



# Tampa Bay Chapter

P.O. Box 3226  
Tampa, Florida  
33601-3226  
www.bpusatampabay.com

## MEETING INFORMATION

### **Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting**

(held the second Sunday of the month)

July 10, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

August 14, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**St. Joseph's Hospital**

**Medical Arts Building, Auditorium**

3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Call Beverley Hurley at 813-832-3175

for directions or information.

*(We will have a carry in covered dish starting at 5:30!)*

### **Regular Monthly DAYTIME Meeting**

Riverview/Gibson/Brandon areas

(held the second Friday each month)

Friday, July 8, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Friday, August 12, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

**The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce**

330 Pauls Drive, Brandon, Florida 33511

Please call Linda Delk at 813-661-0680

for directions or information.

### **Regular Monthly PLANT CITY Meeting**

(Normally held the fourth Monday each month)

Monday, July 25, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Monday, August 22, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**South Florida Baptist Hospital**

301 N. Alexander Street, Plant City

in the Community Conference Room

Call Janice Falcon at 813-779-9353

for directions or information.

*We, as bereaved parents, help  
grieving families rebuild their lives  
following the death of a child!*

*Please join us at one of the sharing  
sessions as we all work toward  
healing from the death of our child.*

*Grief shared is grief diminished. You are  
not required to talk and this is  
not a group therapy  
session—just parents sharing in a  
safe environment.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS!!**

NOTE: The next AOH Brick Dedication will be in October. Brick Orders are due by August 1!

*Let warm memories be as  
close to you as the warmth  
of summer.*

-Sascha Wagner

July/August 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31			<b>JULY 2011</b>			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
			<b>AUGUST 2011</b>			

## IF ONLY

"If Only" is the whip with which we lash ourselves.

If only I had not bought him the motorcycle

If only I had not let her cross the street alone

If only I had forbidden him to drive while he was so tired

If only I had not permitted the surgery. If only I had allowed the surgery sooner

If only I had not waited for the ambulance

If only I were an all knowing, all powerful God, I would not have allowed my child to die

But I am only human

Theresa Hutchinson, Norman OK  
Loving lifted from BP/USA Springfield Newsletter.

## Chapter News



### ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE

www.angelofhopetampabay.com

Located at:

*Riverside Park*

*201 Riverhills Drive, Temple Terrace*

Mailing Address:

*P. O. Box 2573, Lutz, FL 33548*

*813.495.7539*

Brick Orders:

*Bricks Orders must be submitted by August 1, 2011 in order to be included in the October Dedication.*

*Please see our website for brick order information and form.*



### 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.

### Telephone Friends

Need to talk? Having a bad day? 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

Sue Bowditch (Adult Child) (813) 390-9734

Theresa Farmer (Homicide) (813) 994-0707

Traci Cooley (Drowning) (813) 464-4525

Ron Ellington (Suicide/Grandparent) (727) 410-2308

Charles L'Homme (Accidental Death) (813) 335-7628

Debbie Nemitz (Long Term Illness) (813) 907-1441

Barbara or Tommy Dietrich  
(Death of an Only Child) (813) 340-9120

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

Donated by Lori Scragg  
 In loving memory of her son  
**Keith Joseph Scragg**  
 8/4/1986-9/5/2008

Donated by Tom & Judy Sluder  
 In loving memory of their daughter  
**Kathryn Elizabeth Sluder**  
 8/31/1966 - 3/16/2002

Donated by Gregg Lalís  
 In loving memory of his son  
**Timothy Lalís**  
 07/29/1996 - 07/11/2001

Donated by Tammy Hill  
 In loving memory of her son  
**Tyler Wade Head**  
 2/21/1995-7/15/2004

Donated by Linda Graves and Serena Graves  
 In loving memory of their son, and brother  
**Matthew Regan Graves**  
 8/8/1979-8/31/2000

### 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.

### Refreshments

Some of us like to remember our child's birthday or the anniversary of his or her death by bringing a cake or cookies to the meeting that month. We would appreciate having you bring a special treat to any meeting. You may also want to bring and share a picture of your child. Thank you!

### Chapter Library Books

If you have finished reading a BP/USA Library book, please, **please** return it to our library. There is no time limit for how long you can have a book, but the longer you borrow a book, the less opportunities other bereaved parents have to read it. We also gladly accept book donations.

Contact Tommy or Barbara Dietrich at (813) 234-4705 or visit one of our three monthly sharing meetings to return a book, arrange a donation or inquire about an available title.

### Electronic Newsletter

The Newsletter is now available electronically. To receive it by e-mail, send your name and e-mail address to: [bee.hurley@gte.net](mailto:bee.hurley@gte.net) and indicate your desire to switch from regular "snail" mail to e-mail.

E-mail 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!

### Chapter Outreach—New Members

New members to the chapter find us through various contacts with other bereaved parents, clergy, hospital, social service organizations, etc. If you know someone who has experienced the death of a child, please contact Linda Delk at 813-661-0680.



## Our Children . . . Remembered

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

### July Birthdays

Banda, Selena 7/6/2002 - 3/4/2004 P-Richard & Susan Banda	Finchum, Tommy 07/10/75 - 05/06/94 P - Pete & Joyce Finchum B - John Finchum	Leyde, Darek 7/17/1967 - 4/23/2003 P-Vern & Julie Leyde S-Traci Gainforth	Steen, Donald Kenneth 7/25/1960 - 7/26/1960 M-Nancy Holdren B-Richard, David & Michael
Buth, Andy Armstrong 7/21/1985-10/15/2010 F-Joseph Buth M-Karen Olson	Griner, Matthew Ian 7/10/1985 - 10/27/2006 P-George & Barbara Griner B-Daniel & Kurt GP-Bill and Ann Griner	McMillion, James Christopher 7/26/1984 - 9/26/2003 GP-Ralph & Martha Hamilton	Supple, Bart Patrick 07/25/59 - 02/14/94 P - Bart & Toni Supple
Butler, Mark Anthony 7/7/1977 - 11/24/2001 P-Ray & Chris Butler GM-Alice Butler	Henry, Sumara Raquel 07/12/88 - 09/18/93 P - Louis & Cindy Henry GP-James & Ruby Reese & Bernice Henry	Roberson, Richard Joseph 07/23/1959 - 06/02/1997 P-Richard & Jeannette Roberson S-Sue & Shelfy B-Randy	Tarez, Kami 7/1/1980 - 3/1/2006 M-Leigh Tarez
Corbett, Shaun 7/8/1985 - 4/23/2003 M-Ellen Corbett	Hester, Debbie 7/25/1998-10/14/61 P-Buddy & Sue Butler	Russo-Afeld, Angela Musette 7/10/1969 - 7/21/1996 M - Lillian Wiebeld F - Dick Russo B - Rick and Nelson Russo	Vallee, Scott Gerard 7/4/1974 - 7/10/2004 P-Gerry & Louise Vallee S-Kama Vallee GP-Roy & Mabel Parsons Spouse-Jessica Vallee
Durr, Ssgt. Jacob Nathaniel 7/16/1982-12/14/2009 M-Karen Durr S-Danielle Roberts GP-Samuel & Margret Minton	Holland, Jeffrey K. Moses 9/10/1986-7/7/2009 P-Thomas & Donna Holland & Henry Moses Sibs-Derrick Moses & Logan Holland GP-Beverly Cash, Joan & Steve Holland	Shelton, Emma Victoria 7/8/2003 - 5/8/2005 M-John & Jennifer Shelton Sibs-Jacob & Hannah GP-Peg & Jim Bishop, Tom Musolin, Art & Sam White, Rober & Judy	Webb, Eric Richard 7/1/1985 - 4/2/1999 P - William & Kathleen Webb B - David Webb
Eddy, Steven John 9/16/1960-7/9/2008 M-Marilyn Eddy S-Pam & Tammy B-Sonny	Knox, Patricia Lynn 7/27/1964 - 10/21/1997 M - Shelby Jean McClure	Slaven, Minnie Leona 7/10/1972 - 8/11/2000 M-Della LaGrone P-Delbert & Catherine Slaven S-Charlotte, Della, Betty, Lynn, Amelia & Sue B-Ronnie, Jack, Del, & Delbert Jr.	Wright, Travis 7/16/1973 - 6/15/2001 M - Joan Wright
Engdahl, Andrew 07/15/87 - 02/05/94 P - Rick & Vicky Engdahl S - Stephanie Engdahl B - Joey Engdahl	Lalis, Timothy 07/29/1996 - 07/11/2001 P - Gregg Lalis & Elisabeth Schulten B - Andrew & Klaus Lalis		Young, Billy 7/14/2003 - 4/17/2006 P-Bill & Sandy Young
			Zorn, Wayne 7/15/1964 - 12/30/2006 M-Charlotte Zorn

### July Anniversaries

Boyd, Anastasia "Nicole" 5/4/1998 - 7/8/2004 P-Anita Dennert & Thomas Boyd Sibs-Tara Lewis, Mike Boyd, Alan Boyd GP-Huey & Marie McDonald, Angus & Jewell Howell & Angus Grace	Hester, Debbie 10/14/61 - 07/25/98 P - Buddy & Sue Butler Hidalgo, Christopher 12/14/1989 - 7/5/2004 M-Tammy Hidalgo	Martin, Brian James 06/09/1979 - 07/18/1993 P - Stan & Adrienne Martin B - Christopher Martin GM - Evelyn Golding	Rusnak, Tamara 4/6/1972 - 7/23/2004 M-Donna Johnson
Burger, Teresa 10/26/58 - 07/10/87 M - Cecelia Burger B - Hal & Curt Burger	Holland, Jeffrey K. Moses 9/10/1986-7/7/2009 P-Thomas & Donald Holland & Henry Moses Sibs-Derrick Moses & Logan Holland GP-Beverly Cash, John & Steve Holland	Pegram, Jodi E. 04/06/70 - 07/22/01 P - Earl & Susan Pegram S - Robin Sue Pegram B - Scooter & Craig Pegram GM-Betty Jennings	Russo-Afeld, Angela Musette 7/10/1969 - 7/21/1996 M - Lillian Wiebeld F - Dick Russo B - Rick and Nelson Russo
Carlan, Robert Hope 06/02/78 - 07/25/99 P - Arnold & Linda Carlan	Kelly, Amanda Jean 11/15/1986 - 7/7/1987 P-John & Brenda Kelly S-Matthew & Ryan GP-John Keller & Elizabeth Kelly	Pitts, Joseph David 12/8/1971 - 7/16/1998 P - Ruth & Richard Pitts	Rutkowski, Eric John 4/11/1981 - 7/16/2003 P-Linda & Ron Rutkowski GP-Ray & Doris Pomorski
Eddy, Steven 9/16/1960 - 7/9/2008 M-Marilyn Eddy S-Pam Bishop & Tammy Eddy N-Angie Valente & Missy Bishop	Lalis, Timothy 07/29/1996 - 07/11/2001 P - Gregg Lalis & Elisabeth Schulten B - Andrew & Klaus Lalis	Ponder, Manda Lynn 06/13/1995 - 07/03/1995 P - Marilynn & William Ponder B - Travis & Mike Ponder S - Amanda Ponder GM-Grace Ponder	St. Martin-Hamm, Sydney Chanel 1/9/1997 - 7/21/2003 M-Joy St. Martin & the late Rusty Hamm GP-Ramon & Rita Hamm
Gonzalez, Miriam 12/10/1948 - 7/26/1995 P-Fernando & Paula Lesprier S-Maria & Aida	Lavalee, Grace 5/3/2009-7/17/2010 M-Natalia Lavalee	Powers, Geoffrey A. 1/23/1983 - 7/1/2005 M-Diane Tower Sisters-Lana & Nikki Powers	Steen, Donald Kenneth 7/25/1960 - 7/26/1960 M-Nancy Holdren B-Richard, David & Michael
Head, Tyler Wade 2/21/1995 - 7/15/2004 M-Tammy Hill F-Jerry Toloff GF-German Toloff	Littlechild, Will 4/6/1979-7/4/2008 M-Lula Richardson S-Patricia Littlechild	Robertson, Kristi Lee 12/15/1969 - 7/29/1994 M - Janice & Joe Robertson S - Kathy Sanchez & Karen Demeria GM-Mildred Trigg	Timothy, Joshua 6/29/2004 - 7/18/2005 P-Doug & Kerri Timothy GM-Mary Ann Neglrete
Heath, Austin Noah 4/6/2000 - 7/4/2000 P - Isaac Heath & Regina Jacobs GM - Gigi Schools		Rodriquez, Edwin (Eddy) Jr. 1/11/1971 - 7/28/1993 M-Bertha Dominquez	Turner, Devon 5/2/1986 - 7/28/2005 M-Marie Lawson
			Vallee, Scott Gerard 7/4/1974 - 7/10/2004 P-Gerry & Louise Vallee S-Kama Vallee GP-Roy & Mabel Parsons Spouse-Jessica Vallee
			Williams, Alec Michael 5/17/1996 - 7/27/1996 P - Kathy & Michael Williams B - Chad & Chase G - Frank & Robbie Edwards G - Dwight & Melvalene Williams

### Our Apologies

*The following name was omitted from June Birthday and Anniversary list:*

Jonathan Lee Fernandez  
December 13, 1989—June 20, 2010  
Mom-Elaine Fernandez

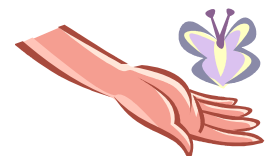
## August Birthdays

Antinora, Joseph A. 8/18/1967-12/9/2006 M-Susan Antinora S-Tina Baxter GP-Joseph Harnishfeger	Gallian, John Charles 8/8/1963 - 3/21/1998 M-Virgian Gallian S-Paige Mask	May, Philip 8/1/1975 - 1/1/2000 P-Deryl & Jennifer May	Sampson, Charles Roy 8/29/1998 - 8/29/1998 P - Paul & Susan Sampson GP - Margaret & Clayton Sampson and Shirley & Charles Osborne
Bishop, Krystal Lee 8/1/1988 - 12/24/2001 P-Pam & Rick Bishop S-Angie Valente & Missy Bishop B-Greg Bishop GM-Marilyn Eddy	Gardner, Gary Dwain Jr. 8/25/1995 - 10/4/2000 P - Gary & Janelle Gardner B - Jacob Gary Gardner GP-Betty Thatcher, Marty Thomas	Muse, Jennifer Lee 08/07/71 - 04/04/92 M - Gretchen Muse F - Robert Muse, Jr. GP - Bob & Gladys Muse GM - Dorothy Deisch	Scragg, Keith Joseph 8/4/1986 - 9/5/2008 P-Richard & Lori Son-Macklin B-Matthew S/O-Emily Popke
Daniel, Michael John 8/19/1990-4/1/2010 P-Paul & Nadine Daniel B-James Daniel GP-Lewis John Daniel & Steve & Margaret James	Goldman, Ariel Nicole Rothschild 8/30/1989 - 5/15/2001 P - Steve and Lynn Goldman	Orsi, Kristen McCall 8/5/1980 - 6/27/2002 P-Kimberly & Leo Orsi GP-Wm. & Jeanne Armiger and Stephanie & Rich Orashen	Shearer, Shane 08/03/73 - 12/05/89 M - Linda Shearer SF - Keith Gregory S - January Shearer
Darrigo, Anthony & Domenic 08/11/94 - 08/11/94 P - Sam & Vanessa Darrigo	Graves, Matthew Regan 8/8/1979 - 8/31/2000 M - Linda Graves S - Serena Graves B-Dutch & Allen Jr. GF-Wilson Harmison	Parrish, Randy 08/22/57 - 02/10/97 M - Juanita Bodiford B - Dough Parrish	Sluder, Kathryn Elizabeth 8/31/1966 - 3/16/2002 P-Tom & Judy Sluder Son-Israel S-Theresa B-Tom III & Keith N/N-Brandon & Brandy, Keith II & Miranda
Faber, Nicholas (Nicky) Paul 08/13/89 - 06/08/95 P - Paul & Kathy Faber S - Danielle Faber GP - Esther Kubler and Anna & Bobby Banks	Harrington, Zachary Michael Evans 8/4/1992 - 8/7/1992 P - William & Barbara Evans-Harrington GP Wm. & Barbara Evans	Parrish, Scott Douglas 8/9/79 - 1/1/02 P - Doug Parrish and P - Karla & Rick Brown S-Sabrina Lee Shannon GP - Juanita Bodiford & Ada Smith	Steen, Michael Anthony 8/4/1956 - 6/20/2003 M-Nancy Holdren B-Rick, David & Donald Father to Jessica, Christine & Michelle Married to Doreen
Ferrera, Alex 8/11/1977 - 10/4/1997 P - Nelson & Guisela Ferrera B - Paolo Ferrera GM - Magda Alvarez Aunt - Mirta Diaz Uncle - John Ferrera	Harrison, Leigh Ann 08/11/84 - 08/11/84 P-Trudy & Tim Harrison GP-Bobbie & Jerry Meeks	Parrish, Tyler Stephen 8/6/1991 - 10/24/1991 P - June & Terry Parrish	Thornton, Jeremiah 8/29/84 - 4/13/01 M - Tim & Sue Thornton B - Jason S - Amanda
Ferrera, Crista J. 8/23/1975 - 03/11/1997 P - Nelson & Guisela Ferrera B - Paolo Ferrera GM - Magda Alvarez Aunt - Mirta Diaz Uncle - John Ferrera	Hoskins, Lauren Grace 8/18/2004 - 8/18/2004 M-Kim Hoskins	Peel, Lee Anna Campbell 8/5/1972 - 9/9/1992 M - Patricia Campbell S - Beth Biggs B - Eddy Biggs GP - Estele & James Carleton	
	Howard, Steven T. 8/11/70 - 6/30/1999 M-Cay Pelaez	Rose, Kailyn Dyan 8/22/2000 - 3/4/2003 M-Evelyn E. Rose	
	Marchetti, Katie 8/4/1989 - 3/4/2006 P-Vin & Laura Marchetti B-Andrew Marchetti		



## August Anniversaries

Blanchard, Eric Anthony 2/19/1976 - 8/3/1998 P - Barbara & Wayne Blanchard S - Lisa, Tammy, Dawn B - Chris & Michael Daughter - Samantha	Harrington, Zachary Michael Evans 8/4/1992 - 8/7/1992 P - William & Barbara Evans-Harrington GP Wm. & Barbara Evans	Slaven, Minnie Leona 7/10/1972 - 8/11/2000 M-Della LaGrone P-Delbert & Catherine Slaven S-Charlotte, Della, Betty, Lynn, Amelia & Sue B-Ronnie, Jack, Del, & Delbert Jr.
Cash, Christopher 9/13/1977 - 8/23/2004 M-Rita & Thomas Zvada F-Charles & Mika Cash Child-Leah Cash B-Charles Cash II GP-Gustavo & Ida Arencibia	Harrison, Leigh Ann 08/11/84 - 08/11/84 P-Trudy & Tim Harrison GP-Bobbie & Jerry Meeks	Varga, Jozsef 6/11/1988 - 8/4/2007 M-Carmen Varga B-Kiel & Bruce Senra GP-Dorothy & Gerald Senra
Darrigo, Anthony & Domenic 08/11/94 - 08/11/94 P - Sam & Vanessa Darrigo	Holton, John William 05/20/52 - 08/10/94 M - Ann Holton	Welch, Kimberly Michelle 10/24/1971 - 8/28/2003 M-Nancy Welch Child-
Fernandez, Karen Irene 03/08/68 - 08/23/88 M - Violeta "Cookie" Fernandez B-Rik Fernandez	Hoskins, Lauren Grace 8/18/2004 - 8/18/2004 M-Kim Hoskins	
Flynn, Philip 12/17/1977-8/8/2002 M-Roseanne Flynn	Mohammed, Ian Roger 04/19/73 - 08/02/92 P - Judy & Rick Mohammed S - Alison Mohammed B - Cameron Mohammed	
Gilliam, Hayden Charles 6/20/1999 - 8/4/2001 P - Sean & Marion Gilliam Sibs - Sara & Cole GP-Joe & Nancy Gilliam, and Rosemarie Presbrey GGP-Mary Gilliam & Lora Flowers	Roark, Kelli Colin 4/30/1990 - 8/30/1998 P - Joe & Angel Roark B - Kyle & Kaleb Roark GF - Ron Ellington	
Graves, Matthew Regan 8/8/1979 - 8/31/2000 M - Linda Graves S - Serena Graves B-Dutch & Allen Jr. GF-Wilson Harmison	Sampson, Charles Roy 8/29/1998 - 8/29/1998 P - Paul & Susan Sampson GP - Margaret & Clayton Sampson and Shirley & Charles Osborne	
	Shye, John David 05/27/1964 - 08/07/1994 P - Betty Jean & Charles Shye S - Lydia and Mary Shye B - Chuck, Mary, Lydia Shye Father of J.D. and Justin Shye	



*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.*

## A Gift That is Everlasting

A gift that is everlasting,  
A heart too precious to hold.  
Minimal days to cherish,  
It's for the best, so we're told.



We live everyday,  
Not knowing how long it shall last.  
Counting the seconds to memories,  
Waiting for the "now" to be the "past."

Nothing prepares us for that day,  
When our babies become gone.  
No explanations seem a comfort,  
As we stare into the dawn.

People surround us,  
Giving all they know to give.  
We walk through the ceremonies blind,  
Just wishing that they could live.

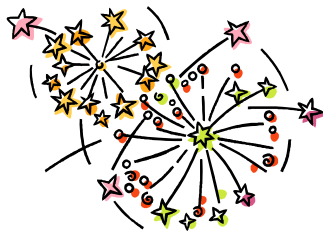
We hold on to the best,  
To make it through the night.  
Hating everything that we see,  
Knowing that this whole thing's not right.

The days proceed on,  
We must learn to live again.  
Taking days to recall our angels,  
Feeling that there was no win.

Months fade fast,  
As that name makes our tears dry.  
We smile in the presence of others,  
We find only happiness in the cries.

Hurt passes with time,  
Wishing for our next encounter together.  
To hold the innocent in our arms,  
And share that love forever.

Written especially for the 2000 Gathering held in Tampa  
by Christa Dasher  
In Memory of her godson and nephew, Austin Ryan Dixon



## Fireworks

—Author unknown

*You used to run around with a sparkler  
in your hand,  
pretending you were a minute man or a  
patriot drummer.*

*It didn't matter; there was time for all.  
You'd wrap a rag around your head and  
take your toy drum, and tromp around  
the yard.*

*Whatever you were on those wonderful  
nights, you loved it!*

## Amend to Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 to Include the Death of a Child

It is my opinion that the death of a child is the worst experience that anyone can endure. However, many employers only allow 2-3 days of bereavement leave. Employees are expected to use their available vacation time after the 2-3 days of bereavement leave have been expended. If the employee exhausts both of these benefits and still requires additional time off the employer has grounds to terminate the employee.

I find it unacceptable that the death of a child is not included as a protected reason to qualify for 12 weeks of unpaid leave as part of the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993. Even people that have not lost a child can see the benefit in adding this to the already established Family Medical Leave Act.

Locally I have met with Congresswoman Judy Biggert and the issue has been featured on the front page of the Daily Herald (3/30/11). Nationally we have collected over 5,000 signatures and over 11,000 petition letters have sent to elected officials in Washington DC.

We need all the help we can get to continue bringing awareness to this issue. If you are interested in supporting this amendment, I ask you to do two things: 1) Visit [www.FarleyKluger.com](http://www.FarleyKluger.com) and sign the e-petition and 2) Share this link with people you know through email, Facebook and Twitter. Let's see if we can get someone's attention on this issue.

Thanks for your help.

Kelly Farley  
Founder of The Grieving Dads Project  
(630) 561-5989  
E-Mail: [Kelly@GrievingDads.com](mailto:Kelly@GrievingDads.com)  
Blog: [www.GrievingDads.wordpress.com](http://www.GrievingDads.wordpress.com)  
Website: [www.GrievingDads.com](http://www.GrievingDads.com)  
Facebook: "GrievingDads.com Project"  
Twitter: [Twitter.com/GrievingDads](https://twitter.com/GrievingDads)

*And we watched and laughed as you  
waved your tiny flag, thinking maybe  
you were the one who  
really understood what we celebrated.  
Now the drum is gone and no one gets  
sparklers any more.*

*The yard is quiet on the Fourth of  
July.*

*Do you still march and play the drum  
for others?*

# 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.

*May the stars carry your sadness away,  
May the flowers fill your heart with beauty,  
May hope forever wipe away your tears,  
And, above all, may silence make you strong*

~ Chief Dan George

## Sorrow Is Not Forever—Love Is

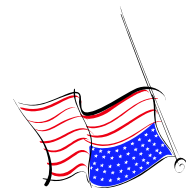
—Michael A. Simpson, Birmingham, AL

So often, one attempts to face the whole future at once. But we will not live that period all at once, only day by day. Don't try to face twenty years. Face today. When that has been achieved, face tomorrow. You will find more and more ways in which you can cope. The Chinese have a saying that a journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step. There is no way you can take the fifteenth, or the two hundred-seventh step, before you have taken the first.

It can be difficult to face going out again and resuming your regular activities. It can take more courage to face the little things than the big things in life. Going out shopping for groceries for the first time can become an ordeal. Making the change more complete could help. Try a different store, a different day or time, and go with a friend. When it seems very hard to decide what to do first, maybe it's not very important where you start, as long as you start. Choose a simple task and get started.

Once you've begin, it will be far easier to set your priorities and you will have gained in confidence for already having achieved something.

## Address Service Requested



Please do not delay.  
**POSTMASTER - Dated Material**

**July/August 2011**

The Bereaved Parents of the USA  
3805 San Juan Street  
Tampa, FL 33629

