles and amazing bond and support for one another. I've decided to give my talent and time to my brother and, in memory of my nephew Matthew Maldonado, by supporting them, and others in the POMC Family.

Now, here's a little bit more about me,

I grew up, live, work and volunteer in the city of Fountain Valley CA. My family has resided here since the late 1930's. I currently belong to The Fountain Valley Community Foundation.

There, I support my community by volunteering at city events. Here, I've built up a respectable reputation within my amazing community. I'm very proud to be a part of this community and now proud to be apart of your Family as well.

- Rick Maldonado-



*Forever Remembered  
Angelversaries*

*Always in Our Hearts  
Happy Heavenly Birthday*

Travis R. Parker  
Lance M. Speciale  
Debbie Lee  
Cathy Tameny  
Lena Forbes  
Annette Stineman  
Ivan Stineman  
Neal Williams  
Devon Williams  
Ian Williams  
Richard Madrid  
Jared Smith  
Tracy Stratton  
Eva Diaz Rondon  
Christina Alcantar  
Judy Morales  
Aaron Chavez  
Kaitlyn Russell  
Malaikye Payne  
Lester Lewis  
Zachary Andrew  
Robert Carranza  
Dale Sheppard  
Jonathan Muse  
Danny Renteria  
Carl Chignell  
Ralph Elguezabal  
John Compton  
Jack Brant  
Aldo Cabanillas  
Denise Ortega  
Michelle Miller  
Cesar G. Rodriguez  
Jason Hall  
Stacey Hall  
Matthew Maldonado  
Heather Broadus  
Victoria Barrios  
Katya Sneeringer  
Kenneth Wrede



Jaiden Ruiz  
Johanna T. Piccirelli  
Robert Fiebrantz  
Jason Robinson  
Robert D. Carranza  
Ched Neuhaus  
Emilia Casas  
Pedro Cabrera Jr.  
Jess Lei  
Amy Marie Hess  
Jayden Turner  
Walter B. Hackman  
Jeffrey Alvarado  
Richard Jurado Jr.  
Gabriella Lopez  
Jeffery Pigage  
Rob Kaferer  
Stephen M. Sanchez  
Julia Borboa  
Victor Curiel  
Antwann Jones  
Henry Clay Mabry  
Dennis Spradlin  
Trevor Grizzle  
Deborah Williams  
Sylvia Flores  
Shaun Gomez  
Dale Sheppard  
Ricky Wood  
Howard A. Levey  
Terri Lee Beare  
Matthew Blek  
Emma Gomez

# 55



**Board Members:**

Chapter Leader: Debra Dizon-Hernandez: Email- Debraus22@gmail.com  
(In memory of Jonathan)

Co-Leader: Martha Dewar: marthad@roadrunner.com (In memory of Sarah)

Secretary: Letty Gutierrez: Email- lettygutierrez2017@gmail.com (In memory of Bryan)

Treasurer: John Maldonado: Email- mrjmoldonado@yahoo.com (In Memory of Matthew)

Anita Lewis: Email- alewismary@yahoo.com (In memory of Mary & Lester)

Faye Jenkins gsmommy@yahoo.com (In memory of Quiana & Jan)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Rick Maldonado - rickem1972@gmail.com (In Memory of Matthew Maldonado)

**MONTHLY SUPPORT MEETINGS:**

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. Please come join us. This step in your journey will be one of the toughest. We are here to support you as you go - because we understand.

POMC provides the on-going emotional support needed to help families and friends of those who have died by violence facilitate the reconstruction of a "new life" and to promote a healthy resolution. Not only does POMC help survivors deal with their acute grief but also helps with the criminal justice system. Call for Location 714-999-7123

Email: gocpomc@yahoo.com

**Need to Talk:**

All are board members and bilingual. Mary Bennet 714-264-2690 Please send text first.

Martha Dewar 714- 306-9166 Letty Gutierrez 714-601-9699

Please be mindful of times as these lines go directly to the members above.

**Support Greater Orange County**

POMC Donations: When seeking a place to donate monetarily this year please consider a donation to Greater Orange County POMC. Help support GOCPOMC with your Amazon purchases: Amazon Supports GOCPOMC Go to: smile.amazon.com. Select: Greater Orange County Parents of Murdered Children Remember a portion of your purchase is donated to our chapter.

Membership is Open to those who have been cruelty bereaved by the murder of a loved one. Professionals who are in frequent contact with grieving families are also welcome to join.

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