



Bereaved Parents of the USA

Anne Arundel County Chapter

August, 2005

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

"Do It Your Way"

By Mary Cleckly TCF—Atlanta, GA

I think it's only fair to tell you—there is no "Bereaved Parent of the Month" award, nor an award for the one with the stiffest upper lip. In fact, what they will find if you try to be the most stoic, brave and strong, the one doing too well, is instead of reward, you suffer the consequences.

It is not possible to lose someone as vital as one's child and not have the pain of deep grief. You will find a great many non-bereaved people will encourage you to play the old "If you'll pretend you're okay and it's not really so bad, we'll let you come play with us. But, if you're going to cry and talk about your dead child, then you can't play the game."

This is one time in your life you don't have to meet anybody else's standards. There is nothing more unique about you than the way you express your grief, and you have that right, however it is manifested. So if someone tries to influence you to play the old game, tell them you're not doing well, that your child has died and you're hurting. Let them know it doesn't help you for them to pretend everything is okay. Do whatever it is you need to do to survive this trauma, and don't worry about whether it pleases or displeases other people... Do It YOUR Way.

I believe the above article says what so many newly-bereaved parents should hear; a reassurance that what you have gone through is not something that should force you to conform to the opinions of those who don't understand what you are going through.

Rick Tomaszewski

GOALS OF BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA

- to educate families about the grief process and all its complexities as it applies to the death of a child at any age and from any cause.
- to aid and support those who are suffering such a loss, regardless of race, creed or financial situation.
- to provide a library at each meeting place where members may borrow books with up-to-date information about the grief process.
- to supply the telephone numbers of other bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are able to offer support to other more newly bereaved families.
- to inform and educate members of the helping professions who interact with bereaved parents as to the nature and duration of parent/sibling/grandparent bereavement.
- to provide monthly meetings with sharing groups and occasional informative programs.

The printing and mailing of this newsletter has been donated by Frances Palmer and Ethel and Thomas Cleary in memory of her son and their grandson

Scott Thomas Palmer

and in memory of her cousin and their nephew

O. Steven Cooper



Bereaved Parents of the USA
Anne Arundel County Chapter
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***note - as you can see we have several vacancies... we hope someone will consider helping!**

It is our sincere hope that you will find comfort somewhere in this newsletter. It is our intention to offer you hope in knowing that you are not alone. We encourage you to write about your feelings and to share your feelings with others who understand.

Material to be printed "in memory of" must be sent to the editor 6-8 weeks in advance of the newsletter in which you wish the item to be printed.

September submissions are due by Aug 12th.

Library:

Our lending library is available to help you understand and deal with your grief. Most of our materials have been donated in memory of a child. When you have finished with them, please return them at our monthly meeting or mail them to the post office box listed above. Thank you.



Refreshments at our monthly meetings:

A sign-up sheet is on the refreshment table at the meeting. Drinks, ice, and paper products are provided by the chapter. For information, contact Dave Alexander at 410-544-3634



MEETING INFORMATION

Next meeting: September 1, 2005

Doors open at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

(Meetings usually held on first Thursday of month)

Calvary United Methodist Church

301 Rowe Blvd., Annapolis

Please park in the lot behind the church

Please note: Our August 4th meeting will be held in a different room. Instead of meeting on the lower level, in the fellowship hall, we will be meeting on the **2nd floor in room 203, the Music Room**. You can reach this room by the stairway at the back of the main lobby on the first floor, or by the elevator or stairway in the west hallway.

TELEPHONE FRIENDS:

Sometimes we feel the need to talk to someone who understands the pain we feel and will listen to us. When you have questions to ask, a need to talk, or have a difficult day, these people welcome your call.

Marie Dyke, single parent, daughter, 17, only child, car accident.

Janet Tyler, daughter, 5 and brother, 33, car accident. 410-969-7597

Tia Stinnett, miscarriages and infant death. 410-360-1341

Sandy Platts, infant death. 410-721-6457

ZIP CODE CHANGES:

If you are one of the ones in the Annapolis and Arnold areas whose zip code is changing, please call Dave Alexander at 410-544-3634 or send him an email at dralex@sdaalex.com with your new zip code so we can update our mailing list.

OTHER RESOURCES:

- * **Bereaved Parents of the USA, (BPUSA)**
National contact number (708-748-7866)
- * **Stephanie Roper Committee, for victims of violent crime, Anne Arundel County chapter**
representative is James Donnelly
(410-544-1473).
- * **Survivors of Suicide Group (SOS)**
meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., at Severna Park United Methodist Church, 731 Benfield Road, Severna Park (410-987-2129).

CHAPTER NEWS AND NOTES

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE HELP US SAVE ON PRINTING AND POSTAGE

If you *move*, please let us know your new address. If you *don't want* to receive our newsletter any more, please let us know. If you would rather read the newsletter on our website, please let us know, and send us your email address, and we will send you a reminder each month when the newsletter is put on the website. (The newsletter is loaded on the website as soon as it has been produced — about 10 days before it is delivered in the mail.)

You can contact us by mail at our address at PO Box 6280, Annapolis, MD 21401-0280 or by sending us an email at ChapterLeader@sdalex.org.

It costs us over 50¢ per copy to print and mail the newsletter. The Postal Service will not forward the newsletter since it is sent by Bulk Mail. However, for 37¢ a copy they will return any non-deliverable copies which are sent to an old address. That means we have spent 87¢ to find out someone has moved. Not much on a case by case basis, but it adds up. So please take a moment before you move or if you decide you no longer want to receive the newsletter, and let us know.

THANK YOU!

Chapter Website

To place your child's name on our website, email Dave Alexander (dralex@sdalex.com), or send him a note, (PO box 6280, Annapolis, MD 21401). Include your name, your child's name as you would like it to appear, and your child's date of birth and date of death.

To have a picture of your child on the website, email a digital file with the picture or send a printed picture to Dave. (Photos will be returned.) If you have any questions, please call Dave at 410-544-3634.

Many of you who receive our **newsletter** were referred by a friend, physician, or clergy. You may have never attended a meeting. In this case, it is likely that your child's name does not appear in our **monthly list of "Our Children Remembered"**. This is because we require your permission to do so. If you would like your child's name added, please send a note to our post office box. List your child's name, your name(s), and the dates of your child's birth and death. Please allow 6 weeks to be sure it arrives in time for the appropriate month.

MEETING TOPICS—ANNAPOLIS

August 4: Coping Strategies for Bereaved Parents

The Center for Infant and Child Loss works with Maryland families and communities facing the sudden unexpected death of their infant or child as they learn to live with their loss. The Center's Director, Donna Becker, will join us to talk about Coping Strategies for bereaved parents – strategies that she has encountered, learned about, and encouraged through her many years of work with the Center and grieving families.

September 1: Helping Our Surviving Children

The surviving children in our families often have issues of their own. These issues can be vastly different depending on the age of the surviving child, his/her location in the order of the family, etc. Alice Baij, a bereavement counselor with Heartland Hospice and a bereaved sibling, will talk about her experience in dealing with the issues faced by the siblings of deceased children, and offer ideas on how we might help them

EASTERN SHORE BEREAVED PARENTS GROUP

The Queen Anne's County Bereaved Parents Group meets on the *First Wednesday of each month*. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 3rd at 7:00 pm. The Group meets at the *Calvary United Methodist Church in Queenstown*. The Church is located at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and Steamboat Lane in Queenstown.

All are welcome to come. Please pass the word to other bereaved parents. For more information, contact Joan Gray at 410-827-7471 or Dave Alexander at 410-544-3634 or send an email message to QueenstownGroup@sdalex.org

Sponsor Our Monthly Newsletter or Website

You can help underwrite the costs of our newsletter or our website by sponsoring a monthly issue of the newsletter or by sponsoring a month of the website. To sponsor either one, contact Dave Alexander (dralex@sdalex.com) Newsletter printing costs \$150 and mailing is \$50 each month. Website sponsorship costs \$25.00 each month.

Donations

Donations may be made to offset the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, the Chapter website, the annual Remembrance Service, the annual Conference of Hope and Healing, and books and other materials for the Chapter Library.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations made in the last month:

Ken Smith in memory of his niece Tracy Fotino
Dorothy & Norm Heincelman in memory of their granddaughters Cortney Belt and Traci Heincelman
Rita Whitby in memory of her sons David W. Whitby,
Daniel A. "Danny" Whitby, and Albert W. "Wally" Whitby
Margaret Haines through United Way, in memory of her son Matthew Gordon Haines
Chris Kunkel through United Way, in memory of his son Jason T. Easter

Memory Walk

We are in the initial stages of planning for the Chapter's annual Memory Walk in memory of our children who have died too soon. This year it is scheduled for Saturday, October 1st at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. There are many opportunities to help in the planning and implementation of the walk. The following is a list of the many tasks, both big and little, that go into putting on this event. If you would like to help and take on or work with others on any of these tasks, please give Barbara Bessling a call at 410-761-9017.

Memory Walk Tasks:

- Advertising/PR
- Walk directions and signs
- Tree dedication
- Refreshments, including:
coffee, water/juice, bagels/donuts, fruit, tablecloths, napkins, coolers, ice
- Flyers/notices
- Decorations
- Opening & closing ceremonies
- Registration table
- Butterfly tags and markers



In Search Of: *Annual Conference Leader*

Pat Schultz, who has led the planning and running of our annual conference for many years, has asked that we recruit a new Conference Leader. Pat has offered to work closely with the new leader and to continue to handle many of the tasks that go into this effort. However, Pat strongly feels that for the conference to continue to grow and meet the needs of bereaved parents and families, we need to bring new leadership in with fresh perspectives and ideas.

The Conference Leader is supported by many other members who handle the myriad efforts that go into this event. The role of Conference Leader has also been performed successfully in the past by Co-Leaders.

If you are interested in exploring taking on this role, please give Pat a call on 410-255-7760 or Dave Alexander on 410-544-3634



SIBLING PAGE



Joel

I have one less brother
I have one less friend
I have one more broken heart
That this time, time won't mend.

Another painful memory
That nothing can erase.
Another day I somehow got through
Even though I'll never again see his face.

The sun came up this morning,
But it doesn't seem as bright
Losing him the way I did
It's as if the world lost some light.

It's just so damn final
And so without hope.
I wonder why do I go on?
How do I still cope?

I wonder why it had to happen
And I wonder if he's free.
I wonder why I couldn't help him
So he'd still be here with me.

By Sherry Looney, In memory of her brother,
Joel Younce, 7/9/72 - 4/16/94, died by suicide
Lovingly lifted from the TCF Brandywine Hundred Chapter Newsletter

Get Well Soon Poem

I know our loss is very great
but I'm sure many people can relate
I know it's hard to say good-bye
don't hold back your tears!
It's ok to cry
Just hold my hand and we will
stand up high
We will gather strength
from one another
Hugging and holding each other
we will find each other and together
We will be once again, a family

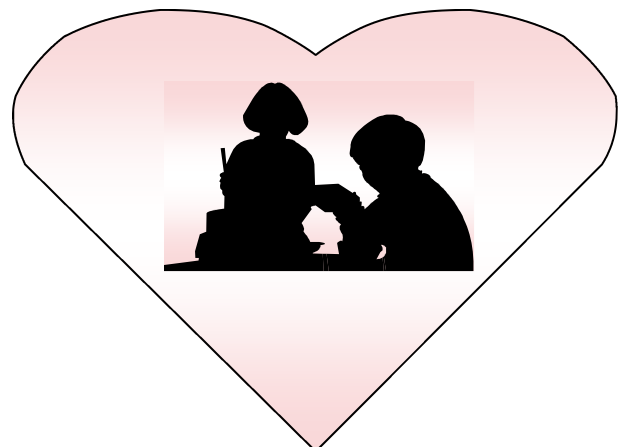
By Alyssa Flora, age 13, BP USA, Coeur d' Alene, ID
In memory of her brother, Bryson, age 9

Lament



losing a sibling is like
losing sight
a certain vision is
gone; a certain hope
born in childhood has
ended; you're left to
live only till the end
there is an eternal
fluidity that is gone
forever; whereas
before all you knew
was for always
there is a sadness that
remains constant in the
knowledge that
death brought
when your sibling is gone

Ann Ley, San Francisco, CA
In memory of her adult brother
From BP USA, Coeur d' Alene, ID Newsletter



OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

Please remember the following families this month.

Elizabeth Sinton Archard
Daughter of Barbara Hale
September 25, 1964 - August 27, 1978

Cortney Michele Belt
Daughter of John and Terre Belt
Granddaughter of Dorothy and Norm Heincelman
August 26, 1979 - July 9, 1996

Traci Lynn Boone
Daughter of Bonita Boone-Adamecz
September 17, 1964 - August 17, 1986

Paul J. Burash
Son of Robert and Sandra Burash
January 18, 1972 - August 8, 1992

David Norton Cann
Son of Ruth Cann
August 21, 1956 - February 4, 2004

Mary Kathleen Carmody
Daughter of Mary Carmody
August 24, 1958 - September 17, 1998

William Frederick Carter Jr.
Son of Dot Carter
April 24, 1959 - August 16, 1992

Alexandra "Allie" Ann Denevan
Daughter of Gregory J. Denevan
September 18, 1985 - August 21, 2002

Kathleen "Tink" Yvette Denevan
Daughter of Gregory J. Denevan
August 10, 1970 - May 13, 1971

Isaac Paul Elliott
Son of Debbie and Paul Elliott
August 24, 1979 - April 27, 2003

Andrew George Eser
Son of Karl and Linda Eser
August 12, 1982 - October 10, 2000

Barbara Jean Fennessey
Daughter of Ray and Catherine Fennessey
August 30, 1960 - August 4, 1989

R. Daniel Ferrer
Son of Anna Ferrer Severn
May 25, 1972 - August 26, 1986

Donald R. Forbes III
Son of Janet Hall
August 3, 1975 - April 12, 2002

Tracy Ann Fotino
Daughter of Martha Murphy
Niece of Kenneth Smith
May 14, 1971 - August 25, 2000



Craig Robert Galyon
Son of Susan Galyon-Pyle
August 23, 1979 - October 11, 2001

Kimberly Judith Gardner
Daughter of Joan F. Gardner
February 6, 1968 - August 16, 1992

Andrew Thomas "Drew" Gawthrop
Son of Brenda Gawthrop
May 25, 1990 - August 12, 2002

Michael G. Hartline
Son of Kathleen Hartline
August 27, 1975 - August 16, 2001

Todd Stafford Henschen
Son of Linda Stafford
May 16, 1970 - August 31, 1988

Colin David Humphrey
Son of Robert and Julie Humphrey
August 23, 1998 - June 16, 2001

Kurt Willard Johnson
Son of Willard and Marian Johnson
December 9, 1963 - August 11, 2003

Roger Wallace Johnson
Son of Shirley and Walter Johnson
Brother of Jeanne Jones
July 10, 1947 - August 23, 1986

Jeremy Scott Jones
Son of LeRoy and Jeanne Jones
August 4, 1976 - August 21, 1986

Doray Delente Jones
Son of Margie Johnson
November 13, 1985 - August 20, 2004

Chloe Victoria Kimbrell
Daughter of Stephanie and Ben Kimbrell
August 18, 2004 - November 7, 2004

Deneen Leigh Lins
Daughter of Jack and Audrey Bagby
June 21, 1957 - August 6, 1987

Stephen Aaron Luck
Son of Paul and Charlette Koehler
August 2, 1966 - May 27, 1985

Eric Eugene Maier
Son of Gene and Marlen Maier
August 8, 1961 - July 5, 1984

James Allen McGrady
Son of David and Shirley McGrady
January 15, 1968 - August 10, 1987



OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED (continued)

Brian Richard Melcher
Son of Norma and Donald Melcher
Brother of Cheryl Lewis
August 30, 1960 - June 14, 2002

Benjamin Mogil
Son of Allyn and Kate Mogil
August 12, 2002 - August 12, 2002

Julia Lyn Moore
Daughter of Dorothy Becker
August 22, 1973 - June 19, 2002

Ryan John Mulloy
Son of John and Suzanne Mulloy
August 19, 1975 - August 12, 1993

Michael Henry O'Malley
Son of Margie and John O'Malley
August 25, 1971 - December 7, 1991

Scott Thomas Palmer
Son of Frances Palmer
Grandson of Thomas and Ethel Cleary
August 3, 1983 - September 1, 1996

Arthur Gordon Phillips
Son of Cheryl Alderdice
August 24, 1983 - November 26, 1999

James Ryan Rohrbaugh
Son of Doug and Donna Rohrbaugh
August 30, 1983 - September 5, 1983

Gary Lee Ryon Jr.
Son of Betty Ryon
August 24, 1989 - December 1, 2002

Donald "Donnie" L. Severe Jr.
Son of Chuck and Issy Mattis
August 23, 1956 - December 13, 1984

Luther "Scamp" Stowe II
Son of Agnes and Luther Stowe
August 27, 1963 - November 12, 2001

Scott Talbott
Son of Deb and Stan Talbott
July 19, 1989 - August 3, 2003

Michelle Marie Tewey
Daughter of Michael and Marie Tewey
August 26, 1980 - November 15, 1998

Brittany Nicole Tyler
Daughter of Danny and Janet Tyler
October 12, 1986 - August 23, 1992

Daniel A. "Danny" Whitby
Son of Rita and Albert Whitby
January 10, 1959 - August 15, 1974

Andrew Wilcox
Son of Peter and Margaret Wilcox
August 30, 1985 - August 30, 1985

Roy James "Jay" Wyrick
Son of Patricia Wyrick
August 8, 1962 - January 10, 2002

Ron Zseltvay Jr.
Son of Ron and Jeanie Zseltvay
August 24, 1979 - November 16, 1999



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: AUGUST 7TH 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

For the last twenty years, the Anne Arundel County Chapter of Bereaved Parents of the USA (The Compassionate Friends of MD, Inc.) has been helping families grieving the death of a child. We are planning a twentieth-anniversary celebration and family picnic for the afternoon of August 7th.

We will have swimming (so bring your bathing suit and a towel), badminton, volleyball, croquet, horseshoes, and all those kinds of picnic things. The Chapter will provide hamburgers and hot-dogs, sodas, ice, and tableware. Come join this leisurely picnic and celebration. All you need to bring is your family and a side dish or dessert.



Date: Sunday, August 7th – Rain or Shine

Time: 2:00 p.m. to

Where: The Bealls' home

105 Dales Way

Pasadena, MD 21122

Please let us know if you are coming. Call Janet Tyler at 410-969-7597
or send an email at Picnic@sdalex.org.

The Roller Coaster Ride—Nine Years and Counting

Nine years. It seems like a life time – it seems like yesterday. A life time since I held you in my arms. Yesterday, when I let the still intense pain of your death wash over me.

There are “grief triggers” everywhere this time of year. They’re impossible to avoid. The fireworks, the hot muggy days, the beach, the crabs, the picnics, the family gatherings. The black anniversary of your passing...the hopeful celebration of your birthday.

Nine years. One hundred eight months. Three thousand two hundred eighty five days. This never-ending grief journey has been quite the roller coaster ride!

In the beginning – and only the passage of a lot of time has allowed me to observe that there was a beginning that is far different than the present -- GRIEF had control of the ride; I was merely an unwilling passenger.

A passenger who felt totally out of control. The “grief triggers” then were frequent, unexpected, and debilitating. The constant, unwanted replaying of the most horrible day of my life and the days after made me question my very sanity. The incessant but necessary rediscovering of your death day after day literally brought me to my knees time and again. The forever unfulfilled need I had to care for you left me feeling mostly empty and guilty.

EVERYTHING was different. Most of life seemed like an out-of-body experience. No more shopping. No more make-up. No radio. Only sports on TV. No reading of novels. No hurrying anywhere. No thinking ahead, no more planning. No parties. No giggling. No idle chatter. Only new restaurants. Many fewer friends. Lots and lots of tears. Overwhelming feelings of guilt, isolation, and loneliness. All the “first’s” without you.

And then somewhere along one of the extended straight stretches of the roller coaster ride, I somehow summoned the strength to force GRIEF to give up the controls of the ride. And, while I will never be able to get off the ride, I more often than not have my hands on the controls these days. I’m actually learning how to incorporate your death into my life.

I don’t have to let go. I don’t have to move on. I don’t have to have closure. I just have to remain on the ride, stay in control as much as I can, and find meaning in the ride.

Grief books have helped. They have provided affirmation, reassurance, and hope. A local bereaved parents’ support group has served as an incredible force, drawing me through death to life again. My family has walked beside me, has held me up, and has allowed me to hold them up. My friends have given much and expected little.

I have learned that I have to walk through the pain and feel all of it, that I cannot walk around it. I am no longer embarrassed by

my tears, and I have finally found the strength to do what I need to do to live. I am looking for and finding reasons to get up every morning.

Including you in a meaningful way in all that I can – from holiday gift giving to birthday celebrations to story telling -- has also helped me to cope. I was forced to say good-bye to your physical body, but I will never bury your memory or my love for you.

I’m also finding comfort in “seeing” you in everything beautiful. I take you everywhere...to the ocean to listen to the waves pounding on the shore and to the peaceful quiet of the deep woods. You are always with me, as I hold you in my heart. Sandy Goodman captured it well:

*“When the sun sits down on the mountains
And the clouds turn purple and pink
And golden rays send fingers out to touch me,
I stop breathing and inhale with my heart.
Because I know that along those glittering strands of light
Lies my connection to you.”*

So, birthday girl, you can see that it has been quite the ride these past nine years. I have come to accept that we will never share the life I dreamed of, but I also have come to know that you are very much alive to me and very much a part of me. Ours was an incredible bond to break, and I hope that you can still feel the depth of my never-ending love for you. Once your mother, always your mother.

Here’s hoping there are fireworks for your birthday. As always, please hug Traci. I love and miss her dearly, too. Happy 26th. I’ll be looking skyward on your birthday.

Lovingly written by Terre Belt
Anne Arundel County, MD Chapter of Bereaved Parents of USA



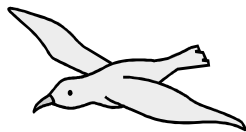
Cortney Michele Belt

To My Husband



Your tears flow within your heart,
Mine flow down my cheeks.
Your anger lies with thought and movements,
Mine gallops forward for all to see.
Your despair shows in your now dull eyes,
Mine shows in line after written line.
You grieve over the death of your son,
I grieve over the death of my baby.
But we're still the same, still one,
Only we grieve at different times
Over different memories
And at different lengths.
Yet we both realize
The death of our child.

By Pam Burden, TCF Augusta, GA
Lovingly lifted from the May/June 1998 Atlanta Newsletter



Remembrance

I see your smile in the brightness of the summer sun.
A gentle breeze is the touch of your hand on mine.
A wave breaks softly on the shore, and I hear you whisper,
"Remember me."

A winged bird begins its flight into the distant sky.
The sound of children's laughter fills the air,
The evening stars become your eyes,
And I reply -
"You are ever near."

By Priscilla D. Kenney, Kennebunk, Maine
Kansas City TCF Newsletter, June 2000



If They Only Knew

If only they knew that when I speak of him, I am not being morbid, I am not denying his death, I am proclaiming his life. I am learning to live with his absence. For twenty-six years he was a part of my life, born, nurtured, molded and loved - this cannot be put aside to please those who are uncomfortable with my grief.

If only they knew that when I sit quietly, apparently content with my own company, I am not self indulgently unhappy, dwelling on things which cannot be changed; I am with him. I am seeing his face, hearing his voice, remembering his laughter, recalling his excitement and joy in life. Please allow me this time with him, as I do not begrudge you your time with your children.

If only they knew that when I sometimes weep quietly, I do not cry in self pity for what I have lost. I weep for what he has lost, for the life he loved, for the music which filled his very being, and for all he still longed to hear, for the poetry which moved him to tears, for the beauty about him that daily fed his soul, for the exhilaration and excitement of flying the skies, of searching for his God in the vast space of the universe. For all that he loved and lost, I cry.

If only they knew the feeling of deep grief, the emptiness, the dull pain, the endlessness of death. If only they understood the insanity of the platitudes so freely spoken - that "time heals" that "you'll get over it", that "it was for the best", that "God takes only the best", and realize that these are more an insult than a comfort, that the warm and compassionate touch of another means so much more.

If only they knew that we will not find true peace and tranquility until we are prepared to try to stand in the shoes of others. We will not be understood until we learn to understand compassionately, and we will not be heard until we learn to listen with hearts as well as minds.

By Jan McNess, TCF, Victoria, Australia

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL



Bereaved Parents of the USA CREDO

We are the parents whose children have died. We are the grandparents who have buried grandchildren. We are the siblings whose brothers and sisters no longer walk with us through life. We come together as Bereaved Parents of the USA to provide a haven where all bereaved families can meet and share our long and arduous grief journeys. We attend monthly gatherings whenever we can and for as long as we believe necessary. We share our fears, confusion, anger, guilt, frustrations, emptiness and feelings of hopelessness so that hope can be found anew. As we accept, support, comfort, and encourage each other, we demonstrate to each other that survival is possible. Together we celebrate the lives of our children, share the joys and triumphs as well as the love that will never fade. Together we learn how little it matters where we live, what our color or our affluence is or what faith we uphold as we confront the tragedies of our children's deaths. Together, strengthened by the bonds we forge at our gatherings, we offer what we have learned to each other and to every more recently bereaved family. We are the Bereaved Parents of the USA.

We welcome you.