

Foundation Establishes Memorial Fund

by Gene Smith, LPC



Smith is president of The Loss Prevention Foundation, the not-for-profit organization charged with the responsibility of managing certification. He was formerly president of the industry's largest executive search and consulting firm. During the past fifteen-plus years, Smith has provided career counseling for thousands of industry professionals nationwide. He can be reached at 704-837-2521 or via email at gene.smith@losspreventionfoundation.org.

Luis Jhon prepared for work that Saturday just like he always did. He put on his socks, shoes, pants, and that now famous blue-striped shirt. He kissed his wife, grabbed a bite of food, took a final approving glance in the mirror, and went out the door. The kids were playing as he started up the car, drove five minutes, navigating the traffic into his favorite parking spot at the Margate Walmart on West Atlantic Boulevard in Coral Springs, Florida. There he greeted his fellow employees, looked at all the things he needed to do that day, and at some point on September 22, 2012, he probably sat down at his work station to survey who was in the store.

You've been there, right? Someone walks into a department, no bag in their hands, looking around, and suddenly you get that feeling that something is about to happen. You see them conceal an item, and you call for assistance so continuous observation is maintained. The next thing you know, your heart starts racing, you are running out of the control room, and you find yourself talking to someone you've never met before, trying to convince them they need to stay and have a little chat, as they start wanting to leave more now than ever.

We suggest that those who read this article give \$10 (or more) to the Loss Prevention Memorial fund to help the Luis Jhon family and any future family in our industry who suffers the death of an LP brother or sister while in the line of duty.

The vast majority of us have our quick chat with the subject. We call the police. They come, ask a few questions, and write an appearance ticket. We write up a detailed report about what we saw, heard, and did, then clock out and go home. Most of us get to look back, tell stories about our stops, log the apprehension, and share how we accomplished all of the required steps prior to the stop. This did not happen to Luis Jhon. He did not get to look back nor move on without much thought to the next day. In fact, his family will remember September 22 for the rest of their lives.

Alexandra Jhon didn't have her husband come home that day. The Jhon family was and is still not complete. Luis Jhon died because someone shot him, trying to avoid that inevitable chat about suspected unpaid items...in this case \$16 worth of t-shirts. We sadly wonder "What could be in that store that is worth taking

an innocent life over?" "Why did this happen to Luis and not to me on one of my routine stops?" Those questions may never be answered, but if you are wondering how you can help, then you have focused in on a question that does have an answer.

We can work together to help one of our own. As I write this, Luis's family can't pay the bills because the investigation into his death isn't complete. Here is an opportunity to show the Jhon family that we care. As loss prevention professionals, as an industry, let us demonstrate our hearts and not move on to another day, another stop, without looking back and paying respect.

The Loss Prevention Foundation has established the Loss Prevention Memorial Fund to help the Luis Jhon family pay their necessary bills in this difficult time. Sadly, we know that there will be more hurting families of LP professionals killed doing their jobs, so the memorial fund is established for more. We pray that the "more" is not you or your family, but we know we can't control the future.

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Foundation Board Adds New Members

The Loss Prevention Foundation board of directors held their fall meeting October 24 – 25 at the Trump National Golf Club just north of Charlotte, North Carolina, in conjunction with the *LP Magazine* editorial board and vendor advisory board meetings.

Among the business conducted was the nomination and approval of two new board members:

- **Charles Delgado**, Vice President of Asset Protection, BJ's Wholesale Club and
- **Sonya Hostetler**, Vice President Asset Protection and Safety, Walmart Stores.

Each of these new board members has clearly demonstrated their support for industry-specific loss prevention certification. They have either personally enrolled in the LPC course or support their companies' approving the LPQ and LPC as a preferred requirement for all job postings. It is clear that each of them has a passion for improving our professional perception as an industry and that they feel professional certification is a critical step in achieving that goal.

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Also, reconfirmed for another three-year term were the following individuals:

- **Kevin Valentine**, LPC, Vice President, Internal Audit and Risk Management, Signet Group Services (Sterling Jewelers) and
- **Stan Welch**, LPC, Vice President Loss Prevention, jcpenny.

The Foundation continues to strive for a broad range of industry perspectives so it can serve the loss prevention industry in an informed and comprehensive manner. These leaders have proven that they have tremendous industry vision and have clearly demonstrated their commitment to improving the loss prevention industry through supporting education.

“The Foundation continues to amass strong retail support for its mission—educating the loss prevention industry by providing challenging and convenient resources such as our LPQ and LPC certification programs,” said Frank Johns, LPC, Foundation chairman. “Each of these professionals brings a unique perspective as a result of their extensive expertise in loss prevention and store operations.”

The board also approved Marcus Felson, Ph.D., of Texas State University to a position on the Academic Committee. Dr. Felson had previously served on the committee while he was at Rutgers University.