

Empower!

GIVING VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES A VOICE

A Publication of the Metropolitan Police Department's Victim Services Branch



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The National Day of Remembrance for Murdered Victims

Register Today

Registration required to pastorpsaunders@gmail.com or call (240) 899-4669.

For more information on Parents of Murdered Children, visit www.pomc.org.

In 2007, Congress designated September 25th as the National Day of Remembrance for Murdered Victims to recognize the impact homicides have on individual families and communities. In 1978, **Robert and Charlotte Hullinger** of Cincinnati, Ohio founded the organization "Parents of Murdered Children," following the murder of their 19-year-old daughter **Lisa**, who was killed by her boyfriend on September 25, 1978.

This day is also dedicated to remembering and honoring those lives lost to homicide. Across the country, communities host vigils, memorial walks, and other special events to commemorate the day.

In honor of the National Day of Remembrance for Murdered Victims, the DC Alliance Empowering Homicide Survivors, Inc. (DCAEHS) will host its annual, "The Day of Remembrance" Event. This is an event to support survivors impacted by homicides in the District of Columbia.

"THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE"
A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR DC HOMICIDE SURVIVORS

THIS DAY IS FOR YOU

SPONSORED BY
DCAEHS, INC.

**WEDNESDAY
SEPT 25, 2024
7:00PM - 9:00PM**

LOCATION
PEOPLES CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHAPEL
4704 13TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20011
REV. BENJAMIN L BRAGG-REYNOLDS
INTERIM MINISTER

ALL ARE
WELCOME TO COME AND
SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF GUN
VIOLENCE

ADULTS ONLY
MASKS ARE REQUIRED

Registration Required
for Survivors

Email name, phone number
and ward number to
PASTORPSAUNDERS@GMAIL.COM

Victim Services Attends National Organization for Victim Advocacy's Conference

MPD Victim Services Branch attended and tabled at the weeklong NOVA-National Organization for Victim Advocacy. We met with NOVA staff, victim advocates, crisis responders, and allied professionals from around the



world at the Washington Hilton Hotel for four days of inspiring keynotes, engaging workshops, and networking. We joined over 2,200 victim advocates from across the US to connect, energize & bring new resources back to our community.

—Sharon Daugherty

Frequently Asked Questions: Autopsy Reports

Q: How do I obtain a copy of my loved one's autopsy report?

A: Next of kin may request their loved one's autopsy report in writing, or in person at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner located at:

Office of Chief Medical Examiner
401 E St. SW; 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20024
ATTN: Custodian of Medical Records

Q: What documentation do I need to provide the Office of Chief Medical Examiner with?

A: The Office of Medical Examiner requires all persons request-

ing to pick up an autopsy report in person, to notify the OCME medical records division at **(202) 698-9111** prior to coming by the office. If the requester is not the legal next of kin, they will need notarized authorization from the next of kin to obtain the report. All requesters must provide a government issued ID and a check or money order made payable to the DC Treasurer for \$15.

Requests made in writing may be sent to the above address and must include the following information:

- Name of person making request
- Relationship to the decedent
- Name of the decedent
- Date of Death

- OCME case number (can be found on death certificate)

All written requests must also include a check or money order made payable to the DC Treasurer for \$15.

Q: If my loved one's remains were taken the Maryland State Medical Examiner's Office, who do I contact for information on obtaining a copy of the autopsy report?

A: For information on obtaining a copy of your loved one's autopsy report from the Maryland Medical Examiner's Office, please call: **(410) 333-3271**.

Submitted by Megan Riley

Domestic Violence Awareness, Empowerment, and Memorial Vigil

For more information and to register, send an email to victim.services@dc.gov

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). DVAM is a national campaign dedicated to rais-

ing awareness about domestic violence. On October 23rd, 2024, the MPD Victim Services Branch will hold a special remembrance dedicated to lives

lost to domestic violence in DC within the last year. We will honor their memories with a resource fair, program, vigil, and moment of silence.

The Forgotten Mourners

Resources

For more information on sibling grief and supportive resources, don't hesitate to get in touch with the following agencies:

- Parents of Murdered Children
(513) 721-5683
www.pomc.com/chapters.html
- Compassionate Friends
(877) 969-0010
www.compassionatefriends.org

The sudden and unexpected death of a loved one by homicide affects people in different ways. Some family members are often overlooked or neglected in the grieving process. Adult siblings of the deceased usually end up in this category and are frequently referred to as "the forgotten mourners." In many situations, the parents, spouse, and children are the focus of comfort and support given to the family. As such, adult siblings are frequently cast into the role of caregiver to their parents, the spouse and/or children of their deceased brother or sister. In taking on these new responsibilities, adult siblings often suppress their grief to protect the family members from further stress. The tendency of surviving siblings to suppress their grief

can complicate the grief process and minimize the importance of the unique bond that comes with sibling relationships.

The following quote is referred to by many sibling survivors as a poignant description of the unique nature of sibling grief, "When you lose a parent, you lose your past; when you lose a spouse, you lose your present; when you lose a child, you lose your future, but when you lose a sibling, you lose your past, present, and future." When you lose a sibling, you lose the childhood memories of the past, the present memories in adulthood, and the anticipated milestones in the future such as births, weddings, holidays, and other significant occasions.

Though adult sibling survivors experience many common grief reactions, some are

unique to the sibling relationship; guilt, anger, and rejection. The guilt can be related to the relationship shared with their sibling across their lifetime. They may experience anger regarding their new roles and responsibilities. They may feel rejection from their parents who may be distracted or consumed in their grief.

Though we cannot change the tragic loss of a loved one, we can empower sibling survivors by being inclusive with the information and support we provide throughout the grief process. Recognizing and validating each family member during their grief will promote healing and foster a culture that acknowledges the unique impact that grief has on all people as individuals.

—Megan Riley