

Shirley A. Gibson

Concerns of Police Survivors

Personal Information:

Married to Harrison Gibson, Jr. April 8, 1967

Children: Brian and Terrica Gibson

Brian, 27 years old, a six year veteran, Master Patrol Officer with Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C., was murdered while sitting in a marked cruiser on February 5, 1997.

Education:

Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina 1964 – 1966 Social Science Major

Occupations:

Employee of Bell Atlantic 1967 – 1998 (Retired)

Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C. 2000 – Present

Proudest Achievement – First parent elected as National President of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. 2004 - 2006

Certification/Special Training:

Senn-Delaney – Certification in Training and Facilitation

Metropolitan Police Department – Earned Board Certification to train law enforcement on grief and loss, critical incident stress management, posttraumatic stress management, and issues surrounding law enforcement death and critical injuries.

Received 27.0 contact hours in Continuing Education – University of Maryland Baltimore County in Stress, Trauma & Coping.

Train the Trainer – 40 hours National Organization of Victim's Assistance, Washington, D.C.
Peer Counselor - MPEAP Crisis Intervention Team for families of officers critically injured while on duty. Rewrote MPD's General Order for Line of Duty Death/Critical Incidents, created the Family Support Team and serves as its Director.

Facilitations:

F.B.I. National Academy, Quantico, VA

40 Hour In-Service Training, Metropolitan Police Department
Arlington Police Department
Fairfax County Police Department
Virginia State Police Department
Chesterfield County Police Department (VA)
Mint Police, Washington, D.C.
National Organization Victim's Assistance (Workshops)
International Critical Incident Stress Foundation
Women in Federal Law Enforcement (Workshop)
IACP
NSA

Guest Speaker:

Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.
Justice Department
Fairfax County Homicide Survivors
Radio talk show interviews include COP NET, TV interviews Channels 4, 7, 9 in Washington, D.C., MPT in Maryland.
New York State Troopers Foundation
National Law Enforcement Memorial

Shirley Gibson began her second career in 1998, a year after the murder of her son, Master Patrol Officer Brian T. Gibson, a Metropolitan Police officer in Washington, D.C. She began by bringing together survivors in the D.C. Metropolitan area to create the first D.C. Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors and served as its president for four years while also serving as Northern Seaboard Region Trustee on the National COPS Board. In 2000, she was employed by the Metropolitan Police Department and assigned to the Training Academy.

Ms. Gibson was taught and supervised by Dr. Beverly Anderson, Ph.D., Clinical Director/Administrator of the Metropolitan Police Department Employee Assistance Program for three years and earned Board Certification to train on grief and loss, critical incident stress management, posttraumatic stress management, and issues surrounding a law enforcement death. She has participated in training with the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) for the Community Crisis Response Team, rewritten the General Order for Notification of Line of Duty Death or Critical Incident for the Metropolitan Police Department and provided this training to officers during 40-hour In-Service sessions at the police academy. She created and serves as Director of the MPD Family Support Team, made up of Metropolitan Police officers who support the families of officers killed in the line of duty from the moment the death occurs until the family no longer requires their help, and also serves as a Peer Counselor on the MPEAP Crisis Intervention Team for families of officers killed or critically injured while on duty.

An active speaker and workshop facilitator, Ms. Gibson has presented at the Department of Justice, PSOB, the Virginia State Peer Support Team, the Virginia State Office of Emergency Medicine (CISD Annual Conference), the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc., National Organization for Victim Assistance Conference, Parents of Murdered Children, the Virginia Community Policing Institute and for three years presented to each new class at the National FBI Academy 10 week course in Quantico, Virginia. She sat on the board of the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, has twice been a guest speaker at the NLEOMF's Candlelight Vigil during National Police Week and at its Annual Wreathlaying Ceremony.

On May 16, 2004, Shirley was elected National President of Concerns of Police Survivors. She was the first parent to hold this position in the 22 year history of the organization. Her two year term ended in May 2006. She and her husband, Harrison, celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary on April 8, 2009, which would have been Brian's 40th birthday. They are blessed with their daughter, Terrica (and her two basset hounds, Lilly and Liberty), and Brian's children, Ashley and Briana, and Ashley's two year old daughter, Olivia.