



Join us to make a difference

A non-profit, public benefits organization serving families and friends of homicide victims.



## JAMES AND ESSIE EFFRON

By Their Son, Gary Effron

James Effron was born in Kentucky and moved with his family to San Diego. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and was on his way to becoming a doctor when he had to curtail his studies to help his parents run their store in San Diego, *Effron's Clothing Store*.

During World War II, James served in the Army and became a lieutenant. After James' discharge, he continued working at *Effron's*. No one could imagine then that, many years later, the store would be the place where James and his wife, Essie, would be murdered.

Essie was born in England and her family moved to Los Angeles when she was a teenager. She and James got married when they were in their early twenties and they had two children, Gary (who is now an attorney) and Cheryl (a medical doctor).

Gary and Cheryl describe their years with their parents in glowing terms. James and Essie were a devoted father and mother who dedicated their lives to the well-being of their children. The family was close-knit and loving, with none of the violence or other problems that so often plague families today.

After Gary and Cheryl grew up and moved out of the house, Essie joined her husband working at the store. By then, James' father had died and James and Essie operated the business on their own.

—continued on page 3

Our  
Next Meeting  
will be on  
Sunday,  
February 8,  
2015

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Become a CAH Member!

# 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

We hope you all had a wonderful and happy Holiday Season. We would like you to join us in our resolution for 2015. Our hope and enthusiasm for 2015 is to focus our attention in an effort to create a better environment for our overall public safety and specifically for the families of victims.

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter that we are starting with a very serious situation that has appeared on the horizon. Please read Susan Fisher's letter and join us by writing to the Attorney General of California, Kamala Harris.

For me, the year of 2015 has not started out quite the way I was hoping. One of my very favorite Aunts passed away. She was in her 90's and had led a wonderful and productive life. She always put others first and gave of herself to all those close to her. She left such a beautiful gift for her children, grandchildren and friends; the most amazing memories of a lady who lived life to the fullest. Then, in just a few days after her funeral, I learned of the death of one of my peers. He was someone I had known since high school. We went to "teen club" together. I introduced him to my best friend and they later married.

Over all these years, our families would stay in touch from the earlier years as our babies were born, continuing on as our children grew; getting together for children's special events, graduations and weddings. In the more recent years, we did not see each other as much as we would have liked due to distance and health. Now, with his passing, I am seriously reminded that in just this first month of 2015, I have lost two people of whom, over the last couple of years, I kept saying "I must make a plan and visit"... "we need to get together". However, I did not do that and now it is too late.

My promise to myself today is when the thoughts of special friends and family cross my mind—I will be picking up the phone or sending an email to make a date for coffee, lunch... something to stay in touch. It is so important to let them know they are important to me.

I encourage all of you to stay in touch with those you love and care about. No one can predict the day when that opportunity will be lost forever.

—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>
	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Marilyn Day	<i>Communications</i>
Foothill Printing & Graphics	<i>Design &amp; 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](mailto:vctmsmurdr@aol.com)  
Website: [www.citizensagainsthomicide.org](http://www.citizensagainsthomicide.org)

## *CAH Victim Advocate:*

For advice regarding your individual murder case, 1-209-728-2873  
[cahadvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:cahadvocate@yahoo.com)

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# The Killing of Police Officers

By Kenneth R. Pelfrey, CPA, CGMA

Does anyone remember Detective Melvin Santiago? He was a Jersey City police officer who was shot to death just a month ago, on July 13th. Santiago was white. His killer, Lawrence Campbell, was black. Does anyone recall Obama appearing before national television and calling for justice for Officer Santiago's family? Does anyone recall Eric Holder rushing to Jersey City to see that justice was done

How about Officer Jeffrey Westerfield? He was a Gary, Indiana police officer

who was shot to death on July 6, 2014. Officer Westerfield was white, his killer, Carl LeEllis Blount, Jr. was black. Where was Obama? Where was Holder?

Officer Perry Renn was an Indianapolis, Indiana police officer who was shot to death July 5, 2014, the day before Officer Westerfield was killed. Officer Renn was white. His killer, Major Davis, was black. I don't recall any mention by Obama about the untimely death of Officer Renn. and, I doubt that Eric Holder rushed to Indianapolis to make sure justice was served.

Vermillion Parish Deputy Sheriff Allen Bares was gunned down by two men June 23, 2014 in Louisiana. Deputy Bares was white. His two killers, Quintlan Richard and Baylon Taylor were black. Was Obama outraged? Did Eric Holder rush to Louisiana to make sure that the family of Deputy Bares found justice?

Detective Charles Dinwiddie of the Killen, Texas Police Department was murdered on May 11, 2014 by Marvin Lewis Guy, a black male. Officer Dinwiddie was white. Do you recall seeing anything about that on the news? Certainly, the white citizens of Killen didn't take to the streets to loot and burn businesses. Do you recall any mention of Obama or Holder here?

Then, there is Officer Kevin Jordan of Griffin, Georgia Police Department. He was gunned down on May 31, 2014. Officer Jordan was black, his killer, Michael Bowman was white. This was a white man murdering a black police officer. Where was Jesse Jackson? Where was "The Reverend" al Sharpton? Was there looting and burning on the streets of Griffin, Georgia? No, in fact, we don't recall hearing about this one in the news as well. Why? You can draw your own conclusions.

Over the past 60 days, there have been five reported deaths of police officers by gunshot in the U.S. Of those, four were white officers who were murdered by black men. Blacks complain that white officers treat black men more aggressively on the street. You can draw your own conclusions on that one, as well.

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## James and Essie Effron—cont. from page 1

In 1977, Essie was diagnosed with cancer and had to have abdominal surgery. Not knowing what the future state of her health would be, she and James made a decision to close down the store so that they could spend all of their time together. They then began a going-out-of-business sale.

To help with the sale, an individual named Jose Gonzalez was hired as a salesman. After the store closed for the day on November 21, 1977, Gonzalez and some of his friends forced James and Essie to go down to the basement, where they were tied up and bludgeoned to death.

At that time, *Effron's* had been in business for 54 years. The store had become an institution in San Diego and so had James and Essie, where they were known for their kindness, their integrity and their concern for their customers as individuals. In a matter of minutes, all of that came to an end, as did the

dreams which James and Essie shared of spending their retirement years together.

The viciousness of Jose Gonzalez and his accomplices also deprived Gary and Cheryl of the love and support of their parents and prevented their own children from getting to know their grandparents. For the oldest of those children, who were very young when their grandparents were killed, James and Essie are just distant memories. For Gary and Cheryl's youngest children, who were born after their grandparents were murdered, James and Essie can never be anything more than the photographs they see on the walls.

For all of this, Jose Gonzalez was convicted of the murders and sentenced to life imprisonment, however, he continues to pursue release at each of his parole hearings. Gonzalez's accomplices in this brutal and senseless crime were never brought to trial.

—Gary Effron

## Quote of the Month



“Nothing can erase the pain of losing someone you love. You carry it with you the rest of your life... however long that might be. The best that you can hope for is that over time the wound begins to heal. But no matter how strong we are, no matter how hard we fight, the scar always stays with you”

—“Forever”—Dr. Henry Morgan

*CAH Legislative Consultant, Susan Fisher addressed the following letter to California State Attorney General Kamala Harris. The subject matter—the possibility of either closing or consolidating the Victim Services Unit; a most vital service to all victims of crime. We encourage our California members to share in voicing your concerns to Attorney General Harris at:*

*Attorney General Kamala Harris  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550  
or  
E-Mail: [AttorneyGeneral@doj.ca.gov](mailto:AttorneyGeneral@doj.ca.gov)*

January 22, 2015

Attorney General Kamala Harris;

On behalf of Citizens Against Homicide, I would like to call your attention to a rumor that, if true, could be detrimental to many California crime victims, past, present & future. We have heard that the LAO has been looking into your Victim Services Unit, with an eye to either closing it or consolidating its mission with another agency. This is not a new concept. In fact during the Schwarzenegger administration, stakeholders from victim rights groups in the community, as well as state agencies, worked with the Governor’s Victim Advocate to consider the consolidation of agencies and to make recommendations as to how it might be done. The finding was that, rather than merge the programs and lose many years of expertise, the victim service providers from the various agencies could be co-located with a hub reception area and phones servicing all of them.

At the time of the report, the Victim Services Unit assisted crime victims and the families of murdered victims in tracking the status of criminal cases and appeals, allowing victims and family survivors to exercise their rights to testify or otherwise participate in parole, clemency, and execution proceedings. They also spearheaded the first local Amber Alert Program designed for quick mobilization to rescue children who are abducted from home and their neighborhoods. Since that time this unit has expanded its services to include assisting victims and law enforcement agencies with information about human trafficking and Marsy’s Law as well as providing the “Marsy’s card”, providing court support and escort for victims, assisting with issues related to restitution and the return of property, and assisting with cold cases. They work with underserved communities such as the blind, they provide assistance to victims related to impact statements and sometimes appear on behalf of the victim. They provide all of these services and more with a very small staff and limited funding.

We believe that it would be a tremendous disservice to the many victims who rely on your Victim Services Unit to allow it to be closed or compromised. We hope that you will continue to provide support and practical assistance through the much appreciated work of the Victim Services Unit staff.

Thank you,  
Susan Fisher, Legislative Consultant • Citizens Against Homicide  
369-B Third Street • Box 303, San Rafael, CA. 94901  
(415) 455-5944 • [vctmsmurdr@aol.com](mailto:vctmsmurdr@aol.com)

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# Tim Healy

## Superior Court Judge • Calaveras County

*By Shellie Cervantes*

Citizens Against Homicide has always supported the belief that any changes in the current government/laws affecting victims of crime begins at the local level. This year, our words became action in placing our support behind our friend, Tim Healy (former San Joaquin County Deputy District Attorney). A very proud moment! (See Photo—Cervantes' and Judge Tim Healy after swearing in ceremony)

As stated in the local paper (Calaveras Enterprise)—subheaded “County bucks statewide trend”—this election “was a historic milestone for the

Calaveras court. For decades, Judges Douglas V. Mewhinney and John E. Martin served as the county’s judges, providing a long era of stability. Mewhinney retired in 2012 and Martin retired at the end of 2014. Although Judge Hugh Swift was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to fill Mewhinney’s seat, he served less than a year before losing in the November election to challenger Healy. The vast majority of superior court judges in California are initially appointed by the Governor and then easily elected to new terms, often without challenge. In Calaveras County,

in contrast, both of the new judges (Tim Healy and Grant Barrett) won the office by election initially”.



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## Radio Interview

*By Jan Miller*

I was recently invited to be a guest on Radio Station I350 AM-KSRO, Santa Rosa—hosted by Melanie Morgan and Tony Landucci. They wanted a different opinion with regard to illegal aliens and victim issues. The previous day, they had two young men as guests discussing their stories; one was a legal citizen and the other was not.

The discussion included lifestyle differences. My appearance was initially scheduled to be a 2–3 minute segment, however, we realized specific data was needed for a better understanding of the facts. We reached out to some of our resources and realized the amount of data on this subject was enormous. We read all the data gathered in preparation for the radio interview.

Following are some of the details we provided to listeners during the radio interview:

- In Los Angeles, 95 percent of some 1500 outstanding warrants for homicide are for illegal aliens; and about 67 percent of the 17,000 outstanding fugitive warrants are for illegal aliens.
- There are currently over 400,000 illegal aliens with a criminal background and outstanding deportation orders. Twenty five percent are hard core criminals.
- Today’s federal prison population consists of 25 percent illegal aliens.
- Illegal aliens commit at least 2,158 murders each year—a number that is three times greater than the proportion of the population.
- We are paying nearly \$1 billion a year to house illegal aliens in our prisons.

- Currently, 20,864 inmates in California prisons are illegal aliens (13 percent of the inmate population).

Most people living outside of the Denver, CO area are not aware that in the Fall of 1995, Asian gang members (illegal aliens) as it was learned and reported many years later, kidnapped and gang raped a University of Colorado coed. Initiation rites were involved and they specifically targeted a “white woman”. Bottom line, nobody is keeping track of crimes committed by illegal aliens.

*This information was collected from data provided by public records, police records, Bakersfieldnow.com and usillegalaliens.com/impact.*

# Parole & Clemency Hearings

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

(DATE)

Board of Parole Hearings  
P. O. Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

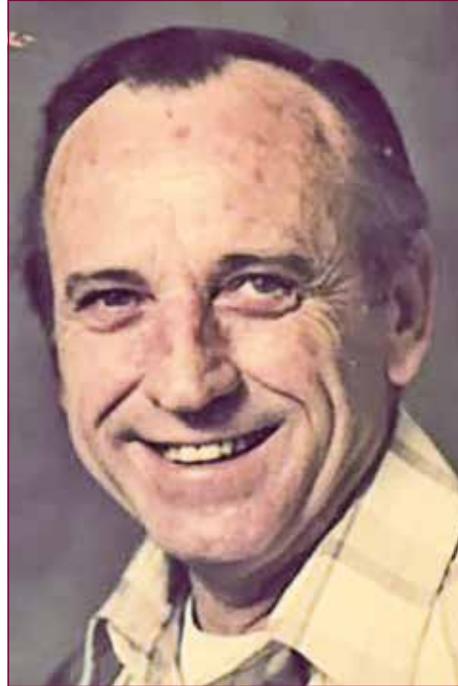
RE: Sergio Perez Gonzalez—  
CDC# E-52514

Parole Hearing Date: March 11, 2015

Dear Chairman  
and Parole Board Member,

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer, Sergio Gonzalez. On December 31, 1986, Gonzalez (and four co-offenders) brutally and savagely stabbed to death Clois “Bob” O’Connor (age 56), head chef of Spenger’s Fish Grotto, a popular restaurant in Berkeley, CA. Gonzalez had been employed at Spenger’s for only a brief time when he became the suspect in stolen product. His employment ended on December 6, 1986. Gonzalez was supervised by Bob O’Connor, to whom his rage was directed.

Gonzalez had become familiar with Mr. O’Connor’s work routine; reporting early each morning and entering from the rear of the restaurant. On the morning of December 31, 1986, this convicted murderer, along with the co-offenders (who were also employed by Spenger’s), hid in trash bins, laying in wait for Bob O’Connor’s arrival. The victim was accosted from all directions. Begging for his life, he was held down



and savagely stabbed over 60 times. Later, these murderers celebrated their victory; “WE GOT HIM”!

Bob O’Connor’s murder stunned the city of Berkeley. All who knew him described him as a good and kind man, very positive and well-liked. His murder was so heinous the local district attorney reassured the family a Premeditated, Laying in Wait, First Degree Murder conviction was imminent, so a jury would not be necessary. However, the judge presiding over the case did not feel the magnitude of this crime and sentenced Gonzalez to 25 Years to Life.

On March 11, 2015, Bob O’Connor’s family and friends will, once again, have to relive the horrific events that

led to his brutal and senseless murder. They will, once again, have to endure the uncertainty of yet another parole hearing. Because of Sergio Gonzalez’s complete disregard for human life and the savage brutality of this crime, justice demands this convicted murderer be denied parole. He planned, recruited help and carried out this horrific crime for revenge. He made a personal decision to execute an innocent man and must continue to accept the consequences of his actions. He must remain in prison so that he can never again harm another innocent human being. Clois “Bob” O’Connor does not get a second chance at life; he is gone forever. Therefore, Sergio Gonzalez does not deserve a second chance or the privilege of freedom.

Please deny parole to convicted murderer, Sergio Perez Gonzalez, for the maximum time allowed by State of California law.

Thank you for your consideration.

(NAME/SIGNATURE)

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

Please send a copy of your letter to the family:

The O’Connor Family  
c/o MDS  
265 Tom Bell Road,  
Murphys, CA 95247

# Parole & Clemency Hearings

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

(DATE)

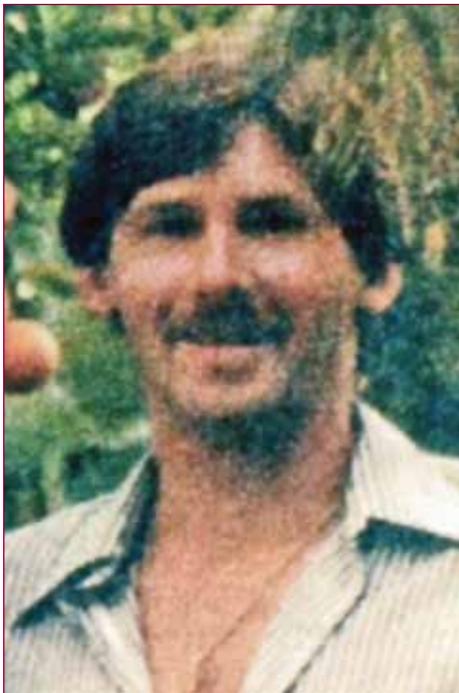
Board of Parole Hearings  
P. O. Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

RE: William Walter Nichols—  
CDC# C-91961

Parole Hearing Date: March 3, 2015

Dear Chairman  
and Parole Board Member,

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer, William Nichols. On September 13, 1983, Nichols brutally murdered two innocent people, Michael Gene McDonald (age 27) and Nichols' ex-girlfriend, Susan Mendrin (age 25). Mike had just met Susan six (6) weeks prior to the murders. The meeting on the 13th was to be the third time Mike had seen her. Nichols waited around the corner from Mike's house until he saw Susan arrive at Mike's front porch and then he drove his pickup across the lawn. As Susan screamed, Mike ran out of the house and was confronted by Nichols brandishing a .357 magnum. Nichols shot Mike six times and then turned the gun on Susan, shooting her twice in the head. This murderer's reign of terror did not end here. He fled the scene and later attempted to kill an innocent father and his daughter (age 4) by ramming into them with his pickup. A good samaritan attempted to reach in the truck for the keys and he, too, barely escaped death when Nichols shot at him two times. Nichols sped away just missing several



pedestrians and then purposely tried to run down two police officers before he was finally stopped.

William Nichols did not have a trial. He was sentenced by a judge to 25 Years to Life for each victim and is serving the sentences concurrently.

On March 3, 2015, Mike McDonald's family will, once again, have to relive the horrific events that led to his brutal and senseless murder. Their lives have never been the same. Because of William Nichols' complete disregard for human life and sense of entitlement, justice demands this convicted murderer be denied parole. He made a personal choice to lay in wait and to execute two innocent young people (and terrorize countless others). He must now accept the consequences of his actions.

Mike McDonald so enjoyed life and had a wonderful future ahead of him. But all his hopes and dreams were shattered on September 13, 1983 by the actions of this murderer. Mike does not get a second chance at life; he is gone forever. Therefore, William Nichols does not deserve a second chance or the privilege of freedom.

Please deny parole to convicted murderer, William Walter Nichols for the maximum time allowed by State of California law.

Thank you for your consideration.

(NAME/SIGNATURE)

*For your confidentiality, do NOT post your return address on the letter; only on the outer envelope*

## 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 \$100, 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.



The UPS Store  
369-B Third Street, Box 303  
San Rafael, CA 94901

## Parole Opposition Signatures Needed!

**Jose Gonzalez—CDC# B-94419**

Parole Hearing Date: February 24, 2015—8:30 a.m.

The family of murder victims James and Essie Effron, has requested our help in keeping the murderer behind bars where he belongs. They have prepared a petition at [Change.org](http://Change.org) and would be most grateful for your support. This petition provides a section for personal comments and reasons for opposition. The following link to that petition is:

<https://www.change.org/p/california-board-of-parole-hearings-petition-to-prevent-release-of-jose-gonzalez-cdc-no-b94419-on-february-24-2015-at-8-30-am-california-medical-facility-vacaville-caof-jose-gonzalez-cdc-no-b94419-on-february-24-2015-at-8-30-am-california-medical-facility-vacaville-caof-jose-gonzalez-cdc-no-b94419-on-february-24-2015-at-8-30-am-california-medical-facility-vacaville-ca>

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## 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 restitucion, 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 restitucion que no se haya reclamado. Para obtener mas informacion, llame gratis al 1-877-256-6877