



Tampa Bay Chapter

P.O. Box 3226
Tampa, Florida
33601-3226

www.bpusatampabay.org

MEETING INFORMATION

Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting

Sunday, April 8, 6:30 to 8:30

This is Easter Sunday but we are still having our meeting!

(We normally have short separate break out sessions for Fathers and Mothers)

St. Joseph's Hospital

Medical Arts Building, Auditorium

3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Call Linda Delk at 813-661-0680

for directions or information.

Regular Monthly DAYTIME Meeting

Riverview/Gibson/Brandon areas

(held the second Friday each month)

Friday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. to noon

First United Methodist Church of Brandon

In the Office Building, Koinonia Room

120 North Knights Avenue, Brandon

Call Kathy Simone at 813-653-1717

for directions or information.

Regular Monthly BRADENTON Meeting

(held the third Monday each month)

Monday, April 16, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Braden River Baptist Church, 5412 SR 64

I-75 to SR 64 (Exit 220)

Melissa Coxwell at 941-708-7052

Regular Monthly PLANT CITY Meeting

(held the fourth Thursday of the month)

Thursday, April 26, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

South Florida Baptist Hospital

301 N. Alexander Street, Plant City

in the Community Conference Room

Call Sue Bowditch at 813-661-9334

for directions or information.

We understand how difficult it is to attend your first meeting. Feelings can be overwhelming; we have all experienced them and know how important it is to take the first step. Our stories may be different, but we are alike in that we all hurt deeply. We can not take your pain away, but we can offer friendship and support. Bring a friend or relative to lean on if you wish! We need not grieve alone! See you next month.

Upcoming Events

Angel of Hope meeting, Monday,
April 2 and May 7, 7:00 p.m.,
NEW LOCATION—I-HOP Restaurant,
11710 Morris Bridge Road,
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Angel of Hope, Spring Tea
Saturday, April 28
(See details Page 2 and 4)

April 2007

*This month's newsletter lovingly sponsored by
the families of:*

*Eric Rutkowski
Lori Kathleen Baker Dixon*

Easter Thought



One more winter overcome,

One more darkness

Turned to light.

*Winter is the price for
Spring.*

Struggle is the price for life.

Even in sorrow,

Remember to prepare your heart

For celebration —

Next spring perhaps.

Or the spring after that....

By Sacha from Wintersun

The Easter and Passover seasons are upon us. They are special family times that make it more obvious that one is missing. Some Parents are struggling with what they believe anymore. The pretty new dresses and hats don't seem to matter as much as they did. There are more important things on our minds now. We are facing the renewal of life all around us—and yet the missing child's life is not renewable. We hurt because life is going on and his or hers is not.



These are normal reactions for some when grief is fresh, for the changing of seasons is a poignant time for many. Those of us who have had the necessary time with to convey to those who have not that it won't always be this painful. When your grief softens (and it will), so will many of the hurtful response. Get out in the sunshine, go for a walk, smell the fragrance of the flowers and allow the warmth of the season to permeate your being. It just may make your day a little lighter, and a lighter day is worth trying for.

Excerpt from Spring Has Sprung
by Mary Cleckley

Chapter News

REFRESHMENT SIGN UP

Please call Barbara Dietrich at 813-340-9120 if you would like to bring refreshments to the next sharing meeting in memory of you son or daughter!

MONTHLY MEETING TOPICS

- April-Spring has Sprung—now what??
- May-Am I still a Mom?
- June-Am I still a Dad?
- July-What is “Normal” now?
- August-When does this end?
- September-How do men & women grieve differently?
- October-Surviving the Holidays!
- November-Gift donations!
- December-Candle Light Service

ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE
www.angelofhopetampabay.org

Efforts to bring an Angel of Hope Memorial Garden to the Tampa Bay Area were announced at the 2003 BP/USA Annual Candle Light. We agreed to have a monthly committee meeting (unless a holiday weekend)! Please call Beverley Hurley for more information 813-832-3175. We are still working on fund raisers and need your help!!



SPRING TEA

Our annual Spring Tea will be held **Saturday, April 28, 2007**, at the Comfort Inn at 275 and Busch Blvd. We are now taking table reservations for you and your friends. We will have a wonderful guest speaker, entertainment, door prizes, raffle and a silent auction! New this year—a Fashion Show! *Please call Jackie Loadholtz 813-929-0585.*

Angel of Hope meeting, Monday, April 2 and May 7, 7:00 p.m., NEW LOCATION—I-HOP Restaurant, 11710 Morris Bridge Road, Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Cartridge Buy Back Program to benefit the Angel of Hope!

Please bring your empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges to any of our Angel of Hope or BP/USA meetings. Barbara Dietrich has volunteered to collect these and turn them in for a refund to benefit the Angel of Hope or call her at 813-340-9120.

Telephone Friends

Need to talk? Call one of our Telephone Friends. They’re here to lend a knowing ear because they’ve been there. Don’t hesitate to call, we understand.

Linda Delk (General Information)	(813) 661-0680
Theresa Farmer (Homicide)	(813) 994-0707
Traci Cooley (Drowning)	(813) 654-1381
Ron Ellington (Suicide/Grandparent)	(727) 410-2308
Serena Graves (Sibling Contact)	(813) 810-7169
Violeta “Cookie” Fernandez (Se Habla Espano)	(813) 996-4281
CRISIS CENTER	211

Bereaved Parents/USA National Office
Post Office Box 95, Park Forest, IL 60466
Phone/Fax: (708) 748-7866
www.bereavedparentsusa.org

Love Gifts

- Charles & Terri L’Homme
In loving memory of their son
Ryan L’Homme
4/16/1974-9/8/2000
- Ron Ellington
In Loving memory of his granddaughter
Kelli Colin Roark
4/30/1990 - 8/30/1998
- Fred & Janice Langford
In loving memory of their son
Todd Langford
1/5/1978 to 4/27/2001

Love Gifts
A Thoughtful Way to Remember

Love Gifts are a beautiful and loving way to remember a loved one. Through Love Gifts, we are able to reach out to others with our brochures and newsletters as well as obtain books and other information for our library. We truly appreciate every Love Gift, donation and sponsorship. Our Chapter work is done by volunteers and these donations help us reach out in many ways, including the preparation and mailing of the newsletter.

Sponsor A Newsletter Page

Anyone can sponsor a page in this newsletter in memory of their child. The price for a full page is \$60 which includes one black and white scan of one photograph and your tribute to your child, which can include poems, stories or whatever you like. Your contribution supports the chapter and helps pay for the printing of the newsletter.

Additionally, sponsorship pages will be posted on our Website for 1 year. Simply click on “How we remember.”

To sponsor a newsletter page, contact Beverley Hurley at (813) 832-3175 (email address: beehurley@gte.net). Please note that sponsorship pages are **due by the 15th of the month BEFORE the publication month.**

Chapter Library Book Reminder


Have you got a Bereaved Parent of the USA Library book at home? If you have finished reading it, please return it to our library so other bereaved parents can benefit from its words and wisdom. Because of our limited budget, it is normal to only have one copy of any one title, so its important to have the books returned promptly.

Contact Dave or Kathy Simone at (813) 653-1717 to return a book, arrange a donation or inquire about an available title. Or, visit the Sunday monthly meeting where the library is always set up at these meetings.

The Newsletter is available electronically. To receive it by Email, send your name and email address to: www.bpusatampabay.org and indicate your desire to switch from regular “snail” mail to email. Email recipients will also receive additional news and information, while helping our chapter save costs. We very much appreciate your cooperation by helping us out this way!

Address Change


If you have an address change, the Postal Service will NOT forward! They return to us—FOR A FEE, SO **PLEASE—** LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A NEW ADDRESS!!



Our Children . . . Remembered

*So long as we live, they too shall live ...
For they are a part of us as we remember them.*

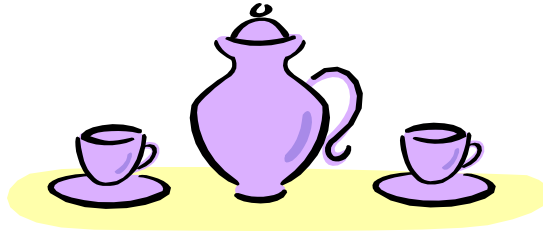
April Birthdays

Alvarez, Dean 4/28/1965 - 6/12/2000 M-Diana Stenglein B-Nadie Alvarez S-Athena & Lynette Alvarez	Heath, Austin Noah 4/6/2000 - 7/4/2000 P - Isaac Heath & Regina Jacobs GM - Gigi Schools	Pegram, Baby Boy 4/1976 - 4/1976 P - Earl & Susan Pegram S - Jodi & Robin Pegram B - Scooter & Craig Pegram GP - Betty Jennings	Sluder, Keith, 4/25/1964-5/11/2006 F-Tom Sluder
Batten, Devon 4/4/1994-4/18/1999 M-Mary Batten	Hines, Heather 4/28/1975 - 11/25/1998 M - Sue Hines	Pegram, Jodi E. 04/06/70 - 07/22/01 P - Earl & Susan Pegram S - Robin Sue Pegram B - Scooter & Craig Pegram GM-Betty Jennings	Spellman, Xavier Lane 4/17/2006 - 4/17/2006 M-Veronica Lane
Bliss, Lindsay Rebecca 4/26/1977 - 12/1/1991 P - Jim & Mary Beth Bliss S - Shannon Bliss	Horst, Trey 4/16/1974 - 9/8/2000 P - Art & Linda Horst B-Todd & Thad S-Trisha & Tammy	Rardin, Kelly Rose 04/17/1993 - 04/17/1993 M - Lori Rardin	Thornten, Jeremiah 8/29/1984-4/13/2005 M-Sue Thornten
Buckley, Deja' 4/26/2001 - 4/26/2001 P - Lisa John & Wade Buckley	L'Homme, Ryan 4/16 /81 - 3/23/00 P - Charles & Teresa L'Homme S - Cortney L'Homme	Regis, Chad 4/7/1971 - 3/22/2005 P-Ray & LaRae Regis GP-Bea Forbes	Todd, Joan 4/22/1960 - 3/12/2004 M-Mary McCord
DeRoche, Cameron Gaines 04/11/89 - 01/25/95 P - Peggy & Karl DeRoche S - Mary Amber DeRoche	Mohammed, Ian Roger 04/19/73 - 08/02/92 P - Judy & Rick Mohammed S - Alison Mohammed B - Cameron Mohammed	Roark, Kelli Colin 4/30/1990 - 8/30/1998 P - Joe & Angel Roark B - Kyle & Kaleb Roark GF - Ron Ellington	Ward, Richard Alan 4/25/1964 - 8/7/1996 P - Homer & Imogene Ward B - Mike & Jeff Ward
Geiger, Jacob 4/9/2003 - 4/9/2003 M-Darla Geiger B-Jared Geiger S-Brooke Geiger GP-Kenneth & Barbara Dykes	Nadir, Peter 4/6/1971 - 2/8/2003 M-Barbar Nadir S-Sue McFowan	Rusnack, Tamara 4/6/1972 - 7/23/2004 M-Donna Johnson	
Gladen, Renee Rose 4/21/1961-11/17/1999 S-Diana Gladen	Noriega, Aiden 4/4/2001 - 6/18/2001 P - Rick & Ethal Noriega	Rutkowski, Eric John 4/11/1981 - 7/16/2003 P-Linda Rutkowski F-Ron Rutkowski GP-Ray & Doris Pomorski	
Hamm, Rusty 4/23/1960 - 4/2/2004 P-Ramon & Rita Hamm Spouse-Joy St. Martin Daughter-Sydney Hamm	O'Connor, Ashley Lauren 4/12/1991 - 4/8/1996 M-Pamela Hite-Bocchino B-John O'Connor GM-Victoria Hite		

April Anniversaries

Baker-Dixon, Lori Kathleen 10/29/1975 - 4/12/2001 Child - Ryan Spouse - Rusty P - Donna & Ron Budd and Marie & Bill Baker S - Tracy Goodson & Phylicia Baker B - Jamey Baker	Geiger, Jacob 4/9/2003 - 4/9/2003 M-Darla Geiger B-Jared Geiger S-Brooke Geiger GP-Kenneth & Barbara Dykes	Muse, Jennifer Lee 08/07/71 - 04/04/92 M - Gretchen Muse F - Robert Muse, Jr. GP - Bob & Gladys Muse GM - Dorothy Deisch	Marty & Carol Thomas Thornton, Jeremiah 8/29/84 - 4/13/01 M - Tim & Sue Thornton B - Jason S - Amanda
Berry, Michelle 3/8/1967 - 4/2/2003 P-Joanne & Lawrence Ouellette B-Russ,David,Scott & Joe S-Denise Volo Son-Bobby	Hafford, Lauren Elizabeth 2/17/1977 - 4/13/1999 P - Gwen & John Hafford S - Lindsay & Lesley Hafford	O'Connor, Ashley Lauren 4/12/1991 - 4/8/1996 M-Pamela Hite-Bocchino B-John O'Connor GM-Victoria Hite	Tucker, Vince 3/8/1972 - 4/26/2005 M-Glenda Tucker A-Judith Gude
Blazowich, Tony 2/20/1984-4/5/2006 P-Marianne & Dan Blazowich	Hamm, Rusty 4/23/1960 - 4/2/2004 P-Ramon & Rita Hamm Spouse-Joy St. Martin Daughter-Sydney Hamm	Panico, Ryder 6/22/2004-4/27/2005 M-Kristen Panico GM-Jeanne Buckstein	Waller, Lauren Marie 12/12/1990 - 4/16/2000 M - Kristine Colding & Bryan Strahan B-Christopher S-Faith GP-Joyce & Gene Waller
Buckley, Deja' 4/26/2001 - 4/26/2001 P - Lisa John & Wade Buckley	Hill Jr., Richard J. 12/20/57 - 4/28/01 M - Cora Billi Hill B-Roger Hill S-Rhonda & Rosalyn	Pegram, Baby Boy 4/1976 - 4/1976 P - Earl & Susan Pegram S - Jodi & Robin Pegram B - Scooter & Craig Pegram GP - Betty Jennings	Wallowicz, Michael (Mikey) Kevin 10/23/1981 - 4/28/1990 P - Jim & Judy Wallowicz B - Jimi Wallowicz GM-Josie Varselona
Burger, Jeffrey Robin 02/05/61 - 04/20/97 M - Cecelia Burger B - Hal & Curt Burger	Jennings, Chris 10/04/86 - 04/24/02 P - Charles & Dawn Jennings	Rardin, Kelly Rose 04/17/1993 - 04/17/1993 M - Lori Rardin	Webb, Eric Richard 7/1/1985 - 4/2/1999 P - William & Kathleen Webb B - David Webb
Cason, Todd 10/28/1968 - 4/12/2003 P-Earl and Kay Cason Child- Spouse-	Jones, Sherry 1/18/1971 - 4/27/2000 M - Brenda Copeland	Roller-Smith, Laci 7/10/1990 - 4/19/2002 P-Connie & Larry Smith GM-Jeannie Wise	Williams, Travis Aaron 9/11/1979 - 4/19/2000 P - Bill & Linda Williams GP - Loretta Ayers, Raymond Ayers & Edna Williams
Clark, Kellen William 3/16/82 - 4/15/02 F - Bill Clark	Langford, Todd Allen 01/05/78 - 04/27/01 P - Fred & Janice Langford B - Robbie Langford S - Kathy Peterson G/P - Betty Williams & H.P & Ruby Langford	Shockey, Ann 11/08/56 - 04/26/70 P - Dick & Connie Shockey	Wynne, Adam Charles 10/13/1971 - 4/24/1993 P-Chuck & Gloria Judson S-Lori Wynne Father to Morgan Wynne
Corbett, Shaun 7/8/1985 - 4/23/2003 M-Ellen Corbett	Leyde, Darek 7/17/1967 - 4/23/2003 P-Vern & Julie Leyde S-Traci Gainforth	Spellman, Xavier Lane 4/17/2006 - 4/17/2006 M-Veronica Lane	Young, Billy 7/14/2003 - 4/17/2006 P-Bill & Sandy Young
Decosta, Brittany 11/19/87 - 04/07/91 M - Kay Decosta	Makowski, Anthony 5/20/1983 - 4/24/2005 M-Cathy Makowski	Stallard, Judy Lynn 02/28/1981 - 04/24/1981 M-Patricia (Stallard) Bass F-Joe Stallard	
Dixon Jr., Anthony Howard 11/27/1978 - 4/1/1996 M - Brenda & Toney Dixon B - David Dixon	Thomas, Destiny Jean 10/1/1990 - 4/24/1998 F-Craig Thomas B-Braxton S-Justin GP-Augie & Betty Thatcher and		

*If we have omitted your child, misspelled your child's name, or listed incorrect dates, please accept our apologies and call
Beverley Hurley at (813) 832-3175 to correct the information. Call any of our telephone friends if you are having a
hard time on these days. We truly understand your pain; for we, too, remember our own children.*



Dear Friends,

The Angel of Hope Committee is working to bring an Angel of Hope Memorial Garden to the Tampa Bay Area. This Garden will be a place of peace and solitude for parents whose children have died, bringing to them a feeling of HOPE!

Our Third Annual Spring Tea will take place on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at the Comfort Inn, located at 820 E. Busch Boulevard at I-275, from 10 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. This year's Tea will have a fashion show, entertainment, raffle and a silent auction.

Our special Guest Speaker this year will be Dr. Mel Jurado! Mel is a motivational speaker and will speak on the topic, "A Check-Up from the Neck-Up" -- it is inspirational in nature and reminds us how important our outlook is for everyday life or for working through life's trials. You will not want to miss this!

We are currently looking for individuals to serve as table hostesses or hosts. Table hostesses have a great time planning a theme for their table, decorating the table and inviting seven of their friends to join them for a morning of fun and entertainment. Table hostesses will purchase tables for \$175.00, and then they can invite their friends to join them at the table. Each individual chair costs \$25.00; table hostess may collect this cost from their friends or choose to pay the full amount themselves. It is up to you.

Corporate Tables may be purchased for a minimum donation of \$200.00. The corporate name will be listed in the program with signage on the table as well.

Please consider hostessing a table for this wonderful event. If you are interested please mail a check to Angel of Hope, c/o Jackie Loadholtz, 7536 Berna Lane, Land O'Lakes, FL 34637 or call Julie Leyde at 813-949-5970 or Gina Casal at 813-746-4796 for more information.

Sincerely,

Julie Leyde and Gina Casal, Tea Chairpersons
Angel of Hope Committee

*Start by doing what is
Necessary,
Then what's possible...
And suddenly
You are doing
The impossible*

St. Francis of Assisi

Death's Aftermath

By Shirley Ottman
North Texas BP/USA Chapter
From THE SLENDER THREAD

To a recently bereaved parent.....

Just a little while ago,
I walked where you are walking now.

Your child was special too,
I know, and was quite different from mine.

Yet love is love and death is death,
and pain is pain.

Your pain is mine; my pain is yours.

Come, friend, let us search for hope together.

Angels Are Forever

2005-08-15

Words and Music by Alan Pedersen

The anthem of my music tour, this song really says it all to me. Our children are our angels, they live with us as long as we keep their memory alive my living our lives in honor of all they meant to us and continue to mean to us as we transition from a physical "earth" relationship in flesh and blood to a spritual "heart" relationship that trancends time and space.

They lift us up, they light the way.
Angels walk beside us everyday.
With tender hands they catch us when we fall.
They teach us love and understanding are the greatest gifts of all.
Angels are forever I know without a doubt.
They shine with an eternal flame that never will go out.
We hold them and we love them,
wishing they could always stay.
Angels are forever,
but sometimes they fly away.

I loved her eyes, I adored her smile.
She was my angel for a little while.
There must have been important work to do.
Now I lean on the love she left behind
to get me through.

So if you have an angel, thank God every night
That you've been blessed with happiness
and hold your angel tight.

Angels are forever



“Angels Are Forever” Tour

Those who attended this wonderful event by Alan Pedersen enjoyed his words, music, stories and humor. Alan will be at our 2007 National Gathering in July in Downer’s Grove, Illinois!

SPRING: HOPE OR MORE PAIN
by: Margaret Gerner
BP/USA - St. Louis, MO



Here it comes! Spring! Flowers blooming, weather warming, the cold of winter is behind us. We’re coming up out of our pain. Right? Wrong!

My six-year-old son, Arthur, was killed by an automobile on Friday, May 28, 1971. The Easter before was the last time we were together as a complete family. For years after, spring, and especially the Easter season, began, again, the realization that we were no longer a complete family, and never would be again. Each year brought a new year of pain.

When the first spring came after Arthur was killed, I thought I would be better. Buds popped out, and my sadness was deeper. Easter came, and my pain was no less. The temperature rose, but the coldness in my heart never left.

Many more springs came—and none of them brought the relief I prayed for. For me, the hope and renewal that was supposed to be a part of spring was a lie.

Ironically though, the beginning of the resolution of my grief began in the spring of 1978. My grief, which by this time had become prolonged and distorted, created a number of other problems in my life. Among them was the deterioration of my marriage.

We began seeing a marriage counselor. I couldn’t believe it when he told me that it was not only acceptable, but necessary, to face Arthur’s death and talk about the pain and emotions I had been encouraged to suppress all these years.

Mine is a long story of struggle and determination, of steps and missteps and pain and sadness and loss. But it’s also a long story of change and growth. The beginning of the resolution of my grief may have started then, but it didn’t all happen in spring. It took place over many seasons.

Various seasons are significant for all of us. The Christmas holidays may be significant for you. The middle of June may be significant for someone else. A colorful fall may be significant for another. But, for some reason, we are led to believe that spring will bring a lessening of our pain. This is not true. Spring is simply a time of year. It’s a date. It’s a season. It’s symbolic. But, spring is not magic.

Yes, it holds promises, but those promises are only brought to fruition when we work at them. Spring can be the impetus for change. The changes that take place in nature can cause us to do what we need to do to resolve our grief. The beauty of spring can be the factor that encourages us to find beauty in our lives again. Yes, we see growth and change and renewal all around us in spring. But it won’t happen for us unless we make it happen.

In early grief, we hardly see spring come. We are so immersed in our pain and desolation that it is hard to see anything. Just as winter comes before spring, dark, painful grief work comes before we begin to see the light of comfortable life again. Don’t expect to sidestep the healthy, albeit painful, normal, and long process of grief. Don’t endow a season with magic to make changes in you.

Hard, painful grief work is what will get you to the other side of your child’s death, not a date on the calendar.

LifePath Hospice
and Palliative Care
offers its 15th annual
Camp Circle
of Love
*a weekend camp for children
who have experienced the loss of
a loved one*

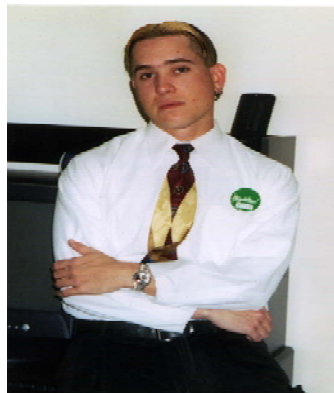
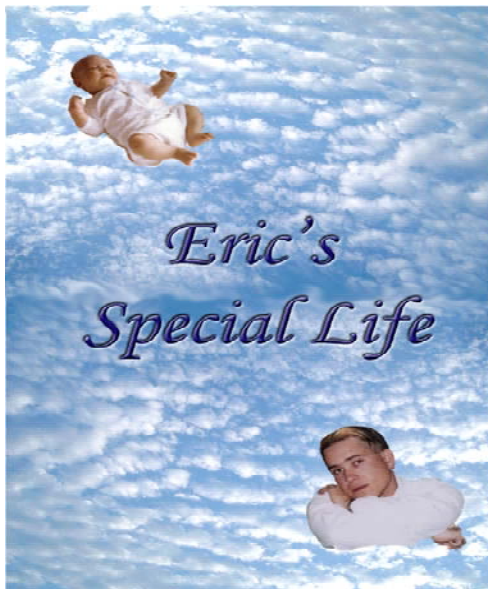
May 4 – 6, 2007



HOW TO REGISTER

Call LifePath Hospice at (813) 877-2200 to register your child for camp. Camp Circle of Love is open to any child between the ages of 6 and 16 who has experienced the death of a loved one.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ERIC JOHN RUTKOWSKI



WE MISS YOU EVERY DAY

AND

WE WILL LOVE YOU THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

MOM & DAD,

GRANDMA & GRANDPA

Lori Kathleen Baker Dixon

October 29, 1975 to April 12, 2001



*Mother to Ryan, Wife to Rusty
Daughter of Donna and Ron Bud and Bill Baker
Sister to Jamey Baker, Tracy Howard and Phylcia Baker
Grandchild to Lillian McMullin and the late George Castillo, Vidal and
Ernestine Torres, and James and Beulah Baker*

*An Angel of pure spirit who stands before God
Gazing upon His unveiled presence.*

A Holy week, April 12, 2001, as you lay with no movement but a tear we sometimes would wipe from your face. I whispered in your ear to let you know it was okay if you wanted to go. As I kissed your cheek I felt a sense of calmness and peace, I knew you had entered the gates of glory. So often I tell family and friends that you would never have left Ryan, neither Rusty nor us if there had not been heaven's angels and the light of God's love waiting for your arrival.

I'm still waiting to wake up and have difficulty coping with the fact you have crossed over, but each day I feel your presence. I'm fulfilling my promise to you in regards to Ryan, he gives me the will to carry on, and he misses his mommy so much. The brightest star in the sky is your birthday gift to him and he tells everyone his mommy is Jesus' secretary and someday he will see you

*With broken hearts and all our love,
Your Son Ryan, Mom, Pa, Jamey, Tracy,
Bobby and Family*

Our 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 tears, 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, our color, our affluence, 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.

We can't know why the lily has so brief a time to bloom in the warmth of sunlight's kiss upon its face, before it folds its fragrance in and bids the world good-night to rest its beauty in a gentler place.

But we can know that nothing that is loved is ever lost, and no one who has ever touched a heart can really pass away, because some beauty lingers on in each memory of which they've been a part.

by Ellen Brennaman
from *Alive Alone*
<http://www.alivealone.org/>

2007 National BP/USA Gathering

July 13, 14 and 15, 2007

*Winds of Healing...
Wings of Hope...*

Bereaved Parents of the USA
National 2007 Gathering
Doubletree Hotel Downers Grove, IL

Chicago, Illinois
July 13-15, 2007

Please join us for the 12th Annual BP/USA National Gathering July 13 to 15, 2007 being held in Downer’s Grove, Illinois at The Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel (620 971 2000) just a taxi ride from either Chicago airport (approx \$35 PER taxi). We have reasonable room rates of \$89 for 2, \$99 for 3 or more at the hotel, with free parking. All rooms are suites. Meal package available, which is not-dividable, is \$118. The hotel provides a free shuttle to the commuter trains which makes sightseeing in the city very manageable. Call the hotel and make your room reservations and be sure to tell them you are with the BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA GATHERING.

Registration forms available on the BP/USA National website at www.bereavedparentsusa.org. If you have questions about the BP/USA Gathering, please call Donna Corrigan, Gathering Chairperson at 630 279 6148 or email Bpwindsofhealing@aol.com !
Thank you!



The Bereaved Parents of the USA
P.O. Box 156
Gibsonton, FL 33534

April 2007
POSTMASTER - Dated Material
Please do not delay.



Sunday April 8, Easter Sunday!
We are still having our sharing meeting at 6:30 p.m.

