



# INFORMER

MARTIN C. KAUFFMAN ONE HUNDRED CLUB OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

Summer 2016

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### CLUB OFFICE:

767 Brannan Place, Concord, CA 94518

510.818.0337

MK100Club@astound.net

[www.100clubalamedacounty.org](http://www.100clubalamedacounty.org)

## President's Message

In Observance of National Police Week the Oakland Police Department held their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial on May 4<sup>th</sup> honoring Oakland Police Officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The Ceremony was held at the Oakland Police Department headquarters in Downtown Oakland. May 6th the Alameda County Chiefs of Police and Alameda County Sherriff's Association held their annual Memorial Ceremony honoring all Police Officers who lost their lives in the line of duty while serving in Alameda County. The Ceremony was held at Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward. Both Memorials are a place for family members and friends to gather and pay tribute to the fallen heroes whose names are engraved on the walls. The Police Officers honored are gone but not forgotten.

The Martin C. Kaufman 100 Club of Alameda County Scholarship Program, funded by members dues and donations, has 6 students attending college or trade school.

I am proud to announce one of our students, Ashton Lunger, graduated in May with a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Science with specialization in Public Health,

Minor in substance abuse prevention and treatment. Ashton will pursue her master's degree in public health and healthcare administration. She is currently working as a patient care coordinator and will begin taking classes in the fall.



Our Annual BBQ is August 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Alameda County Fairgrounds. This is a good time to meet other club members and bring along a guest who may be interested in our club's work. New members joining at or after the BBQ can apply their dues to 2017.

Ralph Martin

President, Martin C. Kaufman 100 Club of Alameda County

**Join us for the  
Annual Membership Barbeque  
Wednesday, August 3, 2016  
5:30 pm**

Alameda County Fairgrounds

*\*See inside for details.*

# ***Kellie Smith – New Normal – Winter Dinner Speech 2015***

*We have received many requests for a copy of Kellie's heartfelt speech from the Winter Dinner earlier this year. She has graciously allowed us to print a copy for our members in this issue of the Informer.*

Good Evening, I am Kellie Smith, Detective Sergeant Tommy Smith's survivor from BART PD. I am honored to be here this evening, and I am continually humbled by your kindness and generosity for my daughter Summer and I, because...

I never thought this would happen to me..... That horrible phone call that other wives receive telling them their husbands have been shot in the line of duty. But for me, reality set in quicker, because like my husband, I was a police officer too and my worst nightmare was confirmed by turning up my car radio. You see we were a married couple working for the same police department, both working that tragic day, January 21, 2014.

For years my husband and I were part of our departments honor guard, representing our department at police officer's funerals around Northern/Central California. We attended our first police officers memorial in Sacramento in 1998, just a few years out of the academy. I remember watching the families at funerals, especially the wives with small children, and thinking their lives were never going to be the same. Their life partner, best friend, co parent, kids coach and the love of their lives was never returning home. I used to think I cannot imagine experiencing something so horrible. Each night after returning from one of these funerals and lying in bed, my husband and I would always hold each other a little closer, not sleeping, but thankful we still had each other.

One funeral in particular stands out more than the rest. It was 7 years ago now; a woman with two little girls, and at the time her youngest daughter was the same age as mine, about a year in a half. My department was assisting several agencies conducting the security sweep of the venue. I had just finished conducting the explosive sweep with my dog and I was assigned the inner walkway during her husband's funeral service. I remember feeling guilty as I watched her throughout the ceremony and thinking I am so glad this is not me. Fast forward five years and it is me. This widow reached out to me that very first night, I'm sure being flooded with her own memories and offered her support. This widow, as well as several others sitting here tonight, have been there every step of the way from middle of the night phone calls and texts to words of comfort as I made that long limo ride to my own funeral venue.

I also remember that day 20 years ago when another woman walked into my police academy class during the last week; she gave a class on "line of duty death" and handed out a packet for us to fill out regarding our last wishes. Questions like, "who to call from the department to notify your family, what kind of funeral you wanted and who could and could not speak at your funeral." That last question always triggered some laughter from classmates but we were quickly brought back to reality. This woman, my longtime friend, had us look around the room at each other and said it may be one of us that we will be attending the funeral of. Unfortunately, she was right, and that day came March 21, 2009.

As I remember more and more of that horrible day in January I recall telling a co-worker, you need to call my longtime friend, she will know what to do; because unfortunately she is an expert in the field of Line of Duty Deaths. As the news broke there was an officer killed in the line of duty they began referring to me as his widow. A widow is an old person, not a 42 year old mother of a 6 year old. Although most of that horrible week is a blur I was able to see my friend and she referred to me as a survivor, one of her chicks, not a widow. A survivor is a strong and powerful word; widow feels old and frail. Survivor gives you hope that you survived the worst, you can get through anything now.

Now, I try not to sweat the small stuff. I laugh and sometimes cry when I hear women bitch about their husbands, "I wish he would wash the dishes", "rinse the sink after he brushes his teeth", "mow the lawn", "stop watching so many sporting events." Me, I just wish he was here, to share a life with; be there when I want to tell him something funny about my day that only he would understand; watch the love in his eyes when "his girls" walk into any room and being on the receiving end of his enormous hugs. I just miss him a lot.

Unfortunately, I think many people are afraid to talk to me or mention my husband's name when I am around. My daughter and I love to talk about him, but I think some of our friends, family and co-workers just don't know what to say, so often times it's like the big elephant in the room and nothing is said. Some friends and family have dropped out of our lives which is sad but others have really gone the extra mile for my daughter and I. Those friends, family and co-workers who keep in contact with me on a regular basis I am so thankful for. Sometimes they come over for a few hours of adult conversation after my daughter goes to bed. Other times they swoop in on a Sunday afternoon and take my daughter on an outing to give me a couple hours to myself. Or they are taking both my daughter and I on a vacation or dinner out on the town. They bring smiles to our faces, distractions from those difficult days and companionship. Without them, this grief journey would be an impossible mountain to climb alone.

## *Kellie Smith (continued)*

And as you are sitting here listening to me, you may have that guilty thought, "I am so glad this is not me." But don't feel guilty, I used to have the same feelings and I have learned since this happened to me, you can't feel guilty, you can just appreciate what you have. I had a lifetime of love crammed into 16 wonderful years, and as my longtime friend reminded me of, 16 years that some never find. My husband and I had a rule, never go to bed angry and never leave for work when we were upset with one another. We never wanted that guilt if something like this happened to have the last memory of one another to be an ugly memory. For me, I had the perfect weekend and days leading up to this horrific nightmare, so I am thankful I have no regrets and we knew how much we loved one another.

I am now part of club; it is one which you never wish to be a part of but I am so thankful for the women who are in it with me. They know who they are, they have suffered the same loss and they are my rock. We have a warped sense of "Widow Humor" that breaks us into laughter when we need it, but I just know, on any particular difficult day, 24/7, they along with my friends are only just a phone call away; for that I am eternally grateful.

So next time you see one of us, say hello, ask us to coffee or a meal, help us with a house hold chore, or just talk, we are still the same person, we are just learning to find our new normal.

Thank you, and stay safe!

Written by: Kellie L. Smith

Retired Officer BART PD

[Tommy Smith's Survivor EOW: 1-21-2014]

## *From Our Family Members...*

Dear 100 Club,

My family and I are forever thankful to you. We want to wish you and family wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Love, Florencia G. Stovall and Family

Dear 100 Club,

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas gift! It means so much to me that you continue to think of me even after I have graduated from university.

Since I graduated from university 3 years ago, I've been very busy! I originally moved to Spain to work as a nanny and English teacher. After 9 months, I was ready for a change and moved to Hong Kong to teach English to primary and secondary students. It was a tough transition and even tougher place to live but I met many good friends and certainly had some interesting experiences! In addition to my experiences in Hong Kong, I travelled throughout Asia and Africa when I had time off from work. After 2.5 years I decided that I wanted to go back to school to get my official teaching certificate.

I ultimately was accepted into a Primary Postgraduate Certificate in Education program at St Mary's University Twickenham in London, England. I made the move in August and started my course. It has been incredibly challenging and rewarding and I completed my first school placement at a small Roman Catholic primary school. I taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and loved it! My university and placement school were incredibly supportive and I improved in leaps and bounds towards getting an Outstanding grade as an emerging teacher. I received a Good grade for my first placement, which is the grade below Outstanding. I'm also working towards getting my Master's and taking an additional course to get a Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. When I'm not lesson planning, marking schoolwork, or writing essays, I spend my time playing rugby with a local club and explore London with my partner. We haven't had much time to go outside of London except to see his family, but there's so much to do here that we haven't noticed much!

It's hard to believe where I am now from when I've graduated. I've come a long way(in more ways than one). It has been a challenging journey but I've enjoyed everything I've learned. I wouldn't be here without the support of the 100 Club in my earlier education. I understand the value of education because of the 100 Club (and my mother)reinforcing it with their support. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Lisa Soto

## *From Our Family Members...(continued)*

Dear Friends,

Once again I'm awed by your generosity. We have never been forgotten by you. Thank you. Bill's family is moving on. Our eldest grandchild just graduated from Wake Forest in 3 ½ years. Now on job searches. Our youngest grandchild is 10 years old. There are 9 in total. Time has flown and yet seems like yesterday. Bill would have been 74 on Tuesday. You are always in my prayers. Thank you. With Love, Liz Ladouceur.

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Thank you so much for your generous gift at Christmas. I really appreciate it.  
Love, Kathy Petersen

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Dear 100 Club,

My family and I are forever thankful to you. We want to wish you and family wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Love, Florencia G. Stovall and Family

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Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for the gift. Currently, I am home for the holidays, enjoying a short break from my PhD program at The University of Georgia. I am in my second year and really enjoying it. In Georgia, I also discovered social swing dancing and started playing competitive Ultimate Frisbee. I have always and will always sincerely appreciate all of the support you have given me over the last 20 years. Have a wonderful Holiday Season!  
Best Wishes, Bryan Soto

Lisa is away in London pursuing a post a post graduate certificate in primary education. She is unable to be with us over the holidays, since she is not currently working (but she hopes to have a job this summer). She really appreciates your gift. She has really enjoyed her student teaching. (Janet Soto for Lisa Soto)

Dear Friends at the 100 Club,

Many thanks for the \$500 checks. We appreciate your generosity. Wishing all of you a healthy and prosperous new year.  
Sincerely, Janet, Lisa & Bryan Soto

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Members of the 100 Club,

May God Bless each of you now and throughout the New Year. Thank you for your generosity.  
Love, Christine Riley & Family

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To all of the members of the 100 Club,

For thirty four years you have cared for our family! I wish I could hug each and every one. We have a new, beautiful granddaughter named Noel (December 10) Michael now has 15 grandchildren as a great legacy. Thank you for your generous gift. May the Lord bless you now and for the New Year.  
Terry Faulkner Carges

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It was a THANK YOU to the 100 Club for the Christmas check. I was hanging my cards in the shape of a XMas tree. Opened the envelope from the 100 club and out dropped the check!! It always puts a big smile on my face to know what a wonderful organization the 100 Club is. Also to be remembered every year. In a few days, it will be 17years Tracy passed away. The years are passing quickly these days!!  
Renee Toomey

*Join us for the:*

**Annual Summer Barbeque  
Wednesday, August 3, 2016 - 5:30 PM  
Alameda County Fairgrounds  
4501 Pleasanton Avenue  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Gate 12**

*ALL Members and any of your prospective members or Public Safety Guests Are Welcome!*

**\*Advance reservations are required!\*  
NEW! - Make your reservation online!  
[www.100clubalamedacounty.org](http://www.100clubalamedacounty.org)**

*No charge for members. Guest price for Public Safety Officers and prospective members is \$25*

- YES! Count me/us in for the BBQ – I/We am/are a member(s) in good standing**  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- YES! Count me/us in for the BBQ – Enclosed are my/our annual dues of \$150.00 each**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Please make a reservation for my/our guest(s) - (I am sending \$25 today or paying online) \***  
Name of the Public Safety Employee(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Department(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Please make a reservation for my/our prospective member(s) – (I am sending \$25 today)\***  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Make checks payable to “Martin Kauffman 100 Club of Alameda County” and send to:  
100 Club • 767 Brannan Place • Concord, CA 94518**

**To make a reservation:**  
**Online: [www.100clubalamedacounty.org](http://www.100clubalamedacounty.org)**  
**By Mail: 767 Brannan Place, Concord, CA 94518**  
**By email: [MK100Club@astound.net](mailto:MK100Club@astound.net)**  
**By Phone: 510.818.0337**  
**By Fax: 925.566.8590**

**\*Reservations needed by Noon on July 25, 2016\***

*If you do not receive a confirmation within 24 hours please call the club office at 510.818.0337*

# 100 Angels

Our ongoing goal, with your continuing support, is to have the Angel Donors cover 100% of Operating Expenses. We strive to have 100% of our dues assist the surviving families of Peace Officers and Firefighters who perish while defending and protecting all of us. This is something we have worked for and something of which we can all take great pride.

Again, our lofty goal is to cover all expenses so that all dues will be used to support our surviving Family Members. Team up with us in 2016 for this most worthwhile endeavor!

PLEASE join our "100 Angels" by contributing \$250 (or more) in cash or in kind services.

The 100 Club will continue to acknowledge all of our "100 Angels" at Club events and in the Informer.

## *Thank you to our current 100 Angel contributors for 2016*

Mike Ahern	Anita Bea Kiley	Donna Reed
James E. Ayala	Richard Klemmer	Eugene & Barbara Saper
Richard Baker	Richard Knowles	Paul Gentz/Gentz Construction, Inc.
Roy Ballard	Molly Knox	Barry Donelan/Oakland Police Officers Assoc.
Peter Ballew	Ben Leal	Jon Rudolph/Deputy Sheriff's Assoc.
Richard & Anne Bartalini	Mike LeFavre	Neil Sanders/OFD Stickball Tournament
Richard & Carol Bigelow	Lone Tree Cemetery	John & Rob Santos/Pleasanton Ready Mix
Neil Blumenthal	Tony Macchiano	Gary & Phoebe Schwaegerle/Schwaegerle Realtors
Harold "Bosco" Boscovich	Boyd & Helen Mahan	Cliffton Sherwood
Bras & Mattos Monuments	Lola Manzella	Greg & Laura Stewart
Bob Byers	James B. Martin	Bob Trimble/ValForms
Christine Byers	Burnham Matthews	Robert Tucknott
Frank, Ron & Mike Capilla	Bob Mattos	Urban Shield/Sheriff Gregory Ahern
Diane D'Ambrosio-Yribarren	McGrail Vineyards	Vukasin Family Foundation/Kristina Brouhard
Alta Davis	Mike & Cheryl Miraglia	William Vaculin/Morgan Stanley
Robert & Glenda Frost	Dr. Marshall Mitzman	Curtis & Stephanie Williams/Maisel & Williams Acct. Corp.
Daniel Goldstein	Brian Morrison	John S. Wong
Larry & Patty Goodman	Mitch & Leslie Mueller	Steven Woodall
Bill & Barbara Hemenez	David Newacheck	Wayne Yeaw/Alpha Omega Print& Imaging
David Hoig	Gary O'Brien	Greg Yoshii
Ron Ivaldi/Sunol Golf Club	Tom & Pamela Orloff	Resti & Debbie Zaballos
Tom & Marily Johnson	Ovations	Rob, Cynthia, Jack & Alanna Birmingham
Rose Johnson McCammon	Kevin Powers	Jones, Henle & Schunck, CPAs
Stephen Kalthoff	Bill Quirk	Ralph Matin/Martin Land Co.
Dick Karn	Craig Ragg	

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100 Angel Donation - 2016

Yes, I would like to be a 100 Angel for 2016!

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please return this slip with your donation to: 100 Club, 767 Brannan Place, Concord, CA 94518  
or go online to: [www.100clubalamedacounty.org](http://www.100clubalamedacounty.org) to donate by credit card.

## *Visit Our New Website*

As many of you might not be aware, your 100 Club has just finished updating and revising our website. We would like to invite you see what's been done by visiting our website at [www.100ClubAlamedaCounty.org](http://www.100ClubAlamedaCounty.org).

When you visit the site you will be able to click on various links at the top of the home page to take you to:

- **About:** Our Mission Statement; The history of our 100 Club; Our current board of directors.
- **Our Heroes:** All of our brave officers and firefighters who gave their lives while serving the citizens of Alameda County.
- **Video:** Our 10 minute long video that tells the story and the reason for our 100 Club.
- **Newsletter:** Our newsletter, The Informer, in an on-line format.
- **Membership:** Information on joining or renewing a membership to our club and the ability to pay on-line.
- **Events:** dates and times for our annual Summer BBQ and our Winter Dinner.
- **ONLINE EVENT REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE!**
- **Donate:** A page that will allow our club to accept donations over and above the membership fees.

Please feel free to share our web-link with friends and family and also those who may not be members of our club and would like to get more information on who we are and what we are all about.

[www.100ClubAlamedaCounty.org](http://www.100ClubAlamedaCounty.org).



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*Concord, CA 94518*