

# THE HERO



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# THE HERO

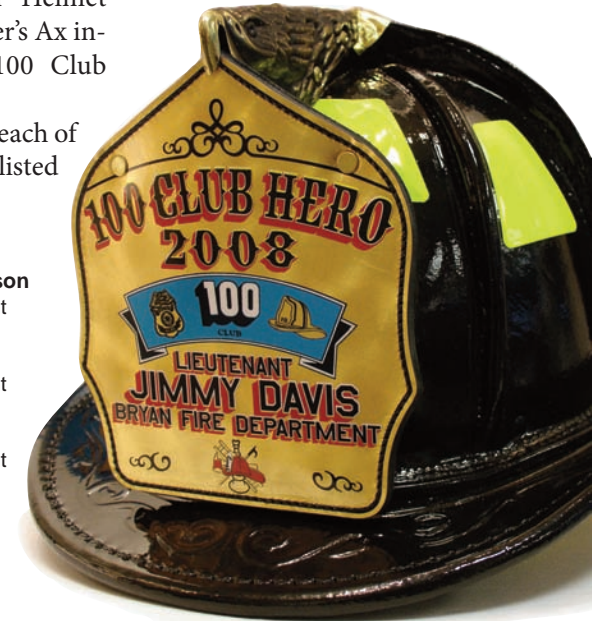
## The 100 Club to Honor Law Enforcement and Firefighter Heroes

The 100 Club will host its 54th Annual Heroes Awards Banquet on May 14, 2008. This year, The 100 Club will honor forty-five Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters who have performed above and beyond the call of duty.

In appreciation, each Law Enforcement Officers receive a Sig Sauer Model 229, .40-caliber Semi-Automatic Commemorative Pistol and an Etched, Jade Glass Award. Each Firefighter will receive a Cairns "Sam Houston Model" Fire-

fighter Presentation Helmet and a Glass Firefighter's Ax inscribed with The 100 Club logo.

We congratulate each of the award recipients listed below.



**Deputy Nicolette Sandoval**  
Grimes County Sheriff's Office

**Officer Matthew J. Krawczak**  
University of Texas Houston  
Police Department

**Investigator James Cowan**  
Fayette County Sheriff's Office

**Officer Jeremy Tucker**  
Tiki Island Police Department

**Detective Jeff Wells**  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

**Deputy Justin P. Hamilton**  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

**Corporal Kenneth Rowdy Hayden**  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

**Deputy Duane LeBeau**  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

**Trooper II Paul Kohleffel**  
Texas Department of Public Safety

**Trooper II Ryan C. Drodgy**  
Texas Department of Public Safety

**Trooper II Johnnie M. Freeman**  
Texas Department of  
Public Safety

**Trooper II Derek L. Leitner**  
Texas Department of Public Safety

**Game Warden  
Brannon Meinkowsky**  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

**Sergeant Ron Cleere**  
Huntsville Police Department

**Sergeant Brian Smallwood**  
Walker County Sheriff's Department

**Deputy Brandon Herlong**  
Harris County Sheriff's Office

**Deputy Michael Ivy**  
Harris County Sheriff's Office

**Deputy Matthew Moore**  
Harris County Sheriff's Office

**Deputy Huey Townley**  
Harris County Sheriff's Office

**Deputy Javier Urena**  
Harris County Sheriff's Office

**Officer Suzanne Hollifield**  
Houston Police Department

**Officer Epi Garza**  
Houston Police Department

**Sergeant Ronnie Phillips, Sr.**  
Harris County Sheriff's Office

**Officer Craig Kivela**  
Houston Police  
Department

**Captain Tim Lapham**  
Cat Spring Volunteer  
Fire Department

**Lieutenant  
Charles T. Villegas**  
Pearland Fire Department

**Firefighter Jacob Johnson**  
Pearland Fire Department

**Firefighter Chris Perez**  
Pearland Fire Department

**Firefighter Eric Potts**  
Pearland Fire Department

**Lieutenant Daniel Wall**  
Bryan Fire Department

**Firefighter/Paramedic  
Richard Pfeil**  
Bryan Fire Department

**Firefighter Gary Plagens**  
Bryan Fire Department

**Lieutenant Jimmy Davis**  
Bryan Fire Department

**Firefighter Douglas Capener, Jr.**  
Bryan Fire Department

**Firefighter Aaron Pruitt**  
Bryan Fire Department

**Firefighter Gregory Rolling**  
Sugar Land Fire Department

**Assistant Chief Scott Lyons**  
San Leon Fire Department

**Firefighter Robert Saldierna**  
San Leon Fire Department

**Firefighter John M. Flores**  
Navasota Fire Department

**Firefighter Eddie Parrott**  
Navasota Fire Department

**Firefighter Brad Ascenzi**  
Houston Fire Department

**Firefighter/EMT Shane Horsted**  
Houston Fire Department

**Firefighter/EMT Javier Benavides**  
Houston Fire Department

**Firefighter/Paramedic  
Sacha V. Masson**  
Houston Fire Department

**Lieutenant Damon Jay Strickland**  
Missouri City Fire and Rescue

## Help Us Grow...

## Get a Friend to Join!



Please mark your new membership choice below:

- Regular Membership - \$100 Annually  
 Life Membership - \$1,000 Single Gift  
 Quarterly Life Membership - \$250 Annually over four consecutive years (you become a life member after your fourth donation is received)
- Business Membership - \$150 Annually  
 Business Life Membership - \$1,500 Single Gift

NAME (please print) (only one name per application)

MAILING ADDRESS CITY / STATE ZIP

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VISA  MASTERCARD  AMERICAN EXPRESS  DISCOVER  Check # \_\_\_\_\_ / Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Corner

Lost Heroes

Newly Elected Board 2

"In Their Own Words"

New Board Members

Upcoming Events 3

Application to Join 4

## Two Recent, Lost Heroes

Harris County Precinct 6 Corporal Harry Thielepape, 56, died on February 20, 2008 from gunshot wounds he received when he arrested an armed narcotic suspect. Corporal Thielepape, a veteran at Pct. 6, was off-duty working a security job on January 26, 2008 at an apartment complex on Houston's North side when he was shot several times by the suspect. Deputy Thielepape was single at the time of his death and is survived by a son, Harry Thielepape III.



Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Craig Miller, 43, was killed, on February 21, 2008, when his Sheriff's Department vehicle collided with a truck that reportedly pulled out of a business driveway in front of the Deputy on the Katy Freeway. Deputy Miller is survived by his wife; Michele, his son Avery and daughter Addison. The deputy was a 20 year veteran officer at the Sheriff's Office where he was assigned to the Investigative Support Unit.



## Sad News

Our good friend and Advisory Director from Grimes County, James "Jimmy" Willhite, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 20, 2008 at his ranch in Plantersville.

Jimmy was a devoted husband, son, step-father, and brother. A loyal friend to many, He is survived by his wife, Heidi Willhite.

Jimmy was a man of incredible heart and soul, with generosity of spirit evident in the manner in which he lived his life. A gifted guitarist, he enjoyed hunting, was an excellent marksman, and a talented and accomplished businessman. Involved in numerous civic minded causes, Jimmy was an advocate for law enforcement officers.

## President's Corner: A Few Words From Tom Pizzo

I would like to share a little bit about myself with you so you know who your new 100 Club President is and about his plans for the Club. I grew up in Harris County and have never left. My wife of 43 years, Regina, and I live in West Houston. I have been a Director of the Club since 1995. Personally, I am retired after a successful career owning an advertising company.

During my term as your President, I am asking all 100 Club members to help with continuing the growth of our Club. If each member went out and recruited only one (1) new 100 Club member, we would instantly double the size of our organization.

Please use this newsletter as a way to tell a friend or neighbor about The 100 Club and ask them to fill out the application on the back page and become a 100 Club member. For those of you who would like to recruit more than one member, please call The 100 Club office at (713) 952-0100 and ask that additional applications be sent to you or you can download one directly from our web site: [www.the100club.org](http://www.the100club.org).

Many of you know that we support the law enforcement and firefighting communities in 18 counties surrounding Houston. Additionally, we provide line of duty death assistance to dependants of the Texas De-

partment of Public Safety, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas Alcoholic & Beverage Commission and Institutional personnel of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice killed in the line of duty anywhere in the State of Texas.

To date, your 100 Club has provided over \$12 million dollars to the dependants of those Heroes who have died in the line of duty. Additionally, over \$10.4 million dollars has been given to law enforcement agencies in the form of officer safety equipment.

Our scholarship program has provided 466 college degrees, at three area universities, to law enforcement officers. The 100 Club has provided \$4.3 million dollars in scholarship funds. Your 100 Club has given over \$27.8 million dollars to the law enforcement and firefighting professions in support of our programs.

**Your help in recruiting only one (1) new member will go a long way in making our support of those who constantly protect us become even larger.**

Thomas E. "Tom" Pizzo, Jr.  
President



## Newly Elected 100 Club Board of Directors to Serve for 2008

In January at the Annual 100 Club Membership meeting, the following Directors were elected to serve as officers for 2008. Chairman of the Board, Clarence F. Kendall, II, President, Thomas E. "Tom" Pizzo, Jr., Vice Presidents, Clair Branch, Randy Russell & Robert "Bob" Brooks, and Secretary/Treasurer, Jeff Swantkowski.

100 Club Directors elected to serve during 2008 are:

Jerry Johnston Andrew  
Clair Branch  
John R. Braniff  
Robert P. "Bob" Brooks  
J.L. "Bubba" Butera  
James M. "Jim" Clepper  
Patrick B. Collins  
Dick Deguerin  
George A. Demontrond, III  
Tyson Faust  
Tilman J. Fertitta  
Fred Gebhardt  
Jodie Lee Jiles  
Clarence F. Kendall, II  
Richard C. Kuriger, III  
Bob Lawrence

Robert "Ted" Lyons  
Ross D. Margraves, Jr.  
Webb K. Melder  
Charles F. Milstead  
John J. Montalbano  
Todd W. Neal  
Thomas E. "Tom" Pizzo, Jr.  
Garry L. Plotkin  
Jack M. Rains  
Randy Russell  
C. Michael Scherer  
Barry Silverman  
Jeff Swantkowski  
John Van De Wiele  
Don M. Woo

## "In Their Own Words"

by Amanda Wass

April 9, 2008

My husband, Deputy Donald Wass, was killed two years ago on my daughter's fourth birthday. I lost my advisor, my best friend and my husband in one fatal sweep. The period following his death is somewhat of a blurred memory. During the day, I tried to be brave and cheerful for my daughter, Jolie. Nighttime was filled with tears, grief and worry.

Police officers are not well-paid, particularly in rural jurisdictions. Even with my work and Don's many part time jobs, our budget was limited. We had minimal savings and insufficient life insurance. I had no idea how I was going to take care of my daughter on my own.

Then I received a visit from Rick Hartley from The 100 Club. When he explained how they planned to help me financially, I was speechless. I felt such a relief, like a burden had been lifted from my shoulders. The 100 Club not only helped me with immediate debts but also offered commitments to assure Jolie's future. Additionally, they helped me return to school.

Without The 100 Club, I fear I would be working many jobs just to survive, while others would raise my daughter. Because of The 100 Club and all who contribute, I am able to focus on the most important aspect of my life, being Jolie's mom.

THANK YOU to the members, contributors and all involved with The 100 Club! I will never be able to fully express my gratitude for the generosity and support that I continue to receive.

Amanda Wass



Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Donald Wass, 35, was killed Sunday Morning, April 23, 2006 in a traffic accident, on Highway 36, south of Brenham, Texas. Deputy Wass is survived by his wife, Mandy, and his daughter, Jolie, who turned 4 years old the day he died.

## The 100 Club Welcomes Two New Directors

Don Woo, a graduate of the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering Technology, went on to join Mission Construction in 1978. With his 30 years of experience with the firm, he is the principal-in-charge and directs the general management and operations.

He is active in numerous local service and social organizations and sits on the Board for various organizations. Don is married.

Kenneth E. Moore, 62, a native Texan, currently serves as President of Ken Moore Insurance Agency, Inc.

After serving in the U.S. Army, as a Military Police office in both Ft. Riley, Kansas and in Vietnam, he began his professional career with the Department of Public Safety as a State Trooper and eventually as a Narcotics Sergeant.

He also worked for many years as President of Citywide Insurance Agency and as an Agent of Record for the Houston Police Officers Association. He is active in numerous local service and social organizations. Ken is married and has three children and two grandchildren.



Elected April 2007



Elected March 2008

## 100 Club Member Reminders

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.

Don't forget about The 100 Club merchandise which can be purchased online. From our home page, click on the "Buy Your 100 Club Merchandise Here" button near the bottom right of the home page.

Also, 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.

Visit us online at: [www.the100club.org](http://www.the100club.org).

## 100 Club Upcoming Events

### Heroes Awards Banquet

Wednesday, May 14, 2008 -  
54th Annual Heroes Awards Banquet honoring outstanding Law Enforcement and Firefighters in our coverage area.

### Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, September 29, 2008  
at Hearthstone Country Club.

### Annual Fishing Tournament

Early Fall of 2008.



4th Annual San Jacinto Corvette Club "Corvette Show" held at the Kemah Boardwalk, Saturday, March 29th, 2008 with proceeds benefitting The 100 Club. 140 Corvettes were entered into the competition from six area Corvette Clubs.