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Fall/Winter 2009
Volume 6, Issue 2

Circulation 29,600

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“In Their Own Words”

by George T. Buenik,
Asst. Chief, Houston Police Dept.

In 1990, I was a young lieutenant on the Houston Police Department with aspirations of achieving future promotions to the rank of assistant chief. I had already obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Law Enforcement but realized that high ranking police officials need advanced formal education to become



successful. I was informed of The 100 Club Scholarship Program that provided an opportunity to attend the graduate program at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. I applied for the grant and was awarded a full scholarship to work on a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management. I received my degree in 1993.

The 100 Club education program allowed me to concentrate full time on my studies and not have to worry about working overtime or extra jobs to supplement my income or to pay for my tuition. I learned about issues, problems, trends, and best practices in criminal justice management. I was able to use this knowledge to enhance my performance as a police lieutenant, captain, and as an assistant chief. The scholarship provided me an opportunity to become a better manager. I will be forever grateful for the scholarship that The 100 Club provided and I highly encourage them to keep the program going to better educate our future police leaders.

George T. Buenik
Assistant Chief
Houston Police Department

“In Their Own Words”

by Amanda Hurst, wife of Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst

No one expects the unexpected. And you certainly don't expect to kiss your darling husband good-bye the night before his birthday only to find out he lived just 20 minutes into his 34th birthday.

A few days after Justin's death, I started worrying about our finances. We had just moved into our home two years prior, and Justin had just bought a new truck. I was working from home around the schedule of our infant son, but if I was going to need to work more I needed childcare- another expense.

This is where the 100 Club stepped in! I was familiar with the 100 Club through our local chapter. They had given Justin high-powered binoculars and an in-car video camera just two months before he was killed. This camera was the last video I had of Justin alive, and also captured his death. The videos were the slam-dunk in the trial that put Justin's killer behind bars.

But the 100 Club played a different role after Justin's death. Because of the generosity of you, the members, things were fixed at the house, Kyle was able to attend school a few days a week, and the bills I stressed over were no longer an issue. They provided me with the security of keeping our home, and providing Kyle with the most stable environment possible in an unstable situation. The 100 Club also provided a clear future for Kyle, helping with any additional educational expenses.

All the money in the world couldn't pay for my loss, nor stop the pain. But it has been comforting to know that even on the days I fall apart and my world comes crashing down, that finances are not part of the issues. To be able to be home with Kyle and raise our son, now 2 1/2, and give him the sense of stability and the chance of the best future possible is the best gift of all. Thank you to the 100 Club members and supporters. I am living proof that the organization provides stability in the lives of those who sacrificed all.

Amanda Hurst



Game Warden Justin Hurst, 34, was murdered by a suspect with an automatic rifle and pistol on March 17, 2007, his birthday. Game Warden Hurst is survived by his wife, Amanda, and young son, Kyle.

Five Lost Heroes

Two Houston Firefighters were tragically killed while fighting a fire on Houston's



Southside on Easter morning, Sunday, April 12, 2009. **Veteran Firefighter James Harlow**, 50, and **Probationary Firefighter Damion Hobbs**, 29, died in the blaze.

Captain Harlow is survived by his wife and 3 grown children. Firefighter Hobbs was single.

Houston Police Senior Officer Henry Canales died in the line of duty on June 23, 2009, after being shot by a suspect during an undercover operation in Southwest Houston. Officer

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Canales, a 16 year HPD veteran, was assigned to the Auto Theft Division, and is survived by his wife, and a teenage son and daughter.

Chamber County Deputy Shane Thomas Detwiler, 31, died in the line of duty on July 13, 2009, after being shot by a suspect while responding to a call at a residence where shots had been



fired. Deputy Detwiler had been with the Chambers County Sheriff's Office for only two months and was a State Game Warden prior to this tragedy. He is survived by his wife, Trish, and three young children.

Officer Jesse Hamilton, 29, died in the line of duty on Friday morning, August 21, 2009, after being shot by a suspect while responding to a disturbance call at a residence in Pasadena.



Officer Hamilton had been an Officer with the Pasadena Police Department for four years. He is survived by his wife and two young children.

Workplace Giving Programs

Many companies offer programs to encourage their employees to donate to charitable organizations and in return the company will match their employees' donations. We encourage you to check with your Human Resources Department to find out if your employer will consider matching your 100 Club donation. You can view our web page at www.the100club.org/workplace.htm.

Renew Your Membership or Order Replacement Decals online!

You can renew your membership, order replacement decals, read the latest news about The Club, read about the history of The Club, our Mission Statement or check out the FAQs, all on our web site: www.the100club.org.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: A Few Words From Tom Pizzo

Words cannot express my joy for the support, from our members and our community, given to The 100 Club during these difficult economic times. We are now at a record number of members as we grow close to the 30,000 mark. The support for our Survivor's Fund continues to grow and it provides the core resources to help the dependents of our Heroes, those brave law enforcement officers and firefighters who put their lives on the line for each of us.

Undoubtedly, you have learned of the loss of the five Heroes this year. Your Club has been there to help those families with our financial support and with compassion. On Easter morning, April 12, 2009, Houston Firefighters, Damien Hobbs and Captain James Harlow were killed while fighting a house fire. Firefighter Hobbs, 29, who was single, had just graduated from the Houston Fire Academy on March 3, 2009. Captain Harlow, 50, was a 30 year veteran of the Houston Fire Department and is survived by his wife and three grown children.

Houston Police Officer Henry Canales was shot to death during an undercover operation on June 23, 2009. Officer Canales, 42, was a 16 year veteran of the Department who was assigned to the Auto Theft Division. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Chambers County Sheriff's Deputy Shane Detwiler, 31, was shot to death on July 13, 2009 while responding to a call for assistance where gunshots had been fired. Deputy Detwiler had just joined the Chamber County Sheriff's Department after spending six years as a Texas Parks &

Wildlife Department Game Warden. He is survived by his wife and three children under the age of five.

Pasadena Police Officer Jesse Hamilton, 29, was shot to death while answering a disturbance call on August 21, 2009. Officer Hamilton was a four year veteran of the Department and is survived by his wife and two young daughters.



Your Board of Directors has approved funds for those families, which include paying off the family debt and providing funds for the children to further their education after they complete high school. I am pleased to report that our average gift to the dependents of our Heroes killed in the line of duty is approximately \$300,000. Of course, all financial support is based on the particular needs of each family and the amounts vary depending on those needs.

This will be my last "President's Corner" as I am finishing my term as your President of The 100 Club and will begin a two year term as Chairman of the Board. I would like to thank our membership for their continued support of our mission and encourage each of you to help in our continued growth by seeking out new members for the Club. I have seen numerous instances where a number of you are giving memberships in the Club as gifts to family and friends. As we approach the holiday season, I hope that your "giving spirit" would include The 100 Club.

Thomas E. "Tom" Pizzo, President



Missouri City Police Department equipment presentation. 100 Club Executive Director Rick Hartley and 100 Club President Tom Pizzo (center, front row) presented ten tactical vests for their S.W.A.T. team and a portable thermal imaging device for the department's patrol and other uses. Total cost was about \$25,000.



\$10,000 check presentation from Texas Association of First Responders (TAFR). From left to right: Kelly Cook, TAFR Vice President; Joe Matthews, TAFR President; Tim Butler, HPD, TAFR Director; Van Kasmiroski, U.S. Secret Service; Rick Hartley, 100 Club Executive Director; Anderson Jackson, IRS Special Agent; Tony Nelson, HCSO, TAFR Director; Ed Gonzalez, IRS Special Agent; Carolyn Weber, IRS Special Agent.



The Houston Farm & Ranch - Chairman of the Board Louis Bart, Vice President Chaille Voelkel, President Ken Hucherson representing the 2009 Law Enforcement & Firefighters/EMS Wildgame Cook-off presenting a check to Rick Hartley, Director of the 100 Club. The Wildgame Cook-off raised \$7200 for the 100 Club.



100 Club scholarship recipients at the Honors Convocation at the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University on Thursday, April 23rd, with 100 Club Director Ted Lyones (far left), 100 Club President Tom Pizzo (center) and 100 Club Executive Director Rick Hartley.

Channel 2-sponsored Telethon in April for Two Fallen Heroes



Our good friends at KPRC TV Local 2 sponsored a telethon benefitting The 100 Club Survivor's Fund in memory of Houston Firefighter's Captain James Harlow and Firefighter Damien Hobbs. These two Heroes died while fighting a house fire early on Easter morning, April 12, 2009. The telephone lines at Channel 2 were staffed, all day, by Houston Firefighters of every rank. When the final tally was added, the generous hearts of area citizens raised \$100,000 for the Club's Survivor's Fund. Our most sincere thanks to everyone at KPRC TV and to the men and women of the Houston Fire Department.

Since January, 2008, we have lost 11 Heroes in the line of duty. The support from our members and the public has provided over \$3,000,000 for their dependents. This brings the total amount of support for those dependents touched by us to a total of approximately \$12,000,000. The 100 Club has also provided over \$11,000,000 to law enforcement agencies in life protecting equipment and over \$5,000,000 in scholarships for law enforcement officers to earn either a Bachelors or Masters degree at three area Universities.

100 Club Upcoming Events

Annual Golf Tournament

October 5, 2009

Hearthstone Country Club

Annual Meeting

January 13, 2010

Heroes Awards Banquet

May 2010

56th Annual Heroes Awards Banquet honoring outstanding Law Enforcement and Firefighters in our coverage area