

IMMEDIATE RELEASE: “COPS” CENTRAL PA. FOUNDER TO BE HONORED FOR LEGISLATIVE VICTORY FOR HER SON, POLICE SGT. MICHAEL WIEGAND.



HERSHEY, PA - The Pennsylvania Association for Justice (PAJ) will honor Kim Weigand of Reading Township, Adams County, with PAJ's Community Service Award on January 28 at the Hershey Lodge, 7:00 p.m. Wiegand is Founder and Executive Director of the Central Pa. Chapter of *Concerns of Police Survivors* (COPS).

Gov. Ed Rendell fulfilled a promise Wiegand made to her son, Adams County Police Sgt. Michael Weigand, who was killed in a motorcycle accident while riding escort duty over 2 years ago. "I promised Mike I would get a bill passed to bring justice to the families of emergency responders who are killed while trying to help others," said Weigand. Last October, in large part as a result of Wiegand's efforts, Rendell signed into law legislation that increases penalties for motorists who cause an accident resulting in the death of an emergency responder.

According to Weigand, COPS enables survivors to help other survivors. They stay with families through funerals, and trials. "A call for assistance can come at any time," she said. Last November Weigand received word that Pa. Wildlife Commissioner David Grove was killed while responding to a poaching incident report near Gettysburg. Weigand immediately went to Commissioner Grove's family. "The sympathy is from a mother to a mother," Wiegand said, "I know what she's going through."

Weigand said volunteering has helped her heal emotionally because she didn't have a COPS chapter to fall back on when Michael was killed.

About the Pennsylvania Association for Justice

PAJ, the state's largest trial lawyer association, promotes a fair and effective justice system in Pennsylvania. It supports member attorneys in their work to secure justice for individuals who are injured by the misconduct or negligence of others.

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