

ROBERT CHRISTOPHER PLACENCIA

April 12, 1989–August 7, 2006

By His Mother, Debbie Melendez Vasquez and His Sister, Kathy Ann

My name is Debbie Melendez. My son, Robert Christopher Placencia, was born on April 12, 1989; beautiful, healthy 8 lbs. 14 oz—21 inches. A “Fat Boi” from the beginning, which was his nickname given by his sisters, Kathy and Melissa and his brothers, Angel, Ronnie and Ricky. Robert lived up to that name until his life was cut short due to mistaken identity at the young age of 17. Robert was the youngest of his brothers, but the biggest in height and weight. He was 17, 5' 11", and 200-plus pounds. The most lovable big bear you could ever meet. He loved giving his family bear hugs and kisses when they came over, even when they didn't want them. He never called me “Mom”... it was always “Madre”. Oh, how I long to hear these words again, “I love you, Madre”. His most precious jewel was his son, Robert, Jr., who he affectionately called “June Bug”. June Bug was 1-1/2 years old when his dad's life was taken. June Bug's mother, Rebecca and my son were engaged; they had been a couple since the age of 13. So, I not only lost a son, I lost a grandson, as Rebecca has moved on with her life and took Robert, Jr. out of ours. Robert had been working hard at putting his life together for his son and Rebecca; attending school to be a mechanic.

Robert loved his games (Madden) and competing with his brothers. He loved to dance and make his “thizz” face. His TV was always turned to cartoons for his son. Sponge Bob was their favorite cartoon they shared together. He loved his flaky movies—those he could recite word for word—“Lil Nicky”, “Water Boy”, etc. My son was so lovable and considerate; never wanting anyone to be mad at him. He had a huge heart for his family and friends.

—continued on page 4

Our
Next Meeting
will be on
Sunday,
October 11,
2015

Inside This Issue

Words from Jan	2
Thank You for Your Help	4
Quarter Craze	5
National Day of Remembrance	5
Troubling Decision	6
Parole & Clemency Hearing	7
Quote of the Month	7
Help Save the Next Girl	8

CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

Who We Are

The majority of the board members of Citizens Against Homicide have had a family member murdered. They are surviving the devastating loss of a loved one and still suffer the continued emotional trauma of coping with our criminal justice system. We have joined together to create a voice for the survivors and friends of murder victims.

CAH Objectives

- Assist families through the complicated criminal justice system.
- Provide trial and courtroom support to victims.
- Accompany victims to parole hearings in their endeavor to keep the convicted murderer in prison.
- Provide information on pending crime legislation.

Protecting Your Own Interests

You can't prepare for the event that makes you a victim. You can only react. You need to know how to deal with the subsequent trial, sentencing and unavoidable parole hearings. CAH helps you take action to protect your own interests.

If you have friends or family who may be in need of our assistance, please pass along the information regarding our organization.

Location for Meetings

We hold monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month at 302 4th Street, San Rafael, CA. The monthly meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. We encourage anyone interested to attend meetings.

A Few Words From Jan

The 22nd Annual Golf Tournament Fund Raiser was a wonderful success. The day was one of near perfect weather. We were blessed with many members of both the Cervantes and my family, as well as a number of board members all joining in to help make the workload significantly lighter.

Ticket sales were amazing. It was delightful to see how many grown men simply could not refuse the children selling tickets for mulligans, all inclusive vacations and/or wonderful baskets of goodies. We so appreciate everyone's kindness and generosity.

Each year, this tournament is becoming more and more like a cross between family reunion and a gathering of close friends. There are endless hugs being shared and many conversations catching up on the events of the year.

Very noticeable now is the inclusion of our next generation. This year, it was not only my grandchildren, but the children of some of our players are

now participating. What a wonderful way to introduce this current group of young people to the aspects of the "Victims' World", witnessing firsthand how we cope.

We had great weather, delicious food, a perfect day on the course (for most) and the joys of all the winners (from the golf course to the grand raffle).

One of the most enjoyable and memorable moments of the evening was presenting my sister, Alice Ostergren, with a small token of our appreciation for her 22 years of managing the bookkeeping for CAH. All these many years of donating her time and efforts will always be greatly appreciated. After her fall earlier this year resulting in a broken hip, she has decided to slow down a bit. She has made a wonderful recovery and, as I said that evening, she has earned lifetime seating at our annual Golf Fundraiser dinner.

—Jan

Officers

Jane Alexander	<i>Co-Founder Emeritus</i>
Jan Miller	<i>Co-Founder</i>
Gene & Shellie Cervantes	<i>Victim Advocates / Consultants</i>
Susan Fisher	<i>Legislative Consultant</i>
Angela Bushnell Gillam	<i>Victim Advocate</i>
Boni Driskill	<i>Victim Advocate</i>
Alice Ostergren	<i>Treasurer</i>
Carol Silveira	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Anne Poverello	<i>Victim Representative</i>
Jacque MacDonald	<i>Victims Voice-Publicity</i>
Eryn Cervantes	<i>Special Assignment Consultant</i>
Marilyn Day	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Foothill Printing & Graphics	<i>Communications</i>
	<i>Design & Printing</i>

Advisory Board

Jack Miller	Chuck Mitchell
Ora Knowell	Andi Jarmicki
Terri de la Cuesta	David Perotti

Citizens Against Homicide

The UPS Store
369-B Third Street, Box 303
San Rafael, CA 94901
Tel 415-455-5944 • Fax 415-721-0788
E-Mail: vctmsmurdr@aol.com
Website: www.citizensagainsthomicide.org

CAH Victim Advocate:

For advice regarding your individual murder case, 1-209-728-2873
cahadvocate@yahoo.com

Photos from the Golf Tournament and the List of Winners



Logo Ball Winners: of the 26 foursomes only II brought back the LOGO Ball and the winner from the drawing was none other than Jarmicki, Couch, Atkinson and Boro—three of the four are grandsons

Putting Contest: was a tie between Frank Stonich and Todd Boak

Closest to the Pin Ladies: Amanda LaRocca

Closest to the Pin Men: Fred Simdberg

Long Drive Ladies: Terri Verhunce

Long Drive Men: Oliver Anderson

Long Drive Senior Ladies: Rose Young

Long Drive Senior Men: Frank Stonich

Flight A First Place: Wyatt, Wyatt, Farretti, Sundberg

Second Place: Gisvold, Chong, Winters, Anderson

Third Place: Juricich, Juricich, Fernandez, Sansum

Flight B First Place: Perry, Broughton, Simpkins, Stewart

Second Place: Scurini, Stonich, Kiernan

Third Place: Magliano, Lawler, Lawler, Leighton



Grand Prize Winners:

Hilton Head, South Carolina: Jacquelyn and William Stough

Brewster Green, Mass: Cindy Burke

Sedona, Arizona: Ernie Cervantes

Congratulations to all of our players and especially to our winners. Most importantly to all of our sponsors and supporters.

We cannot do all that we do without your help.



REMEMBER, TOGETHER WE CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“Thank you again for all of your help!”

—Kristin Lopez

On March 5, 2015, a parole date was granted for convicted murderer, Mark Lugo, who brutally and senselessly murdered Enid (Eydie) Ruth Lopez on November 16, 1987. We are very pleased to announce that on July 17, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown reversed the decision to grant parole with the following statement:

“I have considered the evidence in the record that is relevant to whether Mr. Lugo is currently dangerous. When considered as a whole, I find the evidence shows that he currently poses an unreasonable danger to society if released from prison. Therefore, I reverse the decision to parole Mr. Lugo.”

Decision Date: July 17, 2015

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor, State of California

Robert Placencia—cont. from page 1

On August 7, 2006, Robert was the first of three murders in a 30-hour time span in the Meadowview neighborhood of Sacramento, California. Robert's murder was not gang or drug-related, but merely mistaken identity. This could have been anyone's son walking home that night. Although none of the murders were connected, Robert's is the only one that still remains unsolved. It is still unclear about the events that took place that night. Detectives are saying Robert was approached by unknown individuals, who attacked him with a bottle. While Robert was down, they shot my son multiple times, killing him. It was a random malice act of violence. When Robert did not return home by the next day, we began to worry. We started searching everywhere and calling family members and friends. At approximately 4:30 p.m., the local news announced that someone had been murdered the previous night, around the corner from our home. We then called the coroner's office to see if the murder victim had been identified. They said they could not give any information. Our family began gathering at our house; all of us still waiting for Robert to walk through the door. But, instead, the phone rang at 11:00 p.m., and then came the news no mother should have to hear.

The message came from an insensitive coroner, informing Robert's mother that her son was not coming home—ever.

On April 12, 2007, while most families are preparing for proms, graduations and Spring break, our family gathered at the cemetery to celebrate Robert's 18th birthday. Eight (8) years later, we continue to gather at Robert's grave site—in honor and remembrance of my beautiful son, so brutally and senselessly murdered. Our family is and will continue to grieve over this innocent young father, son, brother, grandson, uncle, cousin and friend to so many. Robert will never be able to fulfill his dreams and hopes for a future with his son and family. We need answers... and Robert deserves justice. We will never stop... we will never give up on finding the truth. Someone knows what happened to Robert during the early morning hours of August 7, 2006. There will never be closure for us, but we pray every day that someone comes forward with information that will help us close this devastating chapter. There is a \$50,000 Reward for anyone having information that leads to an arrest and conviction. Please contact Detective Kirtlan—Sacramento Police Department—Homicide Unit at (916) 808-0678.

—Thank you,

Debbie Melendez Vasquez and Kathy Ann



\$50,000*

REWARD

**WHO MURDERED
ROBERT PLACENCIA
SACRAMENTO, CA
AUGUST 7, 2006**

**CONTACT:
DETECTIVE J. KIRTLAN
SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT • HOMICIDE UNIT
(916) 808-0678**

*FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO AN ARREST AND CONVICTION
IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CASE

CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE
Join Us To Make A Difference
(415) 455-5944
WWW.CITIZENAGAINSTHOMICIDE.ORG

Citizens Against Homicide Benefit “Quarter Craze” in Redway

September 19th—5:00 p.m.

Redway Elementary School

344 Humboldt Avenue, Redway, CA 95560

Get Your Quarters Ready & Reserve Your Seat by Texting Cindy at 707-616-3816 or email Cindy at crhardin@earthlink.net

\$5 at the door to get in with a reservation
(includes ONE bidding paddle)

\$10 at the door without a reservation.

Extra Paddle Packs 3 for \$10! More chances to WIN!

Please bring your own quarters!

Dinner \$10. Spaghetti, salad & bread. Yummy!

This is an 18+ event please.



Parents of
Murdered Children

National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims

Hosted by Sacramento Chapter
of Parents of Murdered Children

Where:

California State Capitol
—North Steps

When:

Friday, September 25, 2015

Time:

6:00—8:00 P.M.

For further information,
please contact Misty Foster, Chapter Leader
sacpomc@gmail.com
(916) 879-4541

How can you request compensation for travel costs to a parole hearing?

As of May 2010, the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services has funds available through a federal grant which allows for reimbursement, up to \$200, to victims and next-of-kin for costs associated with travel to parole hearings. For information on how to apply for travel reimbursement contact OVSRS at 1-877-256-6877.

Unclaimed Restitution

English

Were you the victim of a crime and the court ordered you restitution? The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may have collected money for you. Contact the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services to inquire if you have unclaimed money from a direct order of restitution. To update your address or to obtain additional information, call us toll free at 1-877-256-6877.

Spanish

Si usted fue victima de un crimen y la corte le otorgo restitution, es posible que el Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitacion haya recibido dinero a su favor. Llame a la oficina de Victimas y Sobrevivientes para preguntar si usted tiene restitution que no se haya reclamado. Para obtener mas informacion, llame gratis al 1-877-256-6877

Troubling Decision to Free Man Guilty of Savage Crime

By Jill Ravitch, District Attorney, Sonoma County

On April 4, 1986, John Duport and two friends savagely killed two women in Sonoma County, stabbing them over 90 times and then slitting their throats before escaping out a back window. The group then went for cigarettes and food before running to Los Angeles to sell drugs. Today John Duport is free, thanks to an order by Superior Court Judge Robert LaForge.

This column is not simply about Duport and the vicious crime he committed but more about the system California has created for dealing with violent offenders. In an era where the emphasis is on release from prison and rehabilitation instead of incarceration, we may be losing sight of the appropriate sanctions for those who are violent and those who, once incarcerated, risk re-offending.

Just shy of 18, angry, drug addicted and lacking much moral fiber, Duport plotted to kill the women, one in her 50s, the other incapacitated by multiple sclerosis, for a rumored \$2,000 in the house.

To this day Duport remembers the vivid detail of the horror that befell those women, including the number of times he plunged his knife into one woman's back as she tried to defend herself.

Duport ultimately surrendered and struck a bargain that earned him a chance at freedom while his friends received harsher sentences. While incarcerated, Duport attended self-help programs and earned an associates degree. He also drank, used drugs and dealt drugs on a daily basis. For years, he lived in denial of what he'd done.

He came up for parole and was denied time and again, until his fourth hearing in 2014 when Duport claimed an epiphany after his father's death a few years prior that enabled him to realize the pain he had caused by his violence.

He blamed his drug abuse and sales on prior parole denials and said he'd been clean since 2004 and had recently lost the craving for the illicit drugs and alcohol.

Duport's plan was to live in a transitional program, with support offered by family members, and he promised to work hard to find a job and stay sober.

Over my office's objection, the parole board recommended his release.

Gov. Jerry Brown overruled the board, citing numerous public safety concerns in his August 2014 decision.

Duport appealed, and LaForge, without notifying my office as mandated by law, reinstated the board's parole grant, leading to Duport's freedom today.

Unaware of the appeal or decision until a few days before his release, we were denied the opportunity to petition the court to uphold the governor's decision. We were instead left to scramble to locate family members who might hear of the release through other channels before we could warn them.

There are those who will claim someone who committed a crime while so young deserves another chance. Some will applaud his work while incarcerated and suggest it guarantees success in a stressful world where employment, housing and sobriety do not come easily.

Some will consider his substance abuse and other admitted criminal conduct prior to the murders as situational and no longer relevant. Some will view his inability to abide by rules while institutionalized, continued abuse and sales of drugs while incarcerated, as characteristic of youthfulness, instead of indicators of behavior upon release.

A fight in 2008, due to Duport's admitted disrespect for and bullying of his cellmate, will be seen as minor and not bearing on his anger management upon release. The court excused it.

In contrast, there are those who will wonder why the heinous nature of the committed offense is not a basis to deny parole any longer.

Some will wonder why any misdeed while incarcerated for such vicious conduct can be forgiven, resulting in release.

Some will wonder how many years must pass from violence, drug abuse and rule violations to ensure safety in our community.

As more offenders are released from prison, we will be challenged to offer support, while not forgetting those who were harmed, as we seek to protect our community.

Like John Duport, we have much work to do.

Parole & Clemency Hearings

These parole hearings are imminent.
Send letters in support of these families today.

(DATE)

The Board of Parole Hearings
Attn: Pre Hearing Correspondence
P. O. Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036
BPHLiferAnalyst@cdcr.ca.gov

RE: Robert John Mahoney,
CDC# E-15785

Parole hearing, October 1, 2015

Dear Chairman
and Parole Board Members:

Please **DO NOT GRANT A PAROLE DATE** to convicted murderer, Robert John Mahoney—CDC# E-15785. On October 26, 1984, the partially nude body of 31 year-old Cheryl Rayburn-Schwab was found dumped in a slough. Evidence showed that she had been savagely beaten, stomped on and strangled.

Mahoney always denied murdering Cheryl until his third parole hearing in 2010. He confessed and described how, after killing her, he hid her body and the next day dumped her in the slough. For someone to use such force and violence against someone that he had just met (it was reported during autopsy that her bruises were 2" deep along with boot impressions on her body) indicates how much rage Robert Mahoney carries inside. Unbeknownst to Cheryl, he had a record of abuse against his former wife.



Cheryl, separated and going through a divorce, had been introduced to Robert J. Mahoney by a co-worker on the night of October 24, 1984. Within hours, she was fighting for her life. Cheryl left behind her two sons, John (aged 10) and Jeffrey (4 years old).

Cheryl's two sons have had a lifetime of being without their beloved mother. The oldest son, John, never recovered from his mother's murder. He took his own life last year after struggling for years to cope with the tragedy that left him motherless when he needed her guidance the most. Cheryl's family has also mourned her loss since her senseless murder. Cheryl always believed in the goodness of others and to all that knew and loved her she represented a loving and devoted mother and loyal friend to all. Mahoney's brutal act has impacted everyone that knew Cheryl and will continue to do so for decades to come.

We need to make sure that other women are safe from this violent killer. Please deny his early release and let him spend his natural life behind bars.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME/SIGNATURE)

For your confidentiality, please do NOT post your return address on the letter, only on the outer envelope.

Please e-mail a copy of your letter to the family—debido942@yahoo.com

Quote of the Month

There is another side of grief;

Where the tears still flow...
not as often,

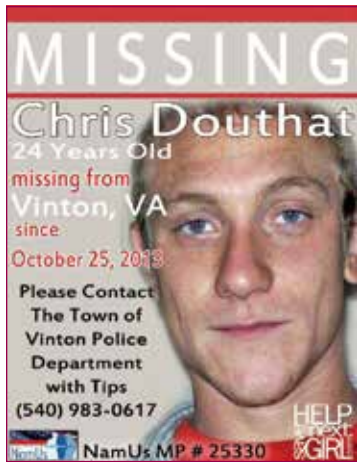
Where memories bring smiles...
not just sadness

Where blessings are recognized...
not just struggles

Where joy and peace are present...
not just sorrow

Where you are remembered...
not just mourned—

—Anonymous



Christopher Ray Douthat, missing from Roanoke since October 25, 2013.

Christopher was last seen in the early hours of October 25, 2013, when he was dropped off at work on Washington Avenue in Vinton.

Name of Missing:
Christopher Douthat
Nickname: Chris

Help Save the Next Girl

Missing Person Case Christopher "Chris" Douthat

Year of Birth: 1989
Age at time missing: 24 years old
Date Missing: Oct 25, 2013
Missing From: Vinton, VA
Hair Color: Brown
Hair Style: Short, cropped
Eye Color: Blue
Height: 5'8"
Weight: 160–180 lbs
Tattoos: Tribal symbol tattooed on right arm bicep.
Clothing last known wearing: Brown work boots, blue jeans, shirt may have been light blue.
Other: Right Handed; Smokes Marlboro Red Shorts or L & M Reds Shorts



Police Agency: Vinton Police
Department, Det. James Testerman at
(540) 983-0617, or your local police.
Missing Person Case # 2013-11197
NamUs MP # 25330

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missingchristopherdouthat](https://www.facebook.com/missingchristopherdouthat)

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local/stories-and-hope-for-roanokes-
missing-shared-at-candlelight-
vigil/309056481e1ight-vigil/30905648](http://www.wdbj7.com/news/local/stories-and-hope-for-roanokes-missing-shared-at-candlelight-vigil/309056481e1ight-vigil/30905648)