



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Virginia Public Safety Foundation and Central Virginia Concerns of Police Survivors Announce 2010 Project Blue Light**

*~ Start of annual campaign to remember officers killed in the line of duty~*

RICHMOND –Virginia Public Safety Foundation (VPSF) and Central Virginia Concerns of Police Survivors (CV-C.O.P.S.) are partnering to promote the annual C.O.P.S. campaign, Project Blue Light, a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the important work of police officers, to honor those killed in the line of duty, and to remember the surviving families who bear the burdens of that ultimate sacrifice. Project Blue Light has been celebrated for 22 years. Individuals are encouraged to place a blue light in their window, as part of their holiday display, in honor of peacekeepers.

“Project Blue Light is an important program in support of our public safety families,” said C. Hadden Culp, Assistant Fire Chief for the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, and VPSF President. “The holidays are a challenging time for every family that has lost a loved one and police survivors are no different. This holiday season, through Project Blue Light, we will remember the hundreds of Virginia families who mourn the loss of a loved one in the line of duty.”

The first blue light of remembrance was lit by Dolly Craig of Philadelphia, PA, in 1988. Mrs. Craig replaced her clear holiday lights with blue ones in memory of her son-in-law, Danny Gleason, who had been killed in the line of duty two years earlier, and her daughter, Pam, who was killed in a car accident in 1988. Her small act of support, recounted in a letter to C.O.P.S., led to Project Blue Light.

“For 22 years, Project Blue Light has signaled to our police community that their sacrifice matters to us,” said Richard Cheney, President of Central Virginia C.O.P.S. “May the blue light of peace shine brightly in Virginia this holiday season.”

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**About Virginia Public Safety Foundation:**

VPSF has provided support to Virginia's public safety families for 17 years. VPSF offers important financial assistance to the survivors of public safety officers killed in the line of duty at the time of their death, and educational scholarships to survivors seeking to advance their education. In addition, VPSF is the official administrator, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, of the Medal of Valor program recognizing heroism in the line of duty and the Commonwealth Public Safety Memorial honoring those killed in the line of duty with a monument at Virginia's Capitol Square.

For more information on VPSF, visit [www.vpsf.org](http://www.vpsf.org).

**About Central Virginia Concerns of Police Survivors:**

Central Virginia C.O.P.S. provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families and affected co-workers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. offers training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors.

Central Virginia C.O.P.S. is a chapter of the National C.O.P.S., Inc. organization. It is the only C.O.P.S. chapter in Virginia.

For more information on Central Virginia C.O.P.S., please contact Romaine Cheney at [Scoutn4Fun@aol.com](mailto:Scoutn4Fun@aol.com) or 804-370-4121.