



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA CHAPTER

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JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012

MISSING YOU

I just can't believe it...
The sun still rises and sets,
The moon and stars still shine,
The flowers still bloom, The birds still sing.
I expected a change in everything

I just can't believe it...
It still gets dark and light,
The ocean still has waves,
The rain still rains, The wind still
blows,
Is it because they do not know?

I just can't believe it...
I thought the world would stop
When in my house I found
an empty chair, a missing smile
I thought it would stop
For just a while.

I just can't believe it...

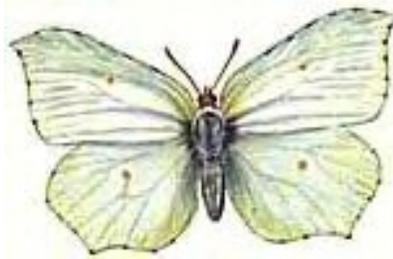
Gretta Viney
TCF Yakima, WA

*Far beyond the clouds above
A special garden grows with love.
Special flowers of many blends
Are the children of The Compassionate
Friends.*

Sam Rosenberg

THE CHILD THAT'S NOT THERE

The child that's not there
Takes up every piece of me
The child that's not there
Consumes my every thought



The child that's not there
Makes me feel like I failed
The child that's not there
Took away a main reason for being

But

The children that are there
Still somehow bring me joy
The children that are there
Still need my love

The children that are there
Don't need any more grief
The children that are there
Force me to go on.

Tricia Palmer
In memory of my son, Gabriel Boyer
TCF Tidewater, VA

Monthly Meetings

Thursday, July 5

Thursday, August 2

Thursday, September 6

6:30 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
1901 Lexington Ave.
Enter through the back parking lot off Milton St.

For Siblings

An outlet for siblings is the TCF Sibling Forum. It is available online and is a place where siblings from all over can share and help each other cope with the unique grief of losing a brother or sister. Siblings are able to ask questions, make a comment or leave a thought for others to respond.

Visit the Sibling Resources Page at www.compassionatefriends.org
Email tcsiblingrep@compassionatefriends.org for the password

IT'S THE MUSIC THAT BONDS THE SOUL

The room you once lived in
Doesn't look the same.
The people, who used to call you,
Never mentioned your name.

The car you used to drive,
They may not make any more.
All the things you once treasured,
Are boxed behind closet doors.

The clothes you set the trends by,
Are surely out of date.
The people, you owed money to,
Have wiped away the slate
Things have changed and changed
Again since you went away.

But some things have remained the same
each and every day.
Like this aching in my heart...
A scar that just won't heal,
Or the way a special song
Can change the way you feel.

Brother, you must know that the "music" bonds us
and will always keep us close.

Because, secretly, I know deep in my heart, it's the
music you miss the most.

So let the world keep on turning
And "time" can take its toll.
For as long as the music keeps playing,
You'll be alive and dancing in my soul.

Stacie Gilliam
TCF Oklahoma City, OK

Susan Mackey
TCF Rutland, VT

NEVER FORGOTTEN

When the sun rises and the sun sets,
There's not a day goes by that we will forget.

Our loved ones meant so very much;
We still remember the face and the slightest touch.

The gleam in their eyes we won't forget;
Their leadership, we'll never regret.

Through the darkest forest we won't be scared;
We know they will always be there.

We can't wait for the day to come,
When we meet again, they will show us the
light from above,

And take us to a place we have never been.
But at least we know they will never leave us
again.

We love you.

Shawn's brother, Justin MacDonald
TCF Nashville, TN

TO MY SISTER

You touched us all
You loved us all
Forever giving
Forever caring
Forever forgiving
Never wanting in return
Blessed are those who shared your life
Rich are those who carry your memories
Please rest now
Your chores we will finish.
'Til we meet again...

Cindy Keltz
TCF Arlington Heights, IL



REMEMBRANCE

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

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

Pricilla Kenney
TCF Kennebunk, ME

SOMETIMES

Sometimes, something clicks, and with a tear,
remembrance of the pain and the loneliness floods
the heart.

Sometimes, something clicks, and with a smile,
remembrance of the love and the laughter floods the
senses.

And there are times when nothing clicks at all and a
voice echoes through the emptiness and numbness,
never finding the person who used to fill that space.

And sometimes the most special times of all a feeling
ripples through your body, heart, and soul that tells
you that person never left you, and he's right with you
through it all.

Kristen Hansen
TCF Kenifield, CA

*The art of living
Can only be mastered by
Trial and error.*

By Diantha Ain

LAST MOMENTS

Last moments
Snatches of conversation
That echo across all decades...

Priceless words
Indelibly etched on the heart

Sometimes
Thoughts were never spoken
But unexpected sentiment—

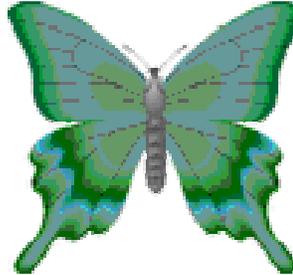
A quick embrace, a silly smirk,
Or joyous laughter—

Reaches through the pain
And warms the heart.

We came too soon to understand
The folly of harsh words
Or neglected touch,

For who can know which
Taken-for-granted event
Will become
A last moment.

Diane Fields
TCF Westmoreland, PA



Chapter co-leaders

Marilyn & French Smith

Steering Committee

Henry Cole, Facilitator

Johnny James, Treasurer

Dianne & Frank Bruscatto, Library

Frances & Jim Gregory, Outreach

Maggy & John Dobbs, Outreach

Ann Cole, Outreach

Betty Jean James, Outreach & Hospitality

Julie & Danny Petty, Newsletter

Betty Jean & Johnny James, Memorial Park

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Fourth of July, Independence Day, Our Nation's Birthday. Whatever you call it, we celebrate America's independence from England on July 4 each year.

As a nation, we have endured for 200+ years to become a significant independent and powerful force in the world. We were founded on the principles of equality and religious tolerance, of equity and opportunity, and of rights and responsibilities. Several generations of men and women have defended our precious freedom with their lives.

As we celebrate this year, let's take a moment to remember those who paid the ultimate price for freedom – and to remember their families. It is sometimes easy to think only of the glory of their sacrifices, and to overlook the sacrifice of their families. War is never glorious, no matter how romantic the notion created by Hollywood. War has casualties that go farther and deeper into the fabric of our nation than we may realize. Those who died are buried with fanfare, as befits a nation's fallen valiants. And their families learn to go on, just as we have, in spite of their loss.

But think for a moment of those who were declared missing in action, or who were prisoners of war. Their families must endure, often for years, and sometimes without an end to their pain and loss.

Remember all of our nation's fallen when you celebrate this year. Remember those ceremoniously laid to rest; remember those who were captured, imprisoned, even tortured; remember those whose fate remains unknown. And remember, too, the families of all of them.

Death, no matter how noble, is never easy for those left behind.

We send our thanks to the veterans - living, dead, and missing – and their families.

Tom and Sondra Wright
TCF Tucker, Georgia



A BOY AND HIS KITE

He kept adding more spools of string to make it higher. A woman walked by and said, "You have that kite flying high." And the boy agreed. The woman left and went about her business. On her way back, she looked up toward the kite and said, "I do not see your kite." The boy agreed. She asked, "Then why don't you let go of it?" The boy answered, "I can't. I can still feel it tugging."

This is the plight of bereaved parents.

TCF Richmond, VA



Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the newsletter to keep our chapter going strong. Please contact Julie Petty with your ideas.



Also, remember you can bring your child's favorite snack for refreshments to our monthly meeting or do a flower arrangement for the table. Please contact Marilyn Smith one month prior to the meeting.

Our Children Always Loved and Remembered



A special table is set up at our meetings to honor children whose special days are in that month. We invite you to bring a picture or memento of your child to share during that significant month.

OUR CHILDREN'S JULY BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Amiee McIlveene	07/07/78	Rhea & Danny McIlveene
Don Shlosman	07/04/78	Margie Godwin
Greg Dennis	07/08/60	Camille Dennis
Milton Scarborough	07/11/89	Tina Scarborough
Lonnie Matheson	07/20/68	Dorothy Matheson
Lauren Hemphill	07/26/78	Kitty McDougall & Tommy Hemphill
Scottie McLarrin	07/30/87	Mary McLarrin

OUR CHILDREN'S JULY ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Leigh Ann Carlton	07/01/01	Gail Dupuy
Lonnie Matheson	07/03/06	Dorothy Matheson
Andrew Rinicker	07/03/04	Dale Rinicker
Hunter Carr	07/08/09	Juanita Carr
Derrick Sadberry	07/15/06	Belinda Sadberry
Steven Wisdom	07/15/06	Dee Wisdom
Spencer Ramsey	07/17/06	Cindy & Billy Ramsey
Mike Hayes	07/19/97	Margaret & George Hayes
Stephen Blanchard	07/26/06	Tracey & Steve Blanchard
Michael Hollier	07/21/09	Lyn Hollier

OUR CHILDREN'S AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Heather Greer	08/01/83	Kim & Heath Greer
Kim Smith	08/02/75	Jackie Bailey
Adam McKenzie	08/04/68	Cheryl & Jerome McKenzie
Chad Byrd	08/13/79	Janice & Randy Byrd
Spencer Ramsey	08/13/90	Cindy & Billy Ramsey
Dylan Smith	08/18/77	Joan Taylor
John Bruscato	08/19/74	Dianne & Frank Bruscato
Seth Hunt	08/24/88	Susie Shivers
Michael Hoyem	08/26/54	Dorothy & Don Hoyem
Jesse Chilton	08/29/80	Cheryl & Ronnie Chilton
Benjamin Box	08/30/63	Erlene & Jack Box
Jenny K. Harkey	08/31/79	Janice & Jeff Harkey

OUR CHILDREN'S AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Don Shlosman	08/01/00	Margie Godwin
Hope Johnson	08/02/05	Fran Johnson
Chad Byrd	08/03/05	Janice & Randy Byrd
Beth Ann Smith	08/06/06	Judy & Randy Smith
Joel Rundell	08/09/90	Sharon Rundell
Codye Mardis	08/11/09	Julie Beckley
Heather Greer	08/13/03	Kim & Heath Greer
Paul Hayes	08/14/03	Patty & Paul Hayes
Brandon Dempsey	08/15/06	Belinda Enterkin
Stephen Sivils	08/19/03	Veda & Leon Sivils
Jason Hutts	08/22/99	Carol & Greg Hutts
Brian Perry	08/22/02	Clara & Don Perry
Greg Gilstrap	08/24/07	Jean Gilstrap
Alice Rains	08/28/94	Marie Rains
Brandon McGehee	08/30/02	Teddi & James McGehee

OUR CHILDREN'S SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Dwain Whitehead	09/05/66	Mary & Ralph Whitehead
Fred Page	09/08/58	Charlotte Colquette
Pamela Ford	09/08/74	Leona Upton
Leigh Ann Carlton	09/13/83	Gail Dupuy
Stephen Blanchard	09/15/88	Tracey & Steve Blanchard
Ashley Taylor	09/15/98	Valerie & Doug Taylor
Emilie Posey	09/16/82	Kathy & Mark Posey
Donald Timothy Acree	09/20/64	Fran Acree
Paul Hayes	09/20/77	Patty & Paul Hayes
Amber Nicole Tamburo	09/21/88	Barbara & Gerald Tamburo
Wesley Canterbury	09/23/84	Dewanna Canterbury
Aaron Akers	09/23/93	Allison Woods
Josh Sumrall	09/24/91	Chasity Sumrall
Joel Rundell	09/26/65	Sharon Rundell
Kody Spann	09/27/84	Cindy & Larry Spann
Richard Bryan	09/28/79	Linda & James Bryan

OUR CHILDREN'S SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Child</u>		<u>Parent(s)</u>
Amanda Maxwell	09/01/02	Angie Maxwell
Kenneth Wall	09/06/99	Beverly & Charles Wall
Kaye Shields	09/06/04	Lila & R.L. Hargrove
Corey Hayman	09/11/03	Linda & William Hayman
Colby Wixson	09/23/06	Laura Scriber
Kim Smith	09/29/97	Jackie Bailey

TO OUR LONG TIME MEMBERS:

We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick. Each meeting when new parents arrive with a fresh hurt and frightened eyes, I remember how we felt at our first meeting. Think back ... what would it have been like for you if there had not been any "oldies" to welcome you, share your grief, and encourage you? It was from them you heard, "your pain will not always be this bad; it really does get softer." They were the ones who wanted to really listen when you talked about your child. Can you be an "oldie" for someone else? By helping someone else, you help yourself and share your child with someone who never got to know them. Come out and share with newly bereaved parents to help them heal. Our own healing happens when we are reaching out to others.

**WE NEED NOT WALK ALONE;
WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**

OUR CREDO

We need not walk alone.
We are The Compassionate Friends.
We reach out to each other with love, with understanding and with hope.
Our children have died at all ages and from many different causes,
but our love for our children unites us.
Your pain becomes my pain just as your hope becomes my hope.
We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances.
We are a unique family because we represent many races and creeds.
We are young, and we are old.
Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh
and so intensely painful that we feel helpless and see no hope.
Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength;
some of us are struggling to find answers.
Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression;
others radiate an inner peace.
But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends,
it is pain we will share just as we share with each other our love for our children.
We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves,
but we are committed to building a future together
as we reach out to each other in love
and share the pain as well as the joy,
share the anger as well as the peace,
share the faith as well as the doubts
and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.

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THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Northeast Louisiana Chapter
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Return Service Requested