



Tampa Bay Chapter

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

MEETING INFORMATION

Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting



Sunday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

Candle Lighting Service and Ceremony

Note: You may still attend the
Ceremony, even if you did not
send in your Registration Form!
(Note: Park in new garage as it is complete!

St. Joseph's Hospital
Medical Arts Building, Auditorium
3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
And January 13, 2008, 6:30 p.m.
Call Beverley Hurley at 813-832-3175
for directions or information.

Regular Monthly DAYTIME Meeting

Riverview/Gibson/Brandon areas

(held the second Friday each month)

Friday, December 14,

Please bring a Holiday snack to share!

And Friday, January 11, 2008

10:00 a.m. to Noon

The Greater Brandon (new building)

330 Pauls Drive, Ste. 100 (TECO Board Room)
Brandon, Florida 33511

PLEASE CALL Linda Delk at 813-661-0680
for directions or information.

Regular Monthly BRADENTON Meeting

Call for dates and location!

Melissa Coxwell at 941-708-7052

Regular Monthly PLANT CITY Meeting

(Due to Christmas week will meet on the third Thursday!)

Thursday, December 20,

Please bring a Holiday snack to share!

And Thursday, January 24, 2008

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.

Upcoming Events:

December 9-BP/USA Annual Candle Light Ceremony

Mark your calendar and invite family and friends to
attend our annual Candlelight Remembrance Service at
St. Joseph's Hospital, 7:00 p.m. New parking garage is
open and very convenient!!

Angel of Hope monthly meeting

Please call Beverley Hurley 813-832-3175 for info!
Next meeting January 7, 2008!

Sunday, February 10, 2008

Gasparilla Marathon volunteers needed!

Angel of Hope Annual Spring Tea

Saturday, April 28, 2008!

December 2007 & January 2008

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

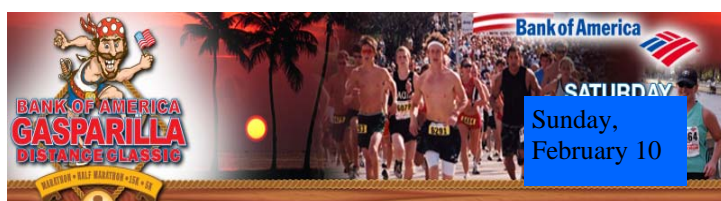
Timmy Douglas Lalis

Phillip P.J. Combs

Kimberly Ann "Kimie"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	December					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					2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	We d	Thu	Fri	Sat
January		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	2008	



Volunteers Needed

Sunday, February 10, 2008

Please help us to pass out water and Ga-
torade to the runners in the Gasparilla
Classic Marathon and help earn a dona-
tion for our Chapter. These funds help our
chapter to print and mail our newsletters,
pay for P.O. Box fee, postage, library
books and brochures to help the newly be-
reaved in our community by educating
them about their grief journey.

Please call **Charles L'Homme after 5**
p.m. at 813-689-2215 to volunteer and
receive a Free Gasparilla Marathon Tee
Shirt and get front row seats for the race!!

Chapter News

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.

Picture Boards



Please bring your child’s picture for our Picture Board to be displayed at all meetings!

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.



ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE

Please check out our new website at www.angelofhopetampabay.com



Angel of Hope monthly meeting

Please call Beverley Hurley 813-832-3175 for info! Next meeting January 7, 2008!

Angel of Hope Annual Spring Tea

Saturday, April 28, 2008! New location!

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) 300-6877
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

Love Gifts



Tiger Bay Club of Tampa
For their generous donation collection at their November luncheon.

Candlelight Donations

Our special thanks to those sending donations to help make our Candle Light Remembrance Service a special evening for our children:

Debbie Nemitz
In loving memory of her daughter
Robyn Michelle Nemitz
12/22/1982-2/21/2000

Maritza & Jeff Patet
In loving memory of their son
Nathan Gabriel Patet
12/18/1988-6/10/1990

Carmen Varga
In loving memory of her son
Jozsef Varga
6/1//1988-8/4/2007

Lisa Pyche
In loving memory of her son
Phillip P.J. Combs
3/24/1986-6/12/2004

Cindy Henry
In loving memory of her daughter
Sumara Raquel Henry
7/12/1988-9/18/1993

Janice Robertson
In loving memory of her daughter
Kristi Lee Robertson
12/15/1969-7/29/1994

Helen Ramirez
In loving memory of her son
Arthur Ramirez, Jr.
6/10/1951-12/30/1997

John & Joan Morrow
In loving memory of their son
Mark Thomas Morrow
5/19/1978-12/7/2005

Connie & Robert Pike
In loving memory of their son
Taylor K. Pike
11/9/1985-5/14/2007

Theresa Farmer
In loving memory of her son
Ty Kristan Robertson
2/4/1979-3/24/2003

Charles & Joan Pittman
In loving memory of their daughter
Cynthia Marie Pittman
1/25/1978-2/23/2003

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



DON'T FORGET



Annual Candle Light Ceremony
Sunday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.



Our Children . . . Remembered

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

December Birthdays

Baker, Jennifer 12/13/1973 - 10/15/1995 P-Terry & Susan Baker	Lovett, Sandra Sandy 12/3/1968 - 10/4/1997 M - Barbara Bryant Morrow, Mark Thomas 5/19/1978-12/7/2005 P-John & Joan Morrow	Racke, Sabrina D. Wallace 12/2/60 - 3/12/97 P-Arnold & Louise Wallace B-Chris Wallace Children-Jamie and Jennifer	Waller, Lauren Marie 12/12/1990 - 4/16/2000 M - Kristine Colding & Bryan Strahan B-Christopher S-Faith GP-Joyce & Gene Waller
Barnes Hannah D. M. 12/28/94 - 12/28/94 P - Alfred & Sabrina Barnes	Montagano, Tony 12/02/91 - 01/02/01 P-Luli and Jim Montagano S-Alessandra Montagano GP-Henry and Eloisa Valenzuela	Raynaud, Jamisen Liberty 12/11/1980-2/19/2005 P-Fred and Jan Raynaud S-Nicole Raynaud GP-Jim and Janet DePorre	Zorn, Wayne 7/15/1964-12/30/2005 M-Charlotte Zorn
Dukes, Steven 12/15/1957 - 7/16/1998 P-C.W. & Betty Dukes	Murphy, Mark Lawrence 12/22/1968 - 2/21/2000 M - Rosalie Baum B - John Murphy	Robertson, Kristi Lee 12/15/1969 - 7/29/1994 M - Janice & Joe Robertson S - Kathy Sanchez & Karen Demeria GM-Mildred Trigg Ruiz, Marcus Nelson 12/29/1996 - 11/12/2000 P - Aleida & Nelson Ruiz S - Illana	
Frederick, Mark Anthony 12/4/1974-3/9/2006 MBecky Frederick	Nemitz, Robyn Michelle 12/28/82 - 06/16/98 P - Debbie & Bill Nemitz B - John Nemitz GP - Laura Nemitz, William Barbish A & U -John & Linda Goodman & Marty & Carol Nemitz	Sasnett, Debbie Powell 12/14/1956 - 03/31/2000 P-Jackie & Billy Powell B-Debby & Tony S-Penny	
Gonzalez, Miriam 12/10/1948 - 7/26/1995 P-Fernando & Paula Lespier S-Maria & Aida	Patet, Nathan Gabriel 12/18/88 - 06/10/90 P - Moritza & Jeff Patet S - Mallory and Gina Patet GP-Gus & Lourdes Aenas and Don Patet	Stone, Danny 12/05/74 - 03/17/94 P - Dan & Janet Stone B - Josh & Andy Stone	
Hall, Heather Elizabeth 12/10/94 - 03/06/96 P - Ken & Jackie Hall B - Jason Gabriel Hall	Pitts, Joseph David 12/8/1971 - 7/16/1998 P - Ruth & Richard Pitts		
Hidalgo, Christopher 12/14/1989 - 7/5/2004 M-Tammy Hidalgo			
Horton, Ryan 12/21/1980 - 1/23/2005 M-Sue Horton			
Lingefelt, Fiona 12/20/1989 - 10/15/2000 P - Karen & Douglas Lingefelt B-Alexander & Andrew			



December Anniversaries

Barnes Hannah D. M. 12/28/94 - 12/28/94 P - Alfred & Sabrina Barnes	Donnarumma, Sophia Marie 9/1/2000-12/23/2004 P-Benjamin & Diane Donnarumma S-Olivia GM-Pat Donnarumma	Pegram, Robin Sue 03/13/73 - 12/05/93 P - Earl & Susan Pegram S - Jodi Pegram B - Scooter & Craig Pegram GM-Betty Jennings	Williams, Paul X. 12/2/1986-12/24/2005 M-Amber Mac Donald F-Tracy Mac Donald S-Molly Williams B-Daniel Williams GP-John & Rosemarie Binder
Bishop, Krystal Lee 8/1/1988 - 12/24/2001 P-Pam & Rick Bishop S-Angie Valente & Missy Bishop B-Greg Bishop BM-Marylynn Eddy	Douglas, Christopher 11/4/1977 - 12/22/1997 M - Laren & Michael S - Stacy & Leigh B - Clinton	Ramirez, Arthur, Jr. 6/10/1951 - 12/30/1997 M-Helen Ramirez	Woofter, Kimie 2/24/1970-12/25/2006 P-Julie & Steve Woofter S-Angela Huntley B-Donny Killian
Bliss, Lindsay Rebecca 4/26/1977 - 12/1/1991 P - Jim & Mary Beth Bliss S - Shannon Bliss	Durazzo, Richard 12/5/1971-6/8/2006 P-Diane and Paul Durazzo	Schlechty, Michael 2/5/59 - 12/4/01 P - Nancy & Vernon Schlechty Children - Michael Leann & Morgan Lynn B - Mark and Julie S - Amy	Zorn, Wayne 7/15/1964 - 12/30/2006 M-Charlotte Zorn
Booker, Michelle Elizabeth 3/25/1987 - 12/1/2004 P-Michael & Bonnie Booker B-Justine & Dillon Booker GP-Betty Nichols and Ed & Janice Falcon	Ellis, Douglas William 01/09/62 - 12/17/83 M - Alicia Ellis West B-Harry Jr. & Edward Ellis	Shearer, Shane 08/03/73 - 12/05/89 M - Linda Shearer SF - Keith Gregory S - January Shearer	
Clements, George R. 03/25/1972 - 12/9/1996 M-Sherrie Clements S-Carey & Cory Clements	Hinchey, Ronald 11/17/1974 - 12/10/1999 P - Ronald & Donna Hinchey S - Tracy Foster	Thompson, Kimberly Karlin 5/5/1976 - 12/6/1999 P - Sam & Ingrid Thompson	
Daly, Cole 9/9/1983 - 12/17/2001 M-Katie Brock	Knight, Matthew A. 9/1/1982 - 12/28/2001 P-Ron & Sandy Knight GM-Doris I. Knight	Weber, Barbara Jean 6/4/1953 - 12/14/1994 P - Weldon & Jean Weber S - Kristi, Teresa, & Pamela	
Darby, Marc Steven 3/25/1986 - 12/12/1998 P - Steve & Lori Darby S - Cody, Austin, Benjamin Darby GP - John & Linda Darby	Lespinasse, Bryan 3/8/1991 - 12/27/2004 M-Margarett Lespinasse		
Delk, Melissa Ann 11/13/72 - 12/09/77 M - Linda Delk B - Louis Delk S - Meronda Brown	O'Berry, Michael Sean 09/13/94 - 12/15/97 P - Mike & Valerie O'Berry B - Christopher O'Berry GM - Linda Hoffman A - Joyce Weil U - Mike Kasrich		

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.

Please note - Our website is now [.com](http://www.bpusatampabay.com) and not .org
www.bpusatampabay.com



Our Children . . . Remembered

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

January Birthdays

Baker, Brendolyn Joyce Butterfly
1/1/1948 - 11/9/1990
M - Rebeckah Mitchell
SF - Daniel Mitchell
B - Daniel Leroy Mitchell
S - Sharolyn Mitchell, Rhondolyn
Shedrick, Lerolyn Capehart, and
Angelyn Capehart

Clark, Deborah Denise
1/19/1969 - 3/23/2002
M-Ethel Helms
S-Valencia Clark
B-James Jr. & Jerel
GP-Luella Buford & John L.Clark

Diaz, Alexandra
01/28/98 - 01/28/98
P - Llz & Joaquin Diaz

Durcan, Andrea Lynn
01/15/1991 - 03/31/1991
P - David & Dixie Durcan
S - Lindsey & Lauren Durcan
GP-Marie B. Corcoran

Ellis, Douglas William
01/09/62 - 12/17/83
M - Alicia Ellis West
B-Harry Jr. & Edward Ellis

Feierstadt, Keith
01/13/75 - 01/16/94
P - Donna & Sy Feierstadt
B - Robert Feierstadt

Harris, Charlotte Marie
1/23/2004 - 2/3/2004
P-Tony & Debra Harris

Hughes, Jessica Alexis
1/13/86 - 5/11/02
F - Michael Hughes

Jones, Sherry
1/18/1971 - 4/27/2000
M - Brenda Copeland

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

Parker II, James Donald
1/21/1979 - 3/24/1998
P - James & Kim Parker
B - Richard Wm. Parker
S-Jackie Wise
GP-Don Parker & Richard Salisbury

Pispitsos, Richard John
01/23/72 - 09/14/98
P - Catherine Webb & Philip Finkelstein
S - Michelle Webb
GP-Anne & Owen Beglane

Pittman, Cynthia Marie
1/25/1978 - 2/23/2003
P-Charles & Joan Pittman

Powers, Geoffrey A.
1/23/1983 - 7/1/2005
M-Diane Tower
Sisters-Lana & Nikki Powers

Rodriquez, Edwin (Eddy) Jr.
1/11/1971 - 7/28/1993
M-Bertha Dominquez

Rogers, Jason R.
01/08/78 - 03/21/90
P-James Roy & Elaine Rogers
B-Justin & Jacob Rogers
GP-Arthur & Ethel Fernandez

Russell, Karron Michelle
1/20/1967 - 9/12/2000
P - Ben & Sue Bowditch and
Children - Brytani, Derak & Melody
Sisters - Catherine,Roben & Laurie
Bobby Jr. & Scott
GP-Cathren Dickerson and Jimmy & Kay
Senseney

Schneider, Adam
01/29/71 - 10/23/75
P - Bill & Georgia Schneider

St. Martin-Hamm, Sydney Chanel
1/9/1997 - 7/21/2003
M-Joy St. Martin & the late Rusty Hamm
GP-Ramon & Rita Hamm

Stoeltzing, William (Bill) W.
01/02/57 - 05/09/02
P - Bill & Elvira Stoeltzing
S - Cecille Parido
Father to Eaton & Brent

Thornton, Teresa E.
01/12/66 - 09/24/81
P - Ken & Mirta Thornton
S - Lisa Buckner
B - Nick Thornton
GP-Tony & Berneda Pino

Tower, Geoffrey
1/23/1983-7/1/2005
M-Diane Tower

Wilds, Matthew Leland
01/12/74 - 01/13/95
P - Steven and Karen Catlin
B - Daniel Scott Wilds

January Anniversaries

Brady, Mark A.
09/27/57 - 01/03/89
M - Margaret Brady
S -Margaret J. Bruner
B - Hayward L. "Bubba" Brady, Jr.
GP-Wallace & Josephine Bagley
and Wm. & Cinderalla Brady

DeRoche, Cameron Gaines
04/11/89 - 01/25/95
P - Peggy & Karl DeRoche
S - Mary Amber DeRoche

Diaz, Alexandra
01/28/98 - 01/28/98
P - Llz & Joaquin Diaz

Feierstadt, Keith
01/13/75 - 01/16/94
P - Donna & Sy Feierstadt
B - Robert Feierstadt

Harris, Joshua
- 1/22/2004
P-Charles & Debra Harris

Hernandez, Rebecca
02/10/89 - 01/28/91
P - Regla & Pedro Hernandez

Horton, Ryan
12/21/1980 - 1/23/2005
M-Sue Horton

Jackson, April Dawn
02/16/77 - 01/28/96
P - Dan Jackson

Lane, Jim
9/7/1966 - 1/2/2005
M-Carol Lane

May, Philip
8/1/1975 - 1/1/2000
P-Deryl & Jennifer May

Montagano, Tony
12/02/91 - 01/02/01
P-Luli and Jim Montagano
S-Alessandra Montagano
GP-Henry and Eloisa Valenzuela

McCrairie, Clarissa
8/1/1971-1/5/2007
F-Carlos Nogueira

Parrish, Scott Douglas
8/9/79 - 1/1/02
P - Doug Parrish and
P - Karla & Rick Brown
S-Sabbrina Lee Shannon
GP - Juanita Bodiford & Ada Smith

Rademacher, Rhonda Marie
5/19/1977 - 1/26/1999
P - Doris & John Rademacher
B - Ronald & Jeremy Rademacher
S - Cherry & Carrie Rademacher

Rivera, Damian Elijah
11/19/2001 - 01/10/2002
M-Nicole Rivera

Robinson, Ashley Lauren
05/20/94 - 01/16/96
P - Sara & Tim Robinson
S - Morgan Ashley Robinson

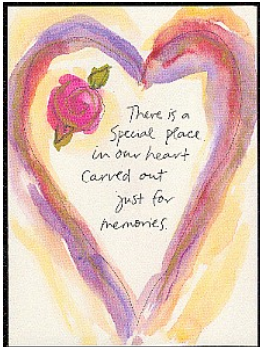
Thompson, Timothy A.
10/27/70 - 01/07/93
P- Bettie & Richard Thompson

Walker, Nick
11/12/1983 - 1/11/2001
M - Denise Walker
GM - Shirley Walker

Wheeler, Clifford Denmark
11/1/1979 - 1 /18/1996
M-Donna Wheeler
B-John, James & Duane
GP-Lynn & Marcel Baker

Wilds, Matthew Leland
01/12/74 - 01/13/95
P - Steven and Karen Catlin
B - Daniel Scott Wilds

Wilson,Joe
3/24/1980-1/12/2005
P-Pam & Jan Wilson





*In Loving Memory of
Kimberly Ann "Kimie"
February 24, 1970 to December 25, 2006*

Dearest Kimie

*They say that time will heal my heart
I found this is not so.
You see, with you, my heart went, too
So many months ago.*

*They say I must get over this,
I have a life to live.
You are my life, and to have you back,
Oh, what I would not give.*

*They say that you are happy now,
In a better place than I.
This, I know is true
As tears fall from my eyes.*

*They say that you can hear me now,
I hope that it is true.
I look and listen, day and night
For just a glimpse of you.*

*They say to give it all to God
Do it without delay.
But isn't that just what I did
One year ago, today.*

*Love you always Kimie
Love, Mom & Family*

*Written By: Tammy Hill
October 21, 2007*

*There is no GREATER SUFFERING
than to outlive your children. We are
the walking wounded. It's been one year
ago today, your death was senseless,
Needless and so sad.
Our days are cloudy and our hearts are
heavy without you here in our lives.*



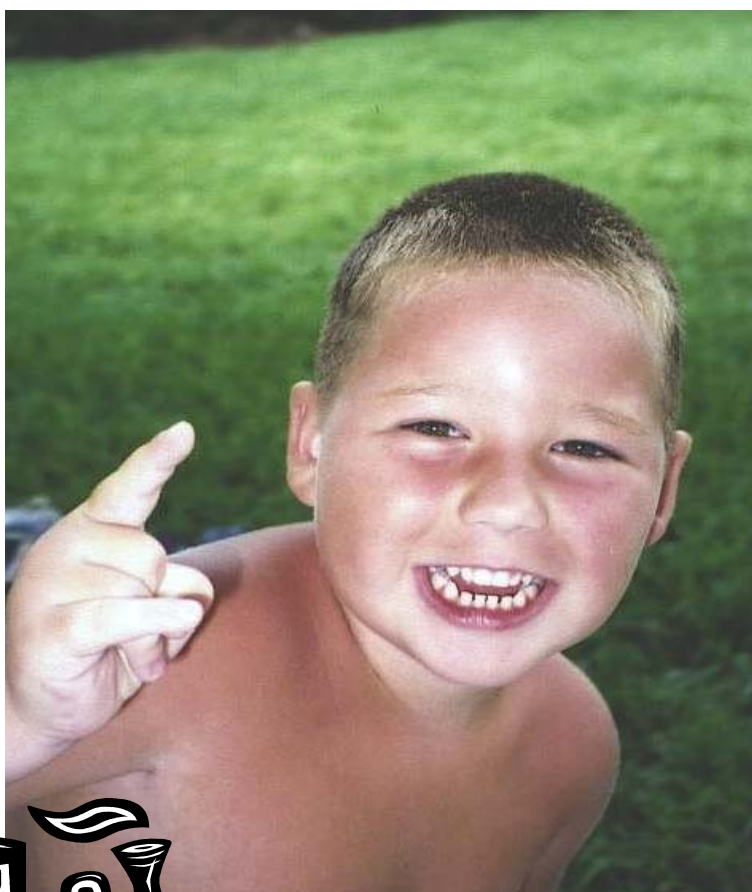
*She leaves to mourn her passing her
immediate family who love and miss
her so very much and many wonder-
ful and caring friends.*

Fly to the rim of Heaven Kimie!

TIMOTHY DOUGLAS LALIS

“Timmy”

July 29, 1996 – July 11, 2001



Merry Christmas

“Frohe Weihnachten”

You are missed and loved by many

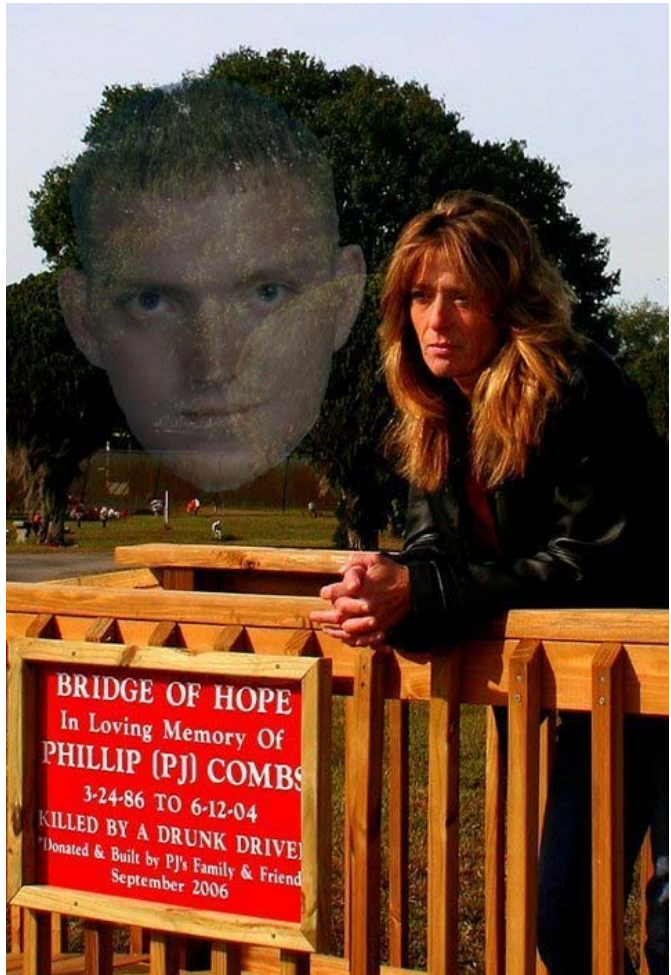
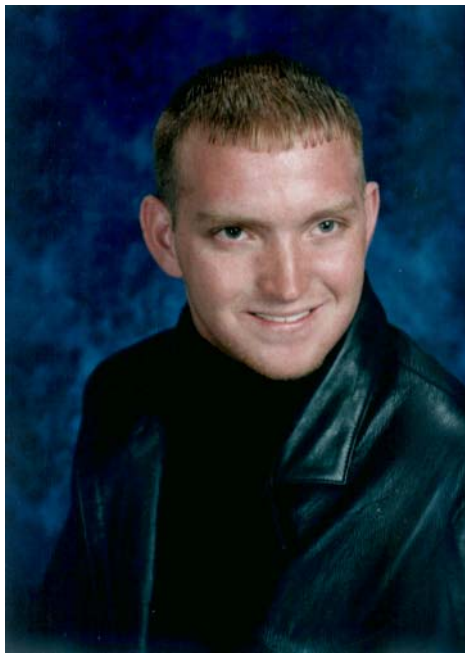
*Always in my heart,
Your Mommy*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PHILLIP (PJ) COMBS

MARCH 24, 1986 – JUNE 12, 2004

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DEDICATING THIS PAGE IN HONOR OF PJ IS JUST ONE OF THE THINGS I CAN DO TO LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT MY SON, PJ WAS ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE PEOPLE WHO YOU WOULD EVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO MEET.



NOT ONLY WAS IS HE HONEST, CONSIDERATE, HELPFUL, SINCERE AND LOVING HE WOULD GIVE 1000% OF HIS LIFE TO HELPING OTHERS WITHOUT EXPECTING ANYTHING IN RETURN.

PJ IS THE SON THAT EVERY PARENT WOULD LOVE TO HAVE AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER TRAVIS HAS FOLLOWED IN HIS PATH.
AND WE ARE VERY PROUD OF HIS STRENGTH AND COURAGE.

WE ARE SOOOOOO
PROUD OF PJ & TRAVIS
AND NO ONE CAN EVER TAKE AWAY OUR MEMORIES!!!!

WE ALL LOVE & MISS YOU PHILLIP (PJ) COMBS
MERRY CHRISTMAS
LOL

MOM, TRAVIS, STEVE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Gifts, Garland and Grief

by Sandy Goodman

I remember our first Christmas after. It began the first week of November in 1997, three short months into our worst nightmare, but a lifetime into missing our son of eighteen years. He had died suddenly, one of those “in the wrong place at the wrong time” things, and he took our hearts with him when he left.

Still standing in confusion at the threshold of grief, we were stunned when the stores replaced the gloomy ghosts and goblins with sparkling ornaments and cheerful decorations. Neighbors strung lights on their houses, friends sent cards wishing us joy filled holidays, and not one person mentioned Jason's name. Closing our drapes, we huddled in our cocoon, waiting for his return.

Thanksgiving passed. I recall the empty chair and the unbroken wishbone. There was an unwatched football game and a failed attempt at gratitude. That was our day, and it was good enough. It was inconceivable that we would ever enjoy another holiday, much less be thankful for it.

Snow fell. Carols rang out, lights twinkled, church bells pealed. Our thoughts were of Jason, fixed more acutely on his departure than on his arrival eighteen years before. Memories of prior Decembers pervaded our present. Jason ice fishing. Jason sledding. Jason's birthday. Jason opening gifts. Jason throwing tinsel on the tree, on his brothers and on the dog. Every memory brought tears but every tear brought Jason closer to us.

We found him in the pain, the only place we knew how to get to. I believe that first Christmas had to be that way. Showing up was the best we could do.

But now it is six trees, six silent nights, and six collectable ornaments later. I've learned a few things about this path I'm on and found a few crutches for when the road gets too rough. Holidays can be disabling for those who grieve. I'd like to share some things that might help:

- * Believe that your loved one is with you. Include them in your celebrations and in your sadness. Include them when you talk with others about old times and holidays past. If you don't mention them, no one else will.
- * Talk to THEM. They hear your thoughts ... and if you listen, you can hear their replies.
- * Light candles. For six years now I have lit a special candle for my son. This year I will light five, one for each of us, living or not. Why perpetuate the myth of separation? Jason is still a part of this family.
- * Do good things in celebration of your loved one's life. Random Acts of Kindness bring smiles to everyone involved. Buy anonymous gifts or light candles at unmarked graves.
- * Call a newly bereaved friend or neighbor and invite them to reminisce with you. Cry with them, listen to them, share your journey.
- * Give to an organization that your loved one supported.
- * Make a memory tree. Buy a small tree and decorate it with tokens of their life.

Don't worry about what others will think. You are solely in charge of this journey. It's all yours.

I won't end this article with a wish that you have your merriest Christmas ever. I know that, for some of you, that is not possible or even desirable. Instead, my wish for you is this: That you find a quiet moment during the sometimes magical but often

Wishes for Newly Bereaved Parents for the New Year



TO THE NEWLY BEREAVED, we wish you patience; patience with yourselves in the painful weeks, months, and even years ahead.

TO THE BEREAVED SIBLINGS, we wish you and your parents a new understanding of each other's needs and the beginnings of good communication.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE SINGLE PARENTS, we wish you the inner resources we know you will need to cope, often alone, with your loss.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PLAGUED WITH GUILT, we wish you the reassurance that you did the very best you could under the circumstances and that your child knew that.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE SUFFERED MULTIPLE LOSSES, we wish you the endurance you will need to fight your way back to a meaningful life once again.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE DEEPLY DEPRESSED, we wish you the first steps out of the “Valley of the Shadow.”

TO THOSE EXPERIENCING MARITAL DIFFICULTIES after the death of your child, we wish you a special willingness and ability to communicate with each other.

TO ALL FATHERS, we wish you the ability to express your grief, to move beyond society's conditioning, to cry.

TO THOSE WITH FEW OR NO MEMORIES OF YOUR CHILD because perhaps you suffered a stillbirth, a miscarriage or infant death, we wish you the sure knowledge that your child is a person and that your grief is real.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE DEATH OF AN ONLY CHILD OR ALL OF YOUR CHILDREN, we offer you our eternal gratitude for serving as such an inspiration to the rest of us.

TO THOSE OF YOU UNABLE TO CRY, we wish you healing tears.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE TIRED, exhausted from grieving, we wish you the strength to face just one more hour, just one more.

TO ALL OTHERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, that we have not mentioned, we wish you the understanding you need and the reassurance that you are loved.

Joe Rousseau

horrendous season upon us and relax. That you take a few deep breaths, close your eyes and envision your child, sibling, or grandchild. That you accept that dead doesn't mean GONE. That you send out a “Merry Christmas” and “I love you” and then BELIEVE when you hear his or her whispered reply of “I love you too. Merry Christmas.”

Editors Note: Sandy Goodman is the author of LOVE NEVER DIES: A Mother's Journey from Loss to Love published by the Jodere Group in 2002. She led a workshop at the BP/USA 2002 Gathering. You can read more about her and her writings at www.loveneverdies

Chanukah

Another Chanukah,
it's different this year,
you are not here...
The candles all aglow,
will they ever know,
the pain of you gone,
ever more.
The oil lasted eight days,
my sorrow for you an eter-
nity.
The potato latkes,
my child's blankies...
You are my light,
your memories will make my
Chanukah bright...



THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS that we include Johnny in our Chanukah celebra-
tions. Some are subtle and other more overt.

When we light the Menorah, we use a blue taper as the extra candle. The color blue represents Johnny to us. Just as the extra candle gives of itself to light each of the eight other candles without giving up it's own light. We give Johnny and each other of love without dimin-
ishing ourselves.

After the meal and before we exchange gifts and play games, we say the Kaddish (mourner's prayer). This prayer demon-
strates our faith in God-despite our loss. It insists that we focus on hope rather than de-
spair, and our determination to pass on lov-
ing memories of Johnny from generation to generation.

Shalom!

Bereaved parent, San Diego

Again This Year ... Picture Buttons

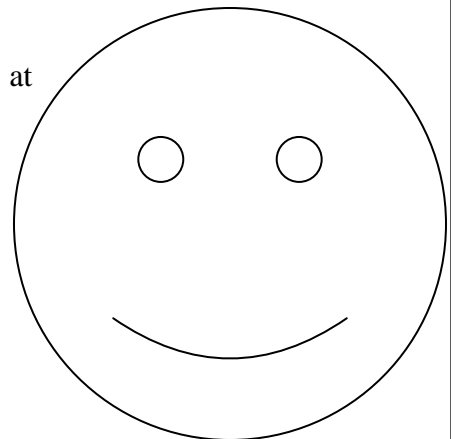
Families wishing to have a picture button of their child made can do so at the Candlelight Ceremony. Price for each button is \$3.00 and you can get one made 30 minutes before the start of the ceremony. Buttons are round and measure approximately 2 1/4 inches in diameter.

If you are interested in having a button made,
be sure to bring a 3" to 4" picture that will be on the button.

Note: Your picture will become the button!

You can even have a copy of your child's footprint
and/or handprint made into a button.

Note: Use Mr. Smiley Face to measure your desired picture!



December 9, 2007 Candle Lighting Remembrance Ceremony



Bereaved Parents of the USA, Tampa Bay Chapter will hold its annual Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 9. The ceremony will be held in The Medical Arts Building (MAB) Auditorium at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa.

Please join us in this beautiful tribute to our children. Any be-
reaved parent or family member and friends are invited to partici-
pate. For those of you who are newly bereaved, we encourage you to attend. This service can make handling the holiday season a little easier.

BUTTERFLY BOARD

We will again have a Background at to display butterflies in memory of our children. Please use the sample pattern from the October newsletter Page 6 to decorate one for your child and bring it to the Candle Light Ceremony to display.

RECEPTION

We will have a reception following the ceremony and we invite you to bring, if possible, your child's favorite food (i.e. vegetables, chips, snack, sandwiches, etc.) to share with others.

PICTURE PRESENTATION

A Special Slide Picture Presenta-
tion of our beautiful Children! If you did not get a picture in for the presentation, please bring a picture with you to display on the front butterfly board.



BUTTONS

We have the equipment to make pic-
ture buttons. Bring a picture no smaller than 3" x 5" which will be-
come the button. Buttons are round and measure approximately 2.25" in diameter. Cost per button is only \$3.00.

BOUTIQUE

There will be an Angel/Butterfly Bou-
tique to purchase holiday items or gifts. All items are donated and all proceeds benefit your local BP/USA Chapter. To donate items, please call Sue Bowditch at 813-661-9334!

*Thank you!
See you there!*

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.



"When the time comes for lighting festive candles, let them remind you not only of what you lost, but also of what you had."
Sascha

New Year

By Sascha
From THE SORROW AND THE LIGHT

The new year comes
When the world is ready
For changes, resolutions -
Great beginnings.

For us, to whom
That stroke of midnight means
A missing child remembered,
For us the new year comes
More like another darkness.

But let us not forget
That this may be the year
When love and hope and courage
Find each other somewhere
In the darkness
To lift their voice and speak:
Let there be light.

REMINDER:

Candle Light Ceremony

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2006, 7 p.m.

St. Joseph's Hospital
Medical Arts Building Auditorium

Note: You may still attend the Ceremony and light a candle for your child even if you did not send in your Registration Form!

Family and Friends are welcome!



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

December 2007 & JANUARY 2008

POSTMASTER - Dated Material

Please do not delay.



REMINDER:

Candle Light Ceremony

Sunday, December 9, 2007, 7 p.m.

St. Joseph's Hospital

Medical Arts Auditorium

Note: You may still attend the Ceremony even if you did not send in a Registration Form!

