



# Bereaved Parents of the USA

## Anne Arundel County Chapter

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*Death leaves a heartache no one can heal: Love leaves a memory no one can steal.*

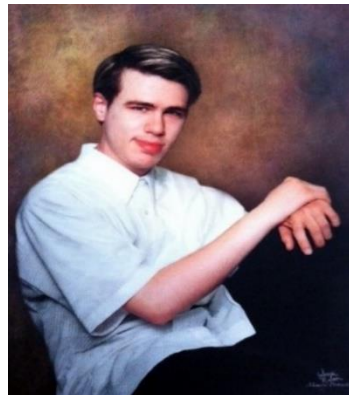
**John T. "Tommy" McCormick**  
**March 5 1981 - August 9, 2016**



"As time goes on, our love for you grows stronger. We cannot count the number of times in 24 hours when you pop up in our minds. We love and miss you terribly, and we will continue to live our lives to make you proud. Love, Mom and Dad."

Miss you Boo  
 Love,  
 Mom, Dad, Seyed and Hayden

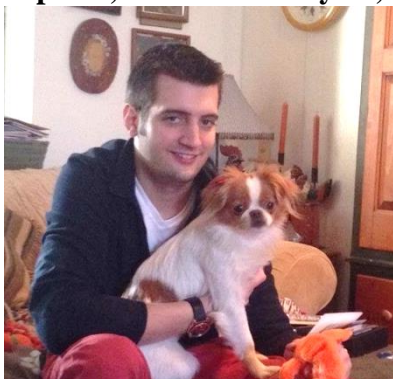
**William Mizra Khadem**  
**October 24, 1984 - April 6, 2012**



Wonderful  
 Intelligent  
 Loving  
 Laughing  
 Innocent  
 Amazing  
 Miracle

**Our William**

**Matthew Ryan Stangle**  
**April 5, 1989 – January 14, 2017**



As long as we live  
 You will live.  
 As long as we live  
 You will be remembered.  
 As long as we live  
 You will be loved.

Happy Birthday to our Beautiful Boy!  
 We love you and miss you. You are in our hearts forever.  
 Love, Mom, Dad and Heather

**Wendy Jean Bolly**  
**April 6, 1977 - October 11, 2002**



"To live in hearts we leave behind, is NOT to die" by Thomas Campbell

Wendy, you are in our hearts & minds always-  
we miss you dearly.

Love, Mom, Dad, Bri, Anne, Andrew(you'd love this little guy)



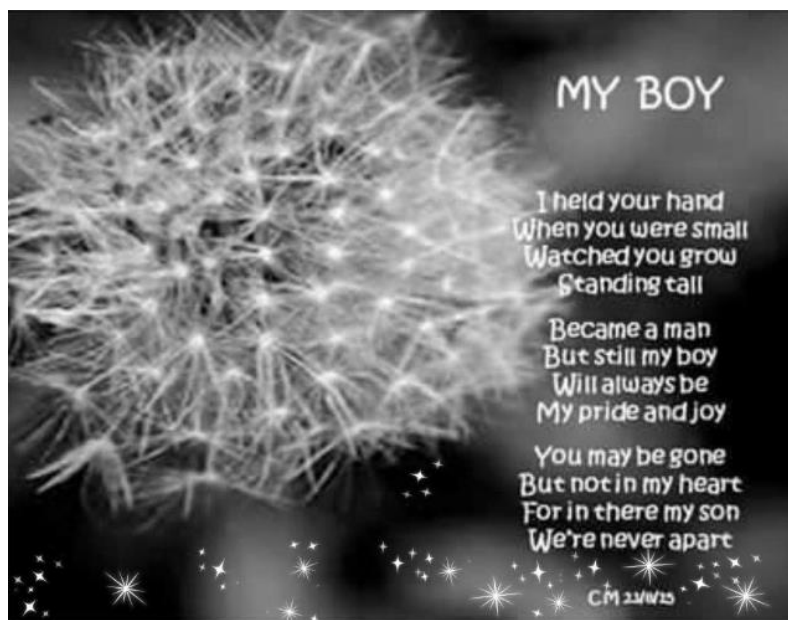
## **Our Chapter Column**

**Our Chapter Column** is where you will find articles....poems...lyrics...thoughts,  
submitted by our Chapter members, in memory of their loved ones.

Please consider submitting something to be printed in this column to:

[chapterleaderaacountymd@gmail.com](mailto:chapterleaderaacountymd@gmail.com), or mail to PO Box 6280, Annapolis, MD 21401.

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Submitted by Elvira and Tom McCormick, in memory of Tommy.

## "I Wish"

**I wish** I'd held you longer, even though forever would not have been long enough.  
**I wish** I'd hugged you more. Again, forever would not have been long enough.  
**I wish** I'd taken more pictures of you. I wish I'd taken more pictures of us together.  
**I wish** I'd made a video of every moment of your life.  
**I wish** I had played with you more.  
**I wish** I'd let you stay up longer on school nights and weekends.  
**I wish** I'd taken you to the Smithsonian more often.  
**I wish** I'd let you eat candy until your tummy was full and your teeth rotted out.  
**I wish** I'd read you more books. You were so enamored of books.  
**I wish** I'd taken you to Fort Sumpter when you were doing your research on the importance of the Navy in the Civil war.

### ...I wish so many things...

**I'm glad** I took you to the Naval Historical yard when you were supposed to be in school. They were so impressed with you they gave you a book they reserved only for visiting dignitaries.  
**I'm glad** I took you to the Naval Academy museum where Dr. Cheevers, the museum curator, was also so impressed with you that he gave you a personal lecture. Only again, given to visiting dignitaries.  
**I'm glad** I took you to Fort Fisher, the last standing port of the Confederate navy and let you stay as long as you wanted.  
**I'm glad** Daddy and I took you to the Battleship North Carolina and bought everything I thought you'd like. I bought so many things I thought my hands would fall off carrying them. It made both you and me so happy. Daddy, not so much, lol.  
**I'm glad** I took you to that house that doubled as a Civil war hospital way out in the middle of nowhere. Where - though the surgeon was a Confederate, he healed wounded soldiers both Confederate and Union.  
**I'm glad** I encouraged you to follow wherever your heart and mind led you.  
**I'm glad** I drove you to Reisterstown, 45 minutes away, just to get you your favorite Italian ice.  
**I'm glad** I got you that baby doll, even though you were a boy and boys weren't supposed to like dolls.  
**I'm glad** I got you all those stuffed animals even though you were a grown man. Carnegie Mellon professor, Randy Pausch, of "The Last Lecture" fame, had lots of stuffed animals, including a huge teddy bear and he was 47 years old. So, why shouldn't you have one, too?

One of the things **I am most thankful for** is that I lifted myself off the couch just to give my precious, little you, 12 hugs the day you left me and went to Heaven.  
 But most of all, **I'm glad** I got to have you those precious 27 years.

**I wondered** if I'd had you less if I would have been so grateful. What if I had lost you during that accident when you were 20, Would I still have been as grateful? I decided I would. I would have been very grateful.  
**I wondered** if I had lost you in that other accident when you were 5. Would I still be as thankful? I decided that my life with you was so beautiful that even if I'd only had you for five short years, I would still thank God for every minute.  
**I wondered** if I had lost you when you were two and the waves almost washed you away in the tide and I had barely the chance to know you, if I would have been grateful for those few 800 days. I decided I would have gotten on my knees and thanked God for every single one.  
**I wondered** if I would have been thankful had I had a miscarriage and lost you even before I got to see the chubby cheeks of your sweet, cherubic face. I decided that I would have been eternally thankful that I had even gotten to feel the quickening of your fetus in my womb, even if I hadn't the delight of feeling you kick. Experiencing your little, butterfly kicks while you were in my belly were some of my greatest joys.

**I decided** that in any way, for any time I could have you, I would still be the "most blessed person in the world".  
 You were - and are-the joy of my existence.

**I still wish** there were so many things more I could have done for and with you, but I am also so thankful: I got to have you.  
**I got to have you. For that, I am forever and immeasurably grateful.**



*Written in loving memory of my most cherished William.*

*Linda Khadem*

♥William's Mom♥

Anne Arundel County Chapter BPUSA



## The Spirit Carries On

By Lary Doe, in memory of his daughter, Abigail  
Presented at the 2017 Service of Remembrance  
Anne Arundel County Chapter, BPUSA

I didn't want to write this. I don't want to be standing up here right now reading it. In a different world, I'd be home arguing about why we're watching the Patriots game and not Frozen for the 12<sup>th</sup> time. When I sat in the chair hearing "you're going to be a father", I never once considered this situation. Now sometimes it consumes my thoughts.

The big questions were supposed to be - Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where do we go when we die? Now they're - What lay before and what lies ahead? And is anything certain in life?

When I sat down and started to have the anxiety attack that came with thinking about how I could possibly capture the right words to express my emotions, I started to realize I needed to see things through my daughter's eyes. That this wasn't about me but about her. One of those few opportunities we get in life to just speak about our kids without the rest of the world inwardly cringing at the thought of us breaking down for a moment.

There are a set of lyrics that have stayed in my mind throughout the last 3 years, 9 months, 21 days and 22 hours - "If I die tomorrow I'll be alright because I believe that after we're gone, the spirit carries on."

Since that day, walking into my first meeting about a month after Abby passed away, I've learned a lot about my life. Some of it was how I dealt with death on a personal level, mostly making absurd jokes that might have had no place because it kept my anger at bay. But more importantly I learned about the children of all the other people in the room with me.

The foods they ate, the things that they did. The good and the bad. I've held on to those stories and made them a part of my own life. So when I pass the horse farm near my house I remember. When I go for a run, I think about how people have joked about their kids sporting events. The ashes of a child strapped to a bike. Stones in a garden. Blankets, dolls, quilts made from clothing left behind.

Later Paul and Bob are going to drag out the pictures that might have embarrassed our kids. And when we gather to hug a friend or just nod at someone across the room, our kids are going to be there.

The one thought that I cling to is that maybe there is a room where our kids are now gathered watching us like we're watching them.

You want to talk economics, I'm your guy. I have those answers. But I'm still unsure of the questions I listed before.

What lies ahead?

The answer for me lays in the following:

"All that I take with me, is all you've left behind. We're sharing one eternity. Living in two minds. Linked by an endless thread, impossible to break."

The song ends with the following

"Move on be brave, don't weep at my grave because I am no longer here. But please never let your memories of me disappear."

For as long as I live, those memories of Abby don't disappear. And neither do those of your children.

In that sense their spirit will always carry on.

Lyrics from "The Spirit Carries On" sung by Dream Theater <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J6PPkKBXoU>

## *The Dream*

By Jane Schindler, in memory of her daughter Emily  
Anne Arundel County Chapter, BPUSA

I have been longing for your presence,

But I am unable to feel you....

And then came the dream

There you are sitting in the chair, your blond hair and brilliant smile as clear as always

The joy I feel upon seeing you is indescribable

It is the joy I have been missing all these years

All I could say was "I am so happy to see you"

And you said "But Mom I have always been here" as if confused by my joy at seeing you

I asked if you remembered the accident, but you did not say another word and it did not matter

It was those few words that matter the most and the meaning those words hold that are most important

You are right my dear, you have always been here.

It is what I hold onto

It is what I must remember,

It is something we all need to remember, our loved ones have always been here!

Sometimes we just need our dreams to remind us of that.



## *Anniversaries and Birthdays....*

### Remember When They Were Happy?

By Fran Morgan  
Deer Park, New York

"I woke up crying in the middle of the night. *Sobbing!*" The bereaved mother was anticipating the ninth anniversary of her son's death the following week. I had spoken with her the day before; she hadn't mentioned it. She *did* mention that she didn't feel well and was too sick to even go to Sunday Mass.

Subconsciously, in our sleep, our greatest heartache predominates at the anniversary time of the death. We discussed how, on awakening in the days before "the day," we look outside and see the *exact* same weather. Nature, in all its wondrous glory, can plummet our emotions when our memory is triggered. In my friend's journey of grief, she has done "all the right things." She has cried, cried, and cried --- she has talked, talked and talked about her son --- and prayed, prayed and prayed. Yesterday, this lady who seems to be a pillar of strength all through the year, spent the day in bed. "Allergies," she said.

At other times, she goes regularly to the cemetery, places flowers and seasonal remembrances on her boy's grave, speaks of him in conversations with friends and family, comforts other bereaved parents, has an attitude of gratitude for her husband, family, home and friends. She can laugh and has joy in her life. She did her grief work in the first year and in the years that followed. She always allows herself to cry, to let the pain of missing him have its way with her.

What is it about the anniversaries and birthdays of our children that makes us go two steps back (or 222 steps back!). Why do we get plunged back to that worst time of our lives? Often, physically our bodies give out. Sometimes, something seems to happen to our immune system

— we catch cold — virus—flu — have accidents. We are on edge and not as patient. Nothing soothes us.

Often, it is not the actual anniversary or birthday that brings the renewed sorrow, it can be the time before or the time after. "Next Thursday" begins the sad mantra. Our mental calendar revolves around the time we heard our worst news, the wake, the funeral, the burial. The clock in our brain goes back to the time our hearts broke with agony, and stops at that point in time. Each excruciating second is re-lived. We become fragile, vulnerable, almost helpless as we lose our confidence in anything that resembles recovery.

This August, it will be twenty-eight years for my husband and me since our precious son Peter died. Most of the time I feel that God, His love, the love of family and friends, and time have healed us. But, as sure as death and taxes, I know that when summer begins there will be times when I will feel the sun on my face and wonder how it can shine when Peter is gone. August's heat will blanket me once again with suffocating remembrances of the day when our emotional earthquake hit....when the sad eyes of loved ones told the irrevocable news. Film clips in my mind will bring it all back. Without a hint of logic, I will wish I could see him just once more... *just once, Lord!* There will be times when I will be like the little girl who has lost her wonderful doll. Adult reasoning won't help me to understand "*why!*" All I will know is "I want him back!" We have heard of the phenomenon called, "the phantom limb." For a long time a person loses a limb, he feels overpowering, excruciating pain, even though the limb is gone. Think about it.

It isn't ever that I purposely anticipate the anniversary and thereby bring the sorrow on myself. Sometimes I will come through the



anniversary without dredging it all up. I do well. Sometimes I will feel all the love of the dear ones whom God sends to me; angels on earth. Sometimes I won't. Knowing that we've experienced it many times before, and that we bounce back when that time passes is knowledge that sustains and helps me. Pearl S. Buck said, "There is an alchemy in sorrow. It can be transmuted into wisdom, which, if it does not bring joy, can yet bring happiness."

Life is not all about feeling happy all the time. It is about acceptance. Accepting that we can be laid low at certain times, that we aren't going crazy, that we are not depressed personalities, but that abysmal sorrow recurs in those special times, and

that we can live through it. The fact that we can even laugh again and choose joy in our lives is a wonderful thing to know about ourselves. We do not have to be ashamed when it happens. It is what it is. Our beloved children are worth crying for, even after all these years. Throughout the year, anniversaries of the deaths and birthdays of my mother, father, brother, aunt, nephew, in-laws, and close friends occur. I remember them poignantly and fondly, but I've never been thrown back in time or experienced the re-living of the sorrow that I have for my son. Is it the legacy of the bereaved parent? Mama always said, "God fits our back to the burden."

*That is my prayer for you and for me.*

**I missed you every hour.  
And you know what the worst part was?  
It caught me completely by surprise.  
I'd catch myself just  
walking around to find you,  
not for any reason, just out of habit,  
because I'd seen something that I  
wanted to tell you about or because  
I wanted to hear your voice.  
And then I'd realize that  
you weren't there anymore, and  
every time, every single time, it was like  
having the wind knocked out of me.**

all-greatquotes.com

## Heaven's Rocking Chair

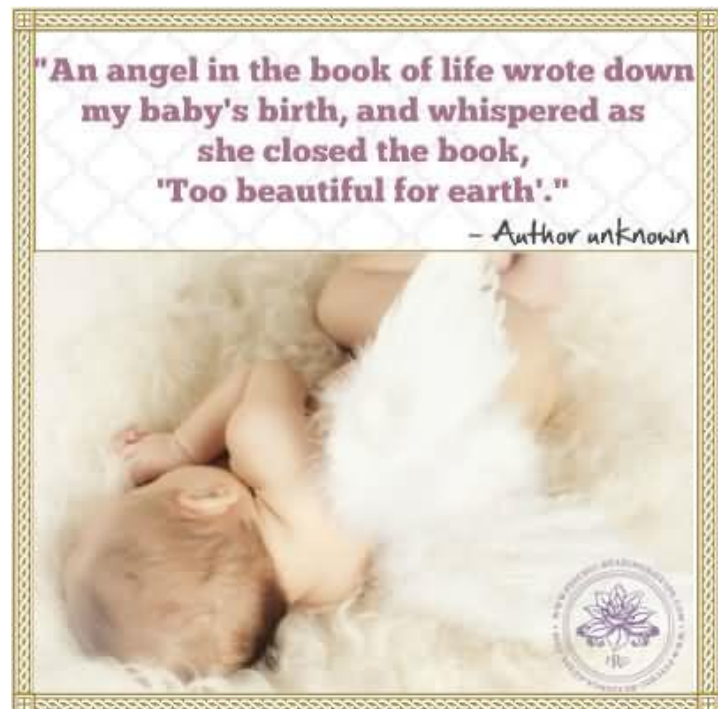
© Ron Tranmer

Are there rocking chairs in Heaven  
where little babies go?  
Do the angels hold you closely  
and rock you to and fro?

Do they talk silly baby talk  
to get a smile or two,  
and sing the sleepy lullabies  
I used to sing to you?

My heart is aching for you,  
my angel child so dear.  
You brought such joy into my life,  
the short time you were here.

I know you're in a happy place,  
and in God's loving care.  
I dream each night I'm rocking you  
in Heaven's rocking chair.



## An Angel's Dad!

© Daniel Kerr

I can't begin to express the pain that I am in,  
I lost a part of me and that hurts me deep within,  
you said goodbye before we ever got the chance to really say hello,  
you were gone in a flash leaving tears mixed with love and sorrow,  
I don't know if you chose your path or it was chosen for you,  
but I'm glad I was on your journey before you got your wings and flew,  
you're my angel now watching over us from above,  
my inspiration for life and my teacher of the meaning of love,  
in 19 days you taught me more than I even thought I could know,  
how could something so small have so much courage to show,  
you taught me that I need to stay strong and never give up,  
that it don't matter if it is half empty or full just enjoy the cup,  
it's funny how someone that was only here for such a little while,  
can be remembered with every heartbeat, tear and smile,  
the pain I have in my chest does not make me feel sad,  
it's just the battle wound I have for being an Angel's Dad!

Source: [www.familyfriendpoems.com](http://www.familyfriendpoems.com)



## **OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED**

### **MARCH**

James William Aikin  
Grandson of Elizabeth and Barry Aikin  
June 5, 1982 - March 18, 2008

Melanie Suzanne Berkow  
Daughter of Sandra Winans  
January 2, 1956 - March 23, 2012

Richard Allen Bessling  
Son of Robert and Barbara Bessling  
March 18, 1982 - March 15, 1995

Taylor Brannon  
Granddaughter of Larry and Linda Brannon  
January 27, 1995 - March 29, 1995

Anthony Raymond Cesario  
Son of Lisa Cesario  
March 25, 1989 - May 1, 2017

Ryan Corr  
Son of Pam Corr  
March 2, 2003 - June 4, 2011

Robert "Bo" William DePaola  
Son of Jill and John DePaola  
March 22, 1995 - May 23, 2015

Michael J. Dickens Jr.  
Son of Marla and Michael Dickens Sr.  
July 7, 1968 - March 29, 1996

Zachary Lee Dukes  
Son of Cindy Dukes  
February 12, 1989 - March 31, 2010

Manuel Junior Esparza  
Son of Dianna McKinnon  
March 20, 1987 - February 14, 2012

Cynthia Lynn Ferguson  
Daughter of Doris and Charles Clair  
September 4, 1952 - March 28, 2010

Traci Jeanne Heincelman  
Niece of Terre and John Belt  
October 6, 1980 - March 10, 2002

Brian Michael Hendricks  
Son of Jeannine Hendricks  
March 4, 1991 - April 22, 2012

Charles "Chip" Marshall Hodges  
Son of Betty and John Hodges  
October 24, 1954 - March 14, 2005

Andrew Scott Hoffman  
Son of Donna and Bryan Hoffman  
March 6, 1986 - October 27, 2013

Kole William Hoffman  
Son of Erin and Jim McKinney McDonald  
December 23, 2007 - March 7, 2010

Quintin Andrew Kane  
Son of Grace Marie Watkins  
March 18, 1965 - March 1, 1988

Bryan Adam Krouse  
Son of James and Judy Krouse  
March 11, 1965 - June 29, 2007

Giertler Lukasz  
Brother of Edyta and Bruce Dulski  
April 17, 1989 - March 15, 2015

Jerry Mason Jr.  
Son of Mary and Jerry Mason  
May 6, 1968 - March 23, 2005

John T McCormick  
Son of Elvira and Tom McCormick  
March 5, 1981 - August 9, 2016

Edwin Brandon Molina Jr.  
Son of Carole and Edwin Molina  
July 6, 2005 - March 3, 2007

Katherine Sarah Morris  
Daughter of Marguerite Morris  
March 11, 1990 - May 6, 2012

David M Murnane  
Son of Jennifer Murnane  
March 7, 1987 - December 9, 2008

Michael Dwayne Nokes  
Son of Ellen Foxwell  
November 9, 1963 - March 15, 1988

Brian James Para  
Son of Joan Para  
February 19, 1970 - March 19, 1991

Sydney Elaine Patronik  
Daughter of Holly and Michael Patronik  
March 26, 2002 - May 11, 2002

Thomas H Redmiles  
Son of Mary and Joe Redmiles  
February 22, 1985 - March 14, 2011

Zachary Daniel Robertson  
Son of Mary Ellen and Jim Young  
March 3, 1978 - October 26, 2006

Erin Michelle Shannon  
Daughter of Karen Shannon  
November 21, 1979 - March 18, 2009

Michael Elliott Simms  
Son of Molly Simms  
November 12, 1996 - March 29, 2016

Vejay Singh  
Son of Jessica and Hardeep Singh  
October 12, 1992 - March 21, 2014

Abigail Helen "Abbey" Skuletich  
Daughter of John and Glenda Skuletich  
March 9, 1984 - May 12, 1992


Mark Edward Smeltzer  
Son of Peggy Smeltzer  
December 11, 1969 - March 15, 1997

Christopher John Smith  
Son of Debi Wilson-Smith  
March 27, 1981 - June 30, 2000

Joseph Claude Smith  
Son of Gary and Desirae Smith  
March 19, 2005 - July 11, 2006

Christopher Thomas Trachy  
Son of Tom and Chrys Trachy  
September 3, 1986 - March 3, 2016

Shardeh Danielle Callis Watkins  
Daughter of Lori Norris  
April 30, 1989 - March 2, 2013



*May the leprechauns be near you,  
To spread luck along your way.  
And may all the Irish angels  
Smile on you St. Patrick's Day.  
- Irish Blessing*

## **OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED**

### **APRIL**

Bethany Anne Balasic  
Daughter of Paul and Claudia Balasic  
February 13, 1981 - April 5, 1996

Jeff Baldwin  
Son of Aurelia Ferraro  
April 27, 1967 - April 26, 1991

Stephanie Noell Banchemo  
Daughter of Bill Banchemo  
December 16, 1985 - April 9, 2012

Joey E Belcher  
Son of Joseph and Irene Belcher  
April 21, 1975 - December 17, 2012

Wendy Jean Bolly  
Daughter of Judith and Louie Bolly  
April 6, 1977 - October 11, 2002

Paul Shane Brough  
Son of Theresa and Steve Bleemke  
May 18, 1982 - April 4, 2003

Faith Campbell  
Daughter of John and Cathi Campbell  
April 5, 1994 - April 5, 1994

William Frederick Carter Jr.  
Son of Dot Carter  
Brother of Janet Tyler  
Brother of Lisa Beall  
April 24, 1959 - August 16, 1992

Jasmin Aliyah Corria  
Daughter of Diran and Mila Corria  
April 14, 2015 - April 16, 2015

Joseph Fredrick Errichiello Jr.  
Son of Susan and Joe Errichiello  
April 6, 1979 - May 29, 2004

Joseph A. Esterling Jr.  
Son of Joe and Michelle Esterling  
June 7, 1967 - April 27, 1990

Galen Andrew Harig-Blaine  
Son of Clare and Stephen Blaine  
November 14, 1989 - April 22, 2007

Brian Michael Hendricks  
Son of Jeannine Hendricks  
March 4, 1991 - April 22, 2012

Ryan Douglas Henson  
Son of Debbie Jeffries  
April 10, 1984 - February 2, 2017

William Mirza Khadem  
Son of Yoosef and Linda Khadem  
October 24, 1984 - April 6, 2012

David A Lombardo  
Son of David D. and Maryann Lombardo  
April 11, 1976 - April 9, 2011

Giertler Lukasz  
Brother of Edyta and Bruce Dulski  
April 17, 1989 - March 15, 2015

Walter H. Maynard IV  
Son of Rose Marie Carnes and Walter Maynard III  
January 2, 1965 - April 14, 2006

Craig Steven Nelson  
Son of Karen Coulson  
April 2, 1974 - January 31, 1995

Kevin M Nichols  
Son of Bob and Deb Nichols  
April 12, 1982 - September 21, 2017

Jessica Price Parsons  
Daughter of Patricia and James Price  
Daughter-in-law of Mary Parsons  
November 24, 1984 - April 8, 2016

Lynda Jo Quigley  
Daughter of Betty Quigley  
April 2, 1967 - December 13, 2011

Dennis Richard Rohrback  
Son of Dennis and Joan Rohrback  
April 8, 1964 - July 3, 1988

Andr  Marc Sanders  
Son of Karen Sanders  
April 8, 1968 - November 27, 2002

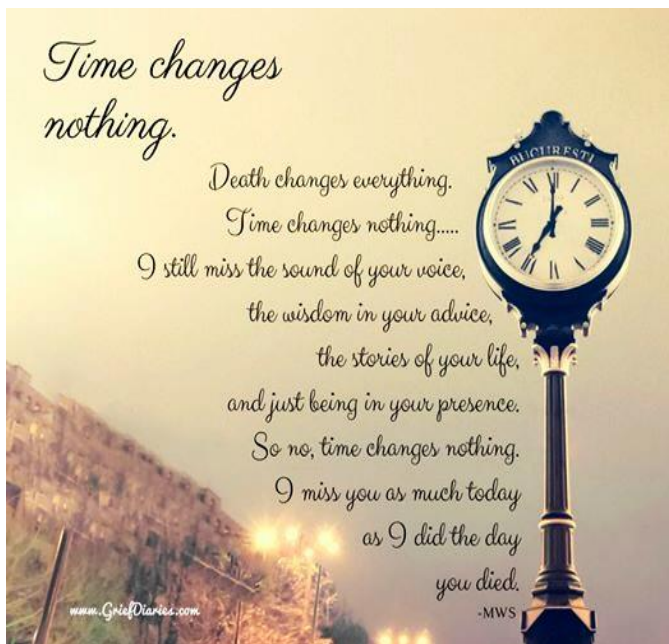
Matthew Ryan Stangle  
Son of Scott and Jeanette Stangle  
April 5, 1989 - January 14, 2017

Joseph (Joey) Scott Sudo  
Son of Joe and Suzanne Sudo  
December 3, 1999 - April 23, 2012

Shardeh Danielle Callis Watkins  
Daughter of Lori Norris  
April 30, 1989 – March 2, 2013

Albert Wallace Whitby, Jr.  
Son of Rita and Albert Whitby Sr.  
Brother of Susan Lovett  
April 25, 1951 - June 2, 1981

Alisa Joy Withers  
Daughter of Jan Withers  
July 7, 1976 - April 16, 1992



GRIEF RESETS THE  
CLOCK OF LIFE TO  
before & after.

LYNDA CHELDELIN FELL  
GRIEF DIARIES

[www.GriefDiaries.com](http://www.GriefDiaries.com)

*"There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love."*

— Washington Irving

**WHO WE ARE:** We are a self-help support organization dedicated to assisting parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child. We provide information and education to bereaved parents, extended family and friends. Our greatest strength as bereaved families are the unity we find in shared experiences which can lead us out of isolation, give us a place to “belong,” and offer us hope that together – we can make it.

**BPUSA MISSION:** We, as bereaved parents, help grieving parents and families rebuild their lives following the death of a child.

**CHAPTER MEETING SUMMARY:** Monthly meetings are held at **Calvary United Methodist Church • 301 Rowe Boulevard • Annapolis, MD 21401**. Sharing groups, a key part of each Chapter meeting, will be held for first-time attendees, the newly bereaved and those further along in their grief journey. Meetings are held on the **first Thursday** of every month beginning at 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7:00) and are open to anyone grieving the death of a child. Come around to the back of the church, there is parking and an entrance directly into our meeting.

**WHAT TO EXPECT AT OUR CHAPTER MEETINGS:** Our Chapter gathers one evening a month to address topics and offer support to those who are mourning the death of a child. Our meetings last for approximately 2-3 hours. Sometimes we schedule a 30-minute presentation at the beginning of our meeting. When the speaker or panel has concluded the presentation, we introduce ourselves and say our child’s name. We then take a short break before dividing into sharing groups. Sharing groups are facilitated by fellow Chapter members and are completely confidential. During this time, the issues that are discussed—particularly for the newly bereaved—focus on the issues facing participants today.

**CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM TOPICS:** Please let us know if you have a request for a meeting topic and/or a suggestion of a speaker.

**MARCH MEETING:** March 1, 2018. **Pastor Sammy Foster** of Lighthouse Church in Glen Burnie and Pasadena will be our speaker. Pastor Sammy is known for his meaningful messages of hope and understanding, having faced addiction and the loss of close friends. His sermons leave one feeling enriched and able to face life.

**APRIL MEETING:** April 5, 2018. **Jane Schindler**, Palliative Care Social Worker, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, and Chapter member, will speak on “Signs from Our Children.” Jane will share the signs that have come to her, and reaffirm that our children do send us signs in many different ways.



**MAY MEETING:** May 3, 2018. **Join us for a special evening featuring Alan Pedersen.**



***Alan Pedersen is an award-winning speaker, songwriter and recording artist.***

His inspirational message of hope and his music have resonated deeply with those facing a loss or adversity in their lives. Since the death of his 18-year-old daughter Ashley in 2001, Alan has traveled to more than 1,300 cities speaking and playing his original music. Alan is currently on the road with The Angels Across the USA Tour where he will speak and perform in over 100 U.S. cities in 2018.

Our evening will be a mixture of learning, laughing and feeling. Alan will share what he has learned on his own grief journey and from the thousands of other griever who have shared their stories with him. The program will offer real tools and ideas to consider for those who are grieving and for those who work with the bereaved. Powerful music and a down to earth message are the hallmark of Alan Pedersen.

**OUR WEBSITE:** [www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org](http://www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org) Visit our website for information about our Chapter, Our Children, the Newsletter, upcoming events, and many other resources.

**FACEBOOK:** Join our private, members only, Chapter forum. In Facebook, search for “Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Bereaved Parents of the USA”. Our moderator will respond to requests to be included as a friend.

**PRIVACY POLICY:** Our Chapter is cognizant of privacy concerns related to our children. We ask that each family provide written consent to include your child’s name, photo, birth date and death date in our newsletter, on our website and other published listings of Our Children, such as for the Service of Remembrance. If you don’t see your child’s name included in our publications, and would like them to be included, please contact me.

Carol Tomaszewski, 410-519-8448, email [chapterleaderaacountymd@gmail.com](mailto:chapterleaderaacountymd@gmail.com), use subject: Privacy

**UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST:**



***A Day with Alan Pedersen***

*Saturday, April 14, 2018*

*Wellington Community Center*

*9700 Wellington Road*

*Manassas, VA*

Workshop Part 1: 3p.m. "Everything You Never Wanted to Know About Grief"

Dinner: 5 p.m.

Workshop Part 2: 6 p.m. "Does It Ever Get Any Better?"

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**BPUSA Annual Gathering Conference**



**Bereaved Parents of the USA**  
NATIONAL GATHERING CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 3-5, 2018 MEMPHIS, TN

*Join us August 3-5, 2018 for the next  
Bereaved Parents of the USA National Gathering  
in Memphis, TN!*

For further information visit the BPUSA website:

<https://www.bereavedparentsusa.org/annual-conference/annual-gathering-conference/>

**CARPPOOL:** If you are driving, please consider offering to take others. We could begin to coordinate this at the April meeting.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Our Chapter is offering scholarships of \$75, which will cover the registration cost, for up to 10 members to attend the National Gathering, first come first served. If interested, please contact Carol, 410-519-8448, [chapterleaderaacountyme@gmail.com](mailto:chapterleaderaacountyme@gmail.com).