



Newsletter

Victim database released

Our capitol news conference gains wide coverage

FOHVAMP held a news conference at the state capitol March 19 to release our database of 1,300 victims of unsolved Colorado murders as well as a public opinion survey we sponsored that asked Colorado voters if they supported spending \$3,000,000 per year to track down and prosecute the killers of our loved ones.

We made public the names, dates of death and other information about these victims because we wanted to put an identity to each of the victim numbers we had been talking about in previous press releases. We have worked more than five years to compile this data.

We received cooperation from many law enforcement agencies and Victim Assistance Law Enforcement Funds that made this accomplishment possible.

In February, we commissioned a survey of Colorado voters to learn if they supported us in our desire to find funds for a Cold Case Team at the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to effectively address our unsolved murders. The answer was a resounding "yes!"

Newsletter readers may remember that last year the legislature passed, and Governor Ritter signed, HB 1272 which gave us the framework for such a Cold Case Team but appropriated only \$67,000 so CBI could gather cold case data and compare it to ours.

We received financial support for the public opinion poll from Sheilah's Fund of the Tides Foundation. The results of this survey (shown in the column to the right) should cheer the hearts of every family member and friend of our victims.

Being able to show legislators that Colorado voters are with us should strengthen our hand as we seek this funding in the next session.

Our staff worked hard preparing the materials to be released at this press conference. The results made the effort worthwhile and gave satisfaction to each of us.

Our story appeared eighteen times on nine television stations across Colorado including Spanish language

Noticiero Univision 50, Denver. Often appearing in conjunction with stories of local unsolved murders, this news conference story made six daily newspapers and is still appearing in weekly newspapers statewide. We are grateful to the families who consented to be interviewed. Their cooperation helped make this work.

Survey asks cold case funding questions of Colorado voters

Here are the answers 500 Colorado voters gave to RBI strategies in this February FOHVAMP-sponsored poll:

Colorado voters are evenly split on best punishment for capital crimes.

Q. *If you could choose between these two approaches, which do you think is the better penalty for committing murder: the death penalty or life imprisonment with absolutely no possibility of parole?* **A. Death Penalty: 45%; Life without Parole (LWOP): 45%**

When given facts about the cost and frequency of usage, a plurality of voters opposed death penalty.

Q. *Let me give you a little more information. The state now spends over \$3 million every year to prosecute death penalty cases, \$3 million more than it costs to prosecute non-death penalty murder cases. In the past thirty years, only one person has been executed. Given that, do you favor or oppose the State's use of the death penalty for convicted killers?* **A. Favor: 45% Oppose: 48%**

A strong majority favor spending additional money to close murder cases.

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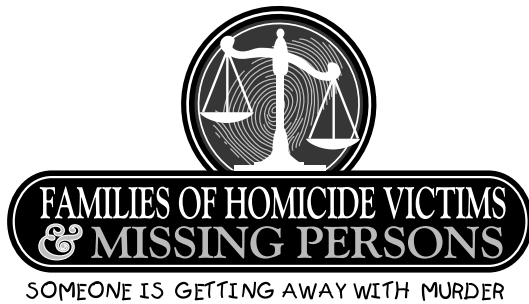
Mission Statement

Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons, Inc is a nonprofit organization working in Colorado to find, support and empower families suffering from a loved one's unresolved murder or long-time disappearance.

On The Web

Our website, *unresolvedhomicides.org*, now receives between 6 - 9,000 visits per month with more than 24,000 page views and 200,000 hits in March. People are watching us.

This newsletter is published quarterly. It is the official publication of Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons, Inc.
Send letters and comments to:
FOHVAMP, P.O. Box 145, Pine, CO 80470



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Howard's Notes

Our Annual Meeting this year will be on October 4th. The venue is the Four Points Sheraton Hotel at I-25 and Hampden Avenue, same as the last three years. There will be workshops, a luncheon and a Forum in addition to the business meeting. Mark your calendar.

The poll of Colorado voters was conducted for us by Denver-based RBI Strategies whose staff has supervised over 200 polls, interviewing more than 75,000 Colorado voters. For our poll, RBI conducted 500 interviews with Colorado voters likely to participate in the November 2008 general election. The random sample was drawn from an updated file of registered voters. The margin of error for the sample is plus or minus 4.36%. Funds for the poll were granted by Sheilah's Fund of the Tides Foundation on the recommendation of Betsy Fairbanks, a friend of Michael Radelet's.

Fifteen new family members of victims of unsolved Colorado murders found us because of the March 19 news conference. They called and emailed us to get information about how FOHVAMP might help them.

Thanks to Cold Case Task Force members Linda Gruno, Jim & June Menger, who are reviewing information for us that we don't have time to get to. Teamwork is spreading throughout FOHVAMP.

Some of our family members and friends get breaking news about our activities and links to coverage of our stories in the media because their email addresses are in our email address book. If you would like to receive these news announcements, send your email address to hvmorton@earthlink.net. Your address will **never** appear on any email broadcast by us. We address you in the blind copy box.

We mailed the "Highlights" video of the 2007 Annual Meeting on DVDs to all family members and friends on February 24, 25 & 26. The editing, duplication and mailing of these discs was funded by a grant from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). We are now mailing the complete set of videos on DVD to each new family member we contact. If you would like to have this set of three DVDs which shows the workshops, Forum and Craig Zablocki's "Positively Humor," send an email request to hvmorton@earthlink.net.

If you live in Northern Colorado and can volunteer a few Friday evenings, we need help for our Bingo game which delivers much needed funds for projects that are outside of our grant funding. Please call Jerri Reichert, our Bingo Manager, and volunteer. 970-351-6088.

Remembering...

FOHVAMP takes this method of recognizing those who support our grass roots nonprofit in a special way that memorializes their lost loved ones. We acknowledge these gifts with gratitude. Thank you:

Stefanie Clarke, who donated 9.5 hours of her time in memory of all our murdered loved ones

Mark Reichert in fond memory of his brother & best friend, **Michael Reichert**, 36, October 10, 2000

George L. & Fay Hardy in loving memory of his father, **George A. Hardy**, 67, December 8, 1977

Max Heacock, lovingly remembering his daughter, **Darcie Anderson**, 24, December 17, 1986

Paul & Ramona Blee in loving memory of their 15-year-old daughter, **Marie Blee**, November 21, 1979

Myrna Grimmatt, fondly remembering her beloved son, **Daniel Grimmatt**, 34, May 30, 1999

Don & Jerri Reichert, in loving memory of their youngest son, **Michael Reichert**, 36, October 10, 2000

Roxi Graham, fondly remembering her beloved mother, **Annabelle Leonard**, 84, and brother, **Thomas Leonard**, 44, March 16, 2003

Michael Radelet, for your unstinting devotion to our cause as Treasurer, Director and donor

Ron Golla, lovingly remembering his daughter, **Erin Golla**, 26, January 27, 2002

Judith Hemschemeyer in fond memory of her husband, **Morton Rosenfeld**, 43, May 19, 1979

Howard & Virginia Morton in loving memory of their son, **Guy Oliver Morton**, 18, June 00, 1975

If you would like to have your loved one remembered in this way, please send a donation to FOHVAMP, P.O. Box 145, Pine CO 80470 with a notation of age and date of murder



If no event is listed for your area, please call the local law enforcement office and ask what are their plans.

April 11, 2008, **19th Judicial District**, Weld County - Sponsored by the Coordinating committee for Victims of Crime (CCVC) and the Aims Community College Criminal Justice Department, this Victims' Rights Week Annual Event begins with registration and breakfast at 8am and features 2 trainings and the Victims' Rights Ceremonies. The day concludes at about 2:15pm.

April 14, 2008, **Denver** - Join COVA at 11:30am in the Atrium of the Wellington Webb Municipal Office Building, 201 West Colfax, for our event highlighting the crime of Identity Theft. We hope you make plans to attend!

April 15, 2008, **20th Judicial District**, Boulder - Please join Boulder County District Attorney Mary Lacy and the DA Victim Assistance Unit for the 22nd Annual Victim Advocacy Awards and Reception at 2pm at the Boulder county Justice Center, Jury Assembly Room, 6th & Canyon Blvd., Boulder.

April 16, 2008, **COVA's Fundraiser at RED TANGO** - "Dining for Donations" - Everyone is invited to have lunch or dinner at Red Tango, 5807 W. 38th Ave. a portion of the proceeds will be donated to COVA! This family restaurant serves diverse south-of-the-border specialties. Reservations are suggested - 303-420-2203.

April 18, 2008, **17th Judicial District VALE Board** - You are cordially invited to the 21st Annual Victim Rights Week Reception; "Justice for Victims. Justice for All" at the Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E. 58th Ave., Denver, in the Terrace Gardens from 5-8pm.

April 19, 2008, **4th Judicial District**, Colorado Springs - Victims' Rights Week 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk

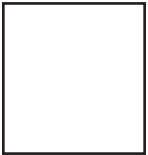
April 19, 2008, **1st Judicial District's 15th Annual Courage Walk Registration**, 10am, free continental breakfast. Walk begins 11am. The one-mile walk is wheelchair accessible. Leashed dogs are welcome. More info contact Andi Martin at 303-271-5570.

Our next Board Meeting is April 12th, at 10:30 AM in the Community Room of the Liongate Apartments at 90 Corona Street in Denver. All are welcome but please call Sherry first to let her know, 3/777-0745.

Board of Directors Meets

Address Service Requested

and Friends
Families of Homicide Victims
and Missing Persons, Inc
P.O. Box 145
Pine, Colorado 80470



Survey of voters on Cold Case Funding

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Q. *In the past thirty years, there have been 1,250 murders in Colorado that are still (unsolved). Would you favor or oppose the State of Colorado spending an added \$3 million per year in taxpayer money to track down and prosecute the killers in these unsolved murders?* **A. Favor: 70% Oppose 20%**

Informed voters strongly favor replacing the death penalty with life imprisonment and using the money to prosecute killers in open murder cases.

Q. *Given what you know now about the cost of the death penalty and the number of unsolved murders in Colorado, would you favor or oppose replacing the death penalty with life imprisonment with no possibility of parole, and using the money saved to track down and prosecute the killers in unsolved murder cases?*

A. Favor: 63% Oppose: 27%

A majority of voters in every tested demographic

category (age, gender, income, party affiliation and education,) opted to spend the money on cold cases at the expense of spending money on the death penalty. But voters were unwilling to cut funds from current budgets to solve open murder cases.

Q. *Let's leave the death penalty out of this. Would you favor or oppose legislation that directed law enforcement agencies to cut \$3 million per year out of their current budget and dedicate that money to track down and prosecute the killers in unsolved murder cases?*

A. Favor: 39% Oppose: 48%

Conclusions: Colorado voters are evenly split between the death penalty and life without parole as the proper punishment for capital crimes; when made aware of the number of unsolved murders, voters strongly favor dedicating \$3 million per year in tax money to solve these crimes; a large majority of voters favor replacing the death penalty with life imprisonment in order to fund solving open cases. But voters were not in favor of cutting current law enforcement operating budgets.