

Concerns of Police Survivors



Northern California C.O.P.S.

1320 Stonewood Drive
Brentwood, CA 94513



Vol. 2

NUMBER 3

OCTOBER 2008

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS
Celebrating the
SILVER ANNIVERSARY
of Rebuilding Shattered Lives

On May, 14, 2009, Concerns of Police Survivors will celebrate 25 years of assisting survivors in Rebuilding Shattered Lives. On May 14, 2009, a 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration will be held at the Grand Hyatt Washington at Washington Center, 1000 H Street, N.W. Washington, DC.

MORE INFO PAGE 11

Crab Feed to benefit NorCal C.O.P.S.

On February 21, 2008, the 390 Squad Club will hold their Annual Crab Feed to benefit the CHP 11-99 Foundation, NorCal C.O.P.S. and the 390 Squad Club.

This event will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds and a large crowd is expected so get your tickets early.

Contact Scott Deschenes at 925-828-0466 or 390squadclub@comcast.net.

GENERAL MEETING

Nov. 22, 2008

**California Highway Patrol
Woodland Office**

**13739 Andrews Stevens Dr.
Woodland, CA 95776
(530) 662-4685**

Cody Lasater leads Pledge of Allegiance



At the September board meeting of the Northern California C.O.P.S., held at the Dublin CHP Area office, Cody Lasater, son of Larry Lasater,

E.O.W. 04/24/2005, lead the pledge of allegiance. Of course he had a little help from his C.O.P.S. Bear.

Cody also got a chance to sit on a CHP motorcycle with help from NorCal C.O.P.S. Trustee, Captain Mitch Mueller of the Dublin CHP.



Ofc. Larry Elwood Lasater Jr.
Pittsburg Police Department
EOW: April 24, 2005



Message From the President

There is a chill in the air as the leaves begin to change, the days become shorter and the nights longer. A change in season is what some would say. Fall is approaching. This of course means that the holidays are just around the corner. The next three or four months are probably the toughest time that a survivor has to deal with. The first holidays without loved ones seems unbearable. At times, those of us from years past find ourselves in the same boat.

Since our last newsletter, which has been a short amount of time, we have again lost two more officers. I along with other survivors attended the service of Officer Paul Starzyk of Martinez Police Department at the Concord Pavilion. Prior to the commencement of the service myself and Rene Lungren of the Oakland Police Officer's Association were busy pinning blue ribbon pins (Chief's approval) onto each and every officer and at the same time putting a couple of Lifesavers in their hands. Two things happened. The first of course were some very strange looks at my handing out candy at a funeral but once I explained my reasoning all agreed. You see if you are a uniformed officer or anyone who has to stand in any type of formation for a long period of time at one of these services you know the emotional toll it takes on you. Also trying to find the inner strength not to cry because you are strong and honorable causes that little tickle in your throat and you start to cough. Sometimes you can't manage to stop it and then you feel very uncomfortable. There is no water in sight. I have learned that if you pop one of those Lifesavers into your mouth.....instantly your dry mouth is gone and so is your cough! Only the logic of a retired cop and one who has been to way to many funerals can reason with a Lifesaver!

The second thing that happened was that as I was attaching one of those pins, I ran into my son's baseball coach from a few years ago. I was floored because I had forgotten that he worked for Martinez Police Department. My heart ached for the pain that I knew he and his co-workers were feeling. Officer Starzyk leaves behind his wife a Contra Costa County Deputy and three small children.

Then it happened again. Another officer had been lost. Off. Moody from the Richmond Police Department had lost his life. He also leaves behind a wife and two small children. Members of NorCal chapter of C.O.P.S. will also be at that service to provide support.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Rene Lungren of the Oakland Police Officer's Association for all of the support that she has provided to these agencies and others during their time of loss. Rene has always been a faithful supporter of C.O.P.S. and we appreciate her very much.

Also big congratulations to Sandy Fontana, Vice-President of the Nor Cal chapter, for her participation in the COPS Walk 2008. Due to all of her hard work and fundraising efforts, she raised the most money for the walk and therefore our chapter will receive a \$1,000 prize from National COPS.

Once again I would also like to remind everyone how important it is to keep our chapter updated with current email and mailing information so that we can keep all of you informed. We are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting in November and our Christmas Luncheon at the CHP Academy in December.

Take care,

Tammy Monego
President, NorCal COPS

Chapter Contacts

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Chapter Meetings

2008-2009 Meeting Schedule:

November 7 - 8 - 9, 2008

California Chapter Boards Retreat at Avila Beach

November 22, 2008

Woodland CHP

10:30 am Board Meeting; 11 Social; Noon General Meeting

December 13, 2008

**CHP Academy , Sacramento
Christmas Luncheon 11:30 am**

February 21, 2009

San Joaquin County Sheriffs Office

10:30 am Peer Support; 11:30 Social, Noon General Meeting

April 4, 2009

San Jose POA

10:30 am Peer Support; 11:30 Social; Noon General Meeting

June 27, 2009

Annual Picnic - Location TBA

June 29, 2009

2nd Annual Officer John P. Miller Memorial Golf Tournament



**C.O.P.S.
MISSION
STATEMENT**

C.O.P.S. provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the Line of Duty as determined by Federal criteria.

Futhermore, C.O.P.S. provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors.

We Thank our Donors for their continued support!

Mike Lynch

San Jose Police Officers Assn.

Carleton Smerni

West Metro Kiwanis of San Jose

**Carol & Ronald Garcia
(Megan-Garcia Wade Wedding)**

Edward Komin

**Stanislaus County District Attorney
Investigators Assn.**

Karen & James Clark

Police Assn. of Covina

Vicky Olivera

Earth Recycling

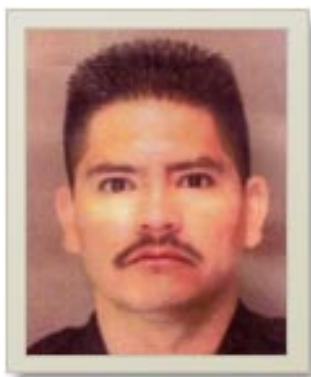
P.D. Lynch

IN THE LINE OF DUTY - 2008



Officer Randal Simmons
Los Angeles PD
EOW: February 7, 2008

NOR CAL



Deputy Sheriff Jose A. Diaz
Yolo County Sheriff's Dept.
EOW: June 15, 2008

NOR CAL



Police Officer Bradley Moody
Richmond Police Department
EOW: October 7, 2008



Investigator Laura J. Cleaves
Santa Barbara County
District Attorney's Office
EOW: May 1, 2008

NOR CAL



Sergeant Paul Starzyck
Martinez Police Department
EOW: September 6, 2008



Deputy Sheriff James Throne
Kern County Sheriff's Dept.
EOW: May 23, 2008

"The Monument"

BY SGT. GEORGE HAHN, L.A.P.D.
(Retired)

I never dreamed it would be me
My name for all eternity
Recorded here at this hallowed place
Alas, my name, no more my face

"In the line of duty" I hear them say
My family now the price will pay
My folded flag stained with their tears
We only had those few short years

The badge no longer on my chest
I sleep now in eternal rest
My sword I pass to those behind
And pray they keep this thought in mind

I never dreamed it would be me
And with heavy heart and bended knee
I ask for all here from the past
Dear God, let my name be the last



C.O.P.S. Hands-On Programs

C.O.P.S. provides Hands-On Programs designed specifically for each survivorship to help rebuild their shattered lives.

Parents' Retreat provides surviving parents of the fallen officer with strong peer support to help cope with the pain of losing their child.

Spouses Retreat is a "challenging" weekend getaway for surviving spouses where debriefers and strong peer support infuse widows with a significant dose of self-esteem.

Siblings Retreat is a weekend where brothers and sisters have access to mental health professionals and can meet other siblings who lost a brother or sister in the line of duty help deal with their pain.

Adult Children's Retreat is for surviving adult children 21 years and older and provides counselors and strong peer support to help deal with the death of their parent.

In-Laws Retreat assists the parents and siblings of the surviving spouse in coping with the death of their law enforcement officer.

Fiances/Significant Others Retreat provides debriefers and strong peer support to help the cohabiting survivor that played an important role in the fallen officer's life deal with the death of their loved one.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED AND NEEDED!

We encourage you to send in a letter, picture, article, poem, announcements, etc. Let us know what is happening with your family and coworker survivors: births, deaths, graduations, weddings, promotions, honors and memorial services. If you are not a writer, simply submit the facts and we will take it from there.

Send to:

Toni Mac Donald
nissanlady@comcast.net

**When one door
of happiness closes,
another opens,
but often we look
so long at the
closed door
that we do not
see the one
that has been
opened for us.**

Helen Keller

Fourth Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Night held at AT&T Park

The Fourth Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Night at ATT Park was held on July 23, 2008.

The Giants baseball team played the Washington



Nationals. A hosted pre-game Tailgate party was held at the Mariposa Yacht Club. Proceeds from ticket sales went to the California Peace Officers Memorial and the Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund.

Pre-game home plate ceremonies included a Memorial Tribute to nineteen Northern California Peace Officers who died in the line of duty.

Officers honored were:

Officer Nick-Tomasito Birco, S.F.P.D.
Officer Bret Clearman, CHP-Oakland
Officer Larry Lasater, Pittsburg PD
Officer John Miller, CHP-Dublin
Dep Jeffery Mitchell, Sacramento Sheriff
Officer Richard May, East Palo Alto PD
Deputy Vu Nguyen, Sacramento Sheriff
Officer Douglas Russel, CHP Placerville
Officer Earl Scott, CHP Modesto
Officer Bryan Tuvera, S.F.P.D.
Lt. Michael Walker, CHP Santa Cruz
Officer Robert Winget, Ripon PD
Inspector Kirk Brookbush, S.F.P.D.
Officer Jon Cook, S.F.P.D.
Officer James Dougherty, S.F.P.D.
Officer William Seuis, Oakland PD
Detective William Wilkins, Oakland PD
Officer Isaac Espinoza, S.F.P.D.
Dep John Monengo, Alameda Co Sheriff

Carol Espinoza
Mother of Officer Isaac Espinoza

"Jimmy Mac Donald Scholarship Fund"

The 3rd Annual Jimmy Mac Benefit Variety Show was held September 27th to raise money for the scholarship fund started in Jimmy's name. This years show featured the Shannon Rider Band, Midori and Audio/Clique, who are up for awards in Hollywood for one of their songs, a magician that had people shaking their heads, an act billed as the largest improve group around and back for the 2nd year the comic singers the Beaudettes. Added to this lineup was the comic MC and Dodge Durango man, Steve Niel. Along with a raffle and silent auction, just under \$5,000.00 was raised to be added to the scholarship fund this year. To date, \$20,000.00 has been given in scholarship in Jimmy's memory.

Toni/Jim Mac Donald

PLEASE JOIN OUR PEER SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

You are invited to join a once-a-month peer support group for C.O.P.S. members.

Meetings are facilitated by **Sarah Koch-Schiller** a Pacific Region Trustee on the national C.O.P.S. board, and NorCal C.O.P.S. trustee **Carol Espinoza**.

The group will be co-facilitated by Carol Espinoza, mother of Officer Isaac Espinoza, San Francisco Police Department, and Sarah Koch-Schiller, adult child of Sergeant Arthur Koch, Fairfield Police Department.

The group is open to all C.O.P.S. survivors. If you have any questions, please contact:

Carol Espinoza

caisa@sbcglobal.net

or

Sarah Koch-Schiller

sarahkochschillerCOPS@yahoo.com.

WHEN:

Saturdays

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

(no lunch)

2008

October 18

November 29

2009

January 10

February 21

April 4

== NEW LOCATION ==

WHERE:

San Jose Police Officers' Association

1151 N. Fourth Street
San Jose, CA 95112.



162ND ACADEMY CLASS FUNDRAISER

2009 Harley Davidson Fat Bob Raffle



Proceeds are to help benefit the "Starzyk Family Memorial Fund."

In honor of

Sgt. Paul Starzyk of The Martinez Police Department

Drawing: November 21st, 2008 at the D.S.A. Hall in Martinez
Donation: \$50.00

To purchase tickets please contact:

RECRUIT MICHAEL PARRISH
☎ 510-741-5436

or email at: ccc162ndacademy@aol.com

Must sell a minimum # of tickets
Need Not Be Present To Win
Winner To Pay Tax & Registration



Family News and Events

**COPS Walk Donations Still Coming In—
Should Gross Over \$160,000!**

The 70 walkers who took to the C&O Canal trail on October 12 and 13 Harper's Ferry, WV, not only did a great job walking for C.O.P.S., but they did an awesome job fundraising for C.O.P.S. as well. While contributions still trickle in, tons of paperwork has yet to be done, bills need to be paid, it looks like this

walk could net \$130,000 for Concerns of Police Survivors. Final figures and information will follow in the November email newsletter. But C.O.P.S. would like to say "Great job!" to those who walked, raised money, and those who gave the contributions as well.

Street name to honor Ofc. Stevens

In appreciation for his service to Yolo County, the Woodland City Council has voted unanimously to change the street name and address number of the local California Highway Patrol (CHP) office to honor fallen CHP Officer Andrew Stevens.

City Councilmember Jeff Monroe, a lieutenant with the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, spearheaded the effort to create a meaningful and permanent reminder about Officer



Officer Andrew Todd Stevens
California Highway Patrol, CA
EOW: November 17, 2005

Stevens' dedication and service to the community. He and the other members of the Woodland City Council joined the Stevens Family at the short ceremony.

The ceremony opened with a combined color guard from the Woodland Police Department, Yolo County Sheriff's Department and the CHP.

In addition to the street name change, the street address was changed to 13739, the badge number worn by Officer Stevens..

The new address of the office is:
California Highway Patrol
Woodland Office
13739 Andrews Stevens Drive
Woodland, CA 95776.

390 SQUAD CLUB PRESENTS

Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser

Saturday, February 21, 2009

**Alameda County Fairgrounds
Young Calif. Building - 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton**

5:00 pm Social - 6:00 pm Dinner

Featuring:

ALL YOU CAN EAT CRAB

SALAD, PESTO PASTA & GARLIC BREAD

=== RAFFLE & AUCTION ===

Benefitting

CHP 11-99 FOUNDATION

Northern California C.O.P.S. & 390 SQUAD CLUB

\$45 OR
per person

Reserved Table for 10

MUST BUY ALL 10 AT SAME TIME

We accept: VISA, MASTERCARD, CASH OR CHECK

Tickets may be purchased from:

390 SQUAD CLUB

Scott Deschenes

4999 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA 94568

925-828-0466

MORE INFORMATION: 390squadclub@comcast.net

Family News and Events

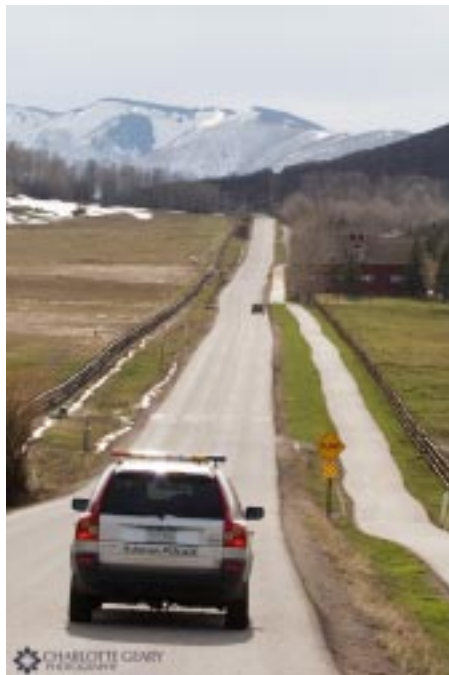
Nicole Garret weds Aspen PD Ofc. Burg



Nicole Garrett daughter of Sgt. George L. Garrett (EOW 5/8/81) and Kathy Garrett Page married Aspen Police Officer, Matt Burg in Aspen, Colorado on May 3, 2008. Nicole and Matt were driven to the reception in style, Code 3 by the Aspen PD.



Sergeant George Leon Garrett
Redwood City PD
EOW: May 8, 1981



Sandra Lee Branhan Passes Away

Sandra Lee Branhan, Jan. 12, 1943 - Sept. 5, 2008. Resident of Walnut Creek 65, survived by brothers, Patrick Rogers and Richard Enos; and cousin, Ron Arth.

Sandra Branhan, widow of OPD David Branhan, passed away on Friday September 5th, 2008.

For those of you who do not remember Dave Branhan, he and his partner David Marks were killed in the line of duty in 1974.



Officer David John Branhan
Oakland Police Department, CA
EOW: Thursday, February 7, 1974

**Look not mournfully
into the past,
it comes not
back again.
Wisely improve
the present,
it is thine.
Go forth to meet
the shadowy future
without fear and
with a manly heart.**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Family News and Events**Walkers enjoy C.O.P.S. Kids Camp****Amanda Walker (far left) and friends at Army Lake.**

Michelle, Amanda and Jennifer Walker, wife and daughters of CHP Lt. Michael Walker, EOW: Dec. 31, 2005, joined more than 225 other survivors for a week of friendship, support and fun at COPS Kids Camp 7/28-8/3/2008. The week included daily arts & crafts, sports, counseling groups, swimming and a campfire, as well as a selection of activities including fishing, canoeing, archery, ropes courses, pellet gun & rifle training, and nature classes. The week closed with a graduation ceremony for the 14-year olds and the annual "Campie Awards", a mock Oscars ceremony complete with celebrity impersonations. This was our second year attending camp and we appreciate "getting away from it all" and developing friendships with COPS members from all over the country!

Michelle Walker**Jennifer Walker (far right) and friends at the High Ropes course.****Record Recording to benefit C.O.P.S.**

'I wanted to tell you that my new single 'In Memory Of' has been nationally approved and endorsed by C.O.P.S. (Concerns Of Police Survivors). To learn more about C.O.P.S. please visit our links page or go directly to www.nationalcops.org

Proceeds from the single are being used nationwide to help fund the many programs that their organization has to aid the survivors of Officers killed in the line of Duty. We will be shooting the video November 8th in and around Denver Colorado with Chris Conn of Connman Productions LLC. Chris is a very well known radio and video DJ. The video will be available for purchase and used as another fundraising tool for the organization and also as part of a nationwide drive to reach out to those who may not have heard of C.O.P.S.

We also have the song for sale at www.inmemoryofthem.net. Survivors are able to tell their stories of their Hero at www.inmemoryofthem.net/blog. It also provides a sounding board for survivors and other organizations to share resources, ask questions, and see that these people were not only great representatives of Law Enforcement, but also extraordinary members of society.

We will be announcing the first states that will be holding 3 day fundraising drives on November 7th during the Conman radio Show in Parker, CO. The show currently is heard by an estimated 3.5 million listeners per hour in over 100 cities. This could be a great Showcase for This effort to reach out into areas of the United States where C.O.P.S. may be greatly needed. The general public is encouraged to start supporting this effort by downloading the song immediately from www.inmemoryofthem.net

Thank You for your consideration and we here at Bull River Records and C.O.P.S. wish you the best!

Derik Schumacher

Family News and Events

Amador Valley High Class of 1978 Memorial Golf Tournament

One of the most looked forward to events of Reunion Weekend, this year's Memorial Tournament was held on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 and was dedicated to former classmate, friend and decorated CHP officer Scott Russell, who was lost in the line of duty on July 31, 2007. On the (Saturday) morning of the Reunion Weekend, Class Members, Amador Alumnus, Scott's fellow Law Enforcement Officers and grateful members of the community will tee it up on both the beautiful "Palm" course and the treacherous "Cypress" course at historic Sunol Valley Golf Club.

Old friends, acquaintances and guests will enjoy a wonderful Fall morning of fun, memories and hopefully some good golf on one of the Valley's premiere, respected and longest standing courses. In doing so, they will help to raise funds for the Amador Valley High School Adopt-A-Family Program, which helps to pro-



Officer Douglas Scott Russell
California Highway Patrol
EOW: July 31, 2007

vide a memorable holiday season for less fortunate families in the Pleasanton community.

Scott's adult life revolved around public service and giving to his community. Thus, it was a natural for the Amador Valley High School Class of 1978's Re-

union Weekend Golf Tournament to evolve into a Memorial event, this year paying tribute to a man who was truly one of its finest.

The Amador Valley High School Adopt-A-Family Program echoes the spirit of giving and community service that exemplified Scott's commitment to others and our goal is to raise enough funds to provide wonderful Christmas seasons to Pleasanton families until our next Reunion Weekend.

100% of the net proceeds from Tournament Fees, the Tournament Raffle and Tournament Sponsorships will be donated to the Amador Valley High School Adopt-A-Family Program, a student-driven, philanthropic organization dedicated to providing a memorable Holiday season for less fortunate families in Pleasanton.

Betty Elliott
Mother of Scott Russell

Project Blue Light

Please join with NorCal C.O.P.S. in promoting Project Blue Light for the holiday season. By placing one blue light in a window of your home, you'll be showing your support for officers killed in the line of duty and those who continue to work America's streets. By placing strings of blue lights outside your home, at the department, and throughout the community, law enforcement officers will understand that they are appreciated!

Law enforcement families nationwide will be decorating for the holidays in blue again this winter, honoring and remembering

those law enforcement officers who have given their lives in service to the profession and thanking those officers who continue to work America's increasingly dangerous streets each and every day of the year.

The color blue is a symbol of peace. Put blue lights in your window, decorate your tree in blue, trim the outside of your home or the police station in blue lights. Let our blue lights shine in support of law enforcement this season. You will be sending a dual message that you support America's peacekeepers and that you hope the coming year will be a year of peace.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

Celebrating the
SILVER ANNIVERSARY
of Rebuilding Shattered Lives

On May 14, 2009, Concerns of Police Survivors will celebrate 25 years of assisting survivors in Rebuilding Shattered Lives.

Please show your support by donating or ordering any of the 25th Anniversary items.

Place your ad in the C.O.P.S. 25th Anniversary Commemorative Book

Show your support of C.O.P.S. by placing an ad in the 25th Anniversary Commemorative book.

Surviving families, corporate sponsors, police agencies, small businesses or anyone can place an ad.

With your message of support in the C.O.P.S. 25th Anniversary Commemorative book, survivors and law enforcement personnel attending the 2009 National Police Survivors' Conference and 25th Anniversary Gala will know of your support for Law Enforcement and C.O.P.S.

Full page is \$2,000. Half page is \$1,000. Quarter page is \$575. Business Card is \$250 and 2 lines only "In Memory of..." is \$50.

Deadline for ads is February 1, 2009.

Longaberger Basket

C.O.P.S. 25th Anniversary Special Limited Edition Longaberger Basket. Created exclusively for C.O.P.S. 25th Anniversary is a limited edition.

It's a white washed tea basket wrapped with a blue and black ribbon, decorated with police car tack covers and comes with a blue metal



tag reading "Concerns of Police Survivors - Rebuilding Shattered Lives."

Each basket costs \$50, plus \$5 postage. Quantities are limited, so order early to ensure holiday shipping.

C.O.P.S. Anniversary badge, coin & pin.

The sale of specially commissioned badge, lapel pin and commemorative coin will help raise money to fund the 25th Anniversary celebration.

Designed and made in the USA by Collinson Enterprises, the badge, coin and pin are true works of art



and will be sought by collectors of law enforcement memorabilia.

For a limited time, badges may be purchased for \$65.00 each. The pin is just \$11.00. The coin is \$13.00. Or you can purchase the badge and pin displayed inside a beautiful velvet-lined case for \$75.00 or all three items for \$85.00.



To donate or to order any of the 25th Anniversary items
 please call National C.O.P.S. or visit their website



Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.
P.O. Box 3199, Camdenton, MO 65020
For More Info: 573-346-4911 * 800-784-COPS (2677)
www.nationalcops.org



NorCal C.O.P.S.

Concerns of Police Survivors

1320 Stonewood Drive
Brentwood, CA 94513

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pleasanton, Ca.
Permit No. 396

DEPARTMENTS: Please Post