



The Compassionate Friends

Greater New Orleans Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 9

October 2025

Chapter Leaders: William and Millie Hunton 504-265-0581 Email address: tcfnola@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE December 14, 2025 WorldWide Candle Lighting

To be held in the Lafreniere Park Foundation Center

GRIEF THROUGH GROWTH by Shari O'Loughlin

The process of grieving a significant death takes a person through many stages and changes. While each person grieves uniquely, some experiences are common. A substantial loss, such as the death of our child, sibling, or grandchild, impacts our whole being and is often felt emotionally, physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially.

Initially in our grief, we endure intense and relentless pain. Most of our time is spent learning to live a life that looks very different than the one we had while trying to comprehend impossible new realities.

Cont. on Page 3 – See GROWTH

BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION: Birthdays can be found on "Our Children Remembered" page. We do encourage both you and your family to come when it is your child's birthday month, to share your child with all of us with photos and memories. You will receive a special birthday gift in memory of your child. Bring that treasured picture of your child that always makes you smile so we may smile with you. **The September Birthday Cake was sponsored by JoAnn Giovingo in memory of her son Ray Constantine, Jr. The October Birthday Cake will be sponsored by Andree Charvet in memory of her son William "Billy" Laderer.**

If there's one thing I've learned, it is how important it is not to diminish someone's celebration or downplay someone's sorrow. To see someone where they are without trying to advise or envision them to be somewhere else, we can stand with them in their current moment, with our presence and witness. What a comfort. What a gift. - *Liz Newman*

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

October 13, 2025

**Lafreniere Park Foundation
Center Conference Room**

7:00 – 9:00 pm

2nd Monday of every month

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

13 Jan 25	10 Feb 25	10 Mar 25
14 Apr 25	12 May 25	9 Jun 25
14 Jul 25	11 Aug 25	8 Sep 25
13 Oct 25	10 Nov 25	8 Dec 25

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

William Hunton
504-251-1938
tcfnola@gmail.com

NATIONAL OFFICE

The Compassionate Friends
48660 Pontiac Trail # 930808
Wixom, MI 48393

nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org

www.compassionatefriends.org

877-969-0010

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Butterfly Release

April 27, 2025 – held in the Children's Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

Memorial Walk and Auction

September 13, 2025 – held in the Children's Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

WorldWide Candle Lighting

December 14, 2025 – Held in the Foundation Center in Lafreniere Park

Our Monthly Meetings

To all those newly bereaved, who are receiving this newsletter for the first time and to all our Compassionate Friends, we wish you were not eligible to belong to this group, but we want you to know that you and your family have many friends. We, who received love and compassion from others in our time of deep sorrow, now wish to offer the same support and understanding to you. Please know we understand, we care, and we want to help. **You are not alone in your grief.**

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Foundation Center Conference Room in Lafreniere Park at 7:00 P.M. We are a self-sustaining organization with no funds except what we receive through donations from members and newsletter recipients. Please join with us at a meeting.

Grief support after the death of a child

The Compassionate Friends is a national non-profit, self-help support organization that offers friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. There is no religious affiliation and there are no membership dues or fees.

The secret of TCF's success is simple: As seasoned grievers reach out to the newly bereaved, energy that has been directed inward begins to flow outward and both are helped to heal.

The vision of The Compassionate Friends is that everyone who needs us will find us and everyone who finds us will be helped.

Big Thanks to Our Steering Committee



Contact:

Phone: (504) 265-0581

Email: tcfnola@gmail.com

www.tcfneworleans.com

1104 Colony Rd, Metairie, LA 70003

Chapter Leader	William Hunton
Chapter Co-Leader	Millie Hunton
Treasurer	Isabel Vigne-Miranda
Facilitator	Millie Hunton
Newsletter Editor	William Hunton
Webmaster	Jason Vicari
Database Management	Jerrie Vicari
Outreach Committee	Dena Peters
Hospitality	Jan Dutilh
Coffee Hostess	Patsy Ashton
Memorial Park Director	Jacques Bitoun
Memorial Brick Director	Peggy Boardman

Steering Committee: William Hunton, Millie Hunton, Jan Dutilh, Dena Peters, Isabel Miranda-Vigne, Patsy Ashton, and Christi Vercher.

Denise St. Pierre, Regional Coordinator

(504) 460-2970

TCF National (877) 969-0010

www.compassionatefriends.org

The Meeting Agenda

7:00 p.m. - The meeting will begin with a short introduction followed by lighting of candle and then reading of the Credo. Remembering our children's birthdays of the month. Then followed by smaller groups of sharing.

8:45 p.m. - Meeting will close by recognizing our children's names. Feel free to visit with each other and check out a book from our library.

Newsletter Submissions: TCF Greater New Orleans welcomes all submissions to our newsletter. Send articles, poetry, love messages and scanned photos to: **TCF GNO, 1104 Colony Rd., Metairie, LA 70003**. You may also text photos and messages to 504-251-1938. As our chapter is only funded by your donations, we ask for a donation of **\$15** or more for a dedication for our newsletter. This is tax-deductible. We reserve the right to edit for space and/or content. Deadline for submissions is listed below. TCF Chapters may copy articles from this publication provided credit is given to the author and the original source. Errors and Omissions: Please notify me if any of your information is incorrect. Thank you!

Newsletter Dedications to be put in our newsletter are due the 20th of each month.

A Newsletter Dedication: is a special page dedicated in memory of your child with a poem or writing that you submit.

A Love Gift: is a short one or two sentence message in your child's memory.



BIRTHDAY CAKE: Our child's birthday is still such an important day to us bereaved parents. In TCF this is where we can celebrate our child's birthday and remember the love we still have for them no matter how long it has been since they died. Our members are welcomed to sponsor our cake to recognize their child's birthday. Please notify me if you wish to sponsor our Birthday Cake, **William Hunton (504) 265-0581**.

TCF Greater New Orleans Memorial Candles and 3" Photo Buttons

We are asking for donations of \$20 per candle. Candles will have 3 photos, name, dates, and an LED insert.

We are asking for donations of \$5 for each button or \$12 for three buttons.

Email Your Child's Photo to tcfnola@gmail.com or call William Hunton (504) 265-0581 for info.

Candles and/or photo buttons will be delivered to the next meeting if info is received 72 hours before meeting.

Please make checks payable to: TCF – GNO, 1104 Colony Road, Metairie, LA 70003

CONTINUED From Page 1 - **GROWTH**

As time goes on, many bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents find new parts of themselves that have grown and developed by the process of navigating such painful and powerful grief. Viktor Frankl, the famous 20th-century psychologist, philosopher, and author, wrote, "Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." He wrote these words after the devastating deaths of his entire family in the concentration camps during World War II.

Frankl's perspective relates to the concept of "post-traumatic growth" (PTG,) which was studied and developed by researchers Dr. Tedeschi and Dr. Calhoun in the mid 1990s. Post-traumatic growth is the positive psychological change that people can experience after crisis or a traumatic event. This positive transformation occurs as a result of the struggle endured. Even from great loss, such as the death of a child, people can experience personal growth. This doesn't negate the sorrow and indescribable pain experienced or suggest that a bereaved individual who experiences PTG is "healed." It highlights the gradual and deep transformation that can come for some people over time through the growth required to survive. As Victor Frankl pointed out, we have the power to choose our response.

The primary areas of post-traumatic growth include:

- Deepened relationships
- Greater personal strength
- Greater appreciation for life
- Spiritual growth
- Identification of new possibilities in life

One of the factors identified as helpful for facilitating post-traumatic growth is support during the crisis, loss, or trauma. The Compassionate Friends model of peer-to-peer support is an important illustration of a critically needed system of assistance after loss. It is also a powerful arena where growth and transformation from loss are possible over time. Many of our volunteers for The Compassionate Friends are representations of post-traumatic growth as they create new possibilities in their life that impact our world for the better.

Warmly,

Shari O'Loughlin, MBA, CPC, CEO, The Compassionate Friends



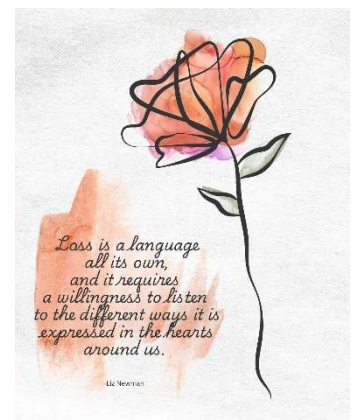
It is an act of empathy to try and understand the way another person experiences grief.

It requires stepping out of our comfort zones to have compassionate conversations and seek deeper understanding.

Loss is a language all its own, and it requires a willingness to listen to the different ways it is expressed in the hearts around us.

It requires a gentle witness and an adaptability to help navigate the ebbs and flows of the grief within us.

It requires a desire to learn how to best love and support each other through it, knowing that this is new territory for all of us. *-Liz Newman*



TCF Greater New Orleans Chapter Memorial Walk & Auction

The Greater New Orleans TCF Chapter held its annual Children's Memorial Walk followed with an Auction on **September 13, 2025** at Lafreniere Park in Metairie, LA. The event was truly a success and ultimately raised funds for the operating expenses of our chapter.

This letter is to all of you, our MEMBERS, who helped make our Children's Memorial Walk and Auction a great success. One big change for this year's event was the decision to relocate the Auction indoors into the Foundation Center. Many guests appreciated our indoor auction, enjoying the comfort of the cool setting compared to the outdoor heat.

A big thanks to Rick Ford and Sue Vineir for leading off our Memorial Walk by carrying our beautiful banner. Rick did this in memory of his son, Devon K. Shelton. Sue did this in memory of her siblings, Kenneth, Jules, and Josephine.



ONLINE COMMUNITIES – VISIT WWW.COMPASSIONATEFRIENDS.ORG

ONLINE SUPPORT - The Compassionate Friends offers "virtual chapters" through an Online Support Community (live chats). This program was established to encourage connecting and sharing among parents, grandparents, and siblings (over the age of 18) grieving the death of a child. The rooms supply support, encouragement, and friendship. The friendly atmosphere encourages conversation among friends; friends who understand the emotions you're experiencing. There are general bereavement sessions as well as more specific sessions.

PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS - The Compassionate Friends offers a variety of private Facebook Groups. These pages are moderated by bereaved parents, siblings, or grandparents, and may not be accessed unless a request to join is approved by a moderator. Please click on the link next to the group you wish to join and answer the screening questions so we can confirm your request. If you are waiting approval, please message one of the administrators. Join requests to our Facebook groups must be requested personally, therefore when you wish to share the group with someone please pass along the link to the group.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CREDO

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope. The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them 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, creeds, and relationships. 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 they feel helpless and see no hope. Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while 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 the children who have died. We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to 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. We Need Not Walk Alone. We are The Compassionate Friends.

A Unique Kind of Ache

It's a unique kind of ache
To feel like you've lost yourself,
To feel out of sorts and out of
place
While, from the outside,
you still look mostly the same.
I know the restlessness that comes
with
Feeling uncomfortable in your own
skin,
With wondering where the pieces
Of yourself have gone
Or where that spark has been.
But like the world around us,
our hearts are seasonal too.

And the beauty of who you are
Will return to you.
There are days when it's more
subtle
But it still rests within your chest
There are moments when it's more
dormant
But that spark has never left.
So on the days when you
Struggle to see it
Find it hard to remember the truth,
Find it hard to remember
The last time you truly felt like
"you",
The last time you saw

Glimpses of the person that you
knew:
Know, deep in your bones
That it's still within you,
Every part and every hue.
Even in the times that it
feels a little more subdued.
Just like the cycling seasons,
the sunrise
or the flower in bloom
The beauty of who you are
Remains and
will return to you.

-Liz Newman

MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF

Chelsea Marie Hunton

April 17, 1986 - October 17, 2016

October can be terribly difficult for us.

When I say words cannot possibly describe the day Chelsea died, I truly mean it. However, if I was to try, here is what I would say:

I doubled over from the pain and felt like my heart had nearly stopped. I could not breathe! Such a shock froze my body, mind, and soul. From deep within me I SCREAMED, "CHELSEA, WAKE UP!" She was gone. This was truly the worst day of our life.

**When I simply say.
I MISS MY DAUGHTER
I really mean I miss her
smile.
I miss her voice.
I miss her laugh.
I miss her next to me.
I miss her jokes.
I miss her holding my hands.
I miss her teasing me.
I miss her so much that
I can feel my heart breaking.**

Author unknown

We Love and Miss you so much, Love Mom, Dad and Jessica



Dedication sent in by Millie and William Hunton



MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF
LEE RUSSELL CENTANNI, JR.

10-16-42 - 02-23-01



God looked around His garden
and found an empty place.

He then looked down upon the earth
and saw your tired face.

He put His arms around you
and lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful;
He always takes the best.

He saw the road was getting rough,
and the hills were hard to climb,
so He closed your weary eyelids
and whispered, "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you didn't go alone,
for part of us went with you
the day God called you home.

You never got to see your grandchildren - Max and Maylee. You would be proud, and such a good and loving grandfather. Max and Maylee would have loved you so much as we all do.

Your loving sister Judy Centanni Bonura, your brother-in-law Dominick Bonura, your wife Marilyn Centanni, your children Tara and Kevin, your late son-in-law Louis, and your grandchildren Max and Maylee.

Dedication sent in by Judy and Nick Bonura



MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF

William E. Laderer, IV

October 17, 1990 – April 11, 2021



Happy 35th Birthday my sweet boy

TO MY SWEET BABY BROTHER:

"You gave no one a last farewell,
Nor ever said good-bye.
You were gone before we knew it,
and only God knows why.

A million times we will miss you.
A million times we will cry.
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.

In life we loved you dearly.
In death we love you still.
In our hearts you hold a place,
no one else can fill.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you didn't go alone,
for part of us went with you,
the day God took you home.

We will meet again someday,
I know in a better place.
I thank God He made you my brother,
While you were here on earth."

*We love and miss you deeply, Baby Brudder, your
sister, Jolie*



*We love and miss you so much, Mom,
Noelle, Jolie, & Baby Billy*

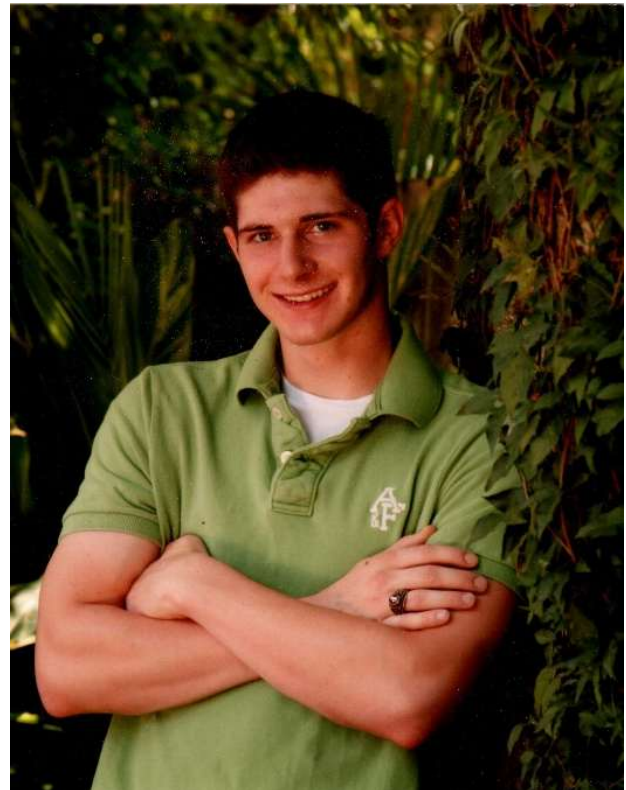
Dedication sent in by Andree Charvet

Billy – Thinking of you during this special
time of year, celebrating you. We celebrate
you, your life and your legacy. I love you and
miss you dearly.

Your sister, Noelle

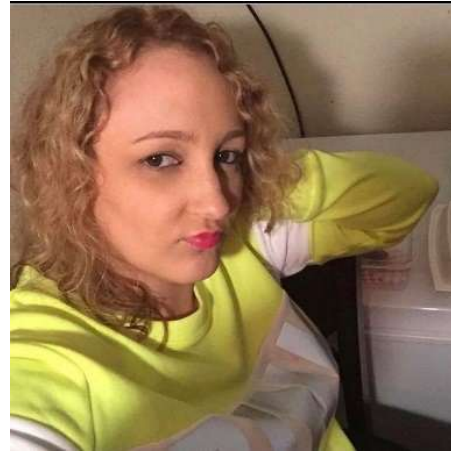
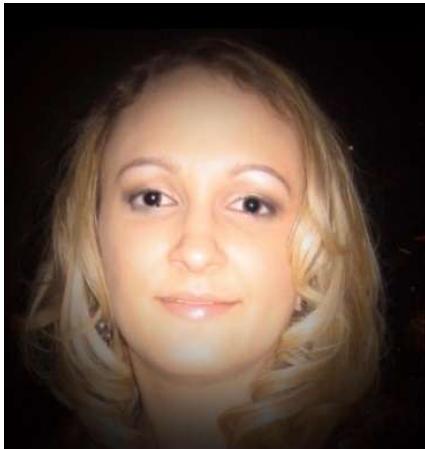
My Love Billy, Happy Heavenly
Birthday! I'm always thinking about you and
missing your beautiful smile, warm hugs and
most of all your genuine sweetness! You
broke the mold and it's been really hard
picking up the pieces, till we meet again my
baby bird,

Love always, Ma



MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF *Rosalie Miranda Fournett*

October 25, 1985-June 15, 2016



A POEM FOR MY DAUGHTER



I love you now, as I so loved you then
your Spirit is with me forever
When you were born all of heaven sang out
Joyous that we were together



Your eyes twinkled bright as a billion stars
Your lashes brushed sweet angel's kisses
As you snuggled so warmly against my neck
So serenely, you gave me such bliss

As I stroked your head, very gently My Dear
Your hair felt as soft as down feathers
Your fingers, so tiny, wove tightly with mine
Rainbow's end couldn't give me more treasure

I remember you now, I'll remember you when
every day and each night begins
You're a part of my soul, every beat of my heart
I promise, My Darling, Amen

Karinelyn Paul, Broomfield, CO, In Memory of my daughter, Katrina

Missing you so much, Happy 40th Heavenly Birthday,

Isabel(Mommy), Jacolbi, Jacob, Jonah, Josiah(The Fantastic 4), Chacho, and Gary..

Dedication sent in by Isabel Miranda-Vigne

MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF

Amina

April 13, 2016 - October 17, 2017

My dear sweet baby Amina

Holding you close in my heart. It seems impossible that it's been 8 years since I last kissed you all over. I never imagined that my feelings would shift so much in 8 years, never imagined that I would experience joy, the beauty of this earth, or pay such close attention to how we spend our time here.

I'm so grateful for the little signs of love you send me. I hope you know I'm sending them right back. Every day.

Of course my grief is still deep and I wish with my whole heart that you were here to be big sis. And I hope that you & Omi had a joyous reunion. And I love you forever, now and always.

Xoxoxo, your Mama

Dedication sent in by Monika



MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF

Cody Shaw Fahm

December 4, 1992 - October 23, 2022

God looked around his Garden and found an empty place.
He then looked down upon his earth and saw your loving face.

He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest.
His Garden must be beautiful, he always takes the best.

He saw the road was getting rough and the hills were hard to climb,
so he closed your weary tired eyes,
He whispered to you "Peace be Thine" and gave you wings to fly.

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone.
For part of us went with you on the day God called you home.



There are no words to express how much we miss and love you! Love, Mom, Mike, and family!



Dedication sent in by Barbette & Mike Richard

Our Children Remembered



Angel Birthdays

Aimee Lauren Wood LaDuke	Oct 1	Daughter of Cheryl Przgocki
Joseph "Joe" Sauvinet	Oct 5	Son of Sherry and Eric Sauvinet
Beau Benjamin Serpas	Oct 8	Son of Cari and Steven Serpas; Grandson of Pati and Cary Rodrigue
Terrance P. Anderson	Oct 11	Son of Beulah S. Anderson
Darlene Theresa Mayeux	Oct 13	Sister of Dana Keller
Ty'shaunda Riles	Oct 15	Daughter of Hishaunda Riles
Rose Fay Bitoun	Oct 15	Daughter of Jacques and Courtney
Ann Roberts	Oct 15	Sister of Margaret Banks
Colin O'Neill	Oct 15	Son of Melanie O'Neill
Lee Russell Centanni, Jr.	Oct 16	Brother of Judy Bonura
Rebecca (Beca) DeMuth	Oct 16	Daughter of Kathy and Wilton DeMuth
Billy Laderer	Oct 17	Son of Andree Charvet
David Joseph Sisolak, Jr.	Oct 19	Son of Janell and David Sisolak, Sr., Brother of Mindy Parrish
Gertie Marie Beauford	Oct 21	Sister of Kathy Beauford
Jaece T. Stroud	Oct 21	Son of Rhonda Johnson-Stroud
Lance J. Lenfant	Oct 23	Son of Gina Lenfant
Rosalie M. Fournett	Oct 25	Daughter of Isabel Miranda-Vigne
Jayla Rae Cook	Oct 27	Daughter of Bobbie Mason; Sister of Jessica
Vinny Snow	Oct 27	Son of Carmen Snow; brother of Gianna Sensat
Matthew Boudreaux	Oct 28	Son of Julie and Ronnie Hemenway
Gerard "Jed" Schulin	Oct 29	Son of Cynthia and Gerard Schulin
Brian Storms	Oct 31	Son of Barbara Storms
Paul Charles Fleming III	Oct 31	Son of Courtney & Paul Fleming; Br of Madeline, Caroline & Jake; Grandson of Gary Fleming
Shawn Michael Rome	Oct 31	Son of Kathy and Allen Rome; Brother of Katie; Father of Gabriella

Angel Anniversaries

Thaddeus J. Mascaro, Jr.	Oct 2	Brother of Melanie Boudreaux
Shawn Michael Rome	Oct 5	Son of Kathy and Allen Rome; Brother of Katie; Father of Gabriella
Matthew Minton	Oct 6	Son of Rebecca Minton
Beau Benjamin Serpas	Oct 8	Son of Cari and Steven Serpas; Grandson of Pati and Cary Rodrigue
Colin O'Neill	Oct 9	Son of Melanie O'Neill
Ellie Rae Siddall	Oct 10	Daughter of Analyn Siddall
K.C. Heckathorn	Oct 14	Son of Betty Cefalu
Kirkwood "Kirk" Kahn	Oct 15	Brother of Leah Kahn
Chelsea Marie Hunton	Oct 17	Daughter of Millie and William Hunton; Granddaughter of Joseph and Sharon Meyers
Amina Gerhart Hambrick	Oct 17	Daughter of Monika Gerhart-Hambrick
Sara Michelle Reynolds	Oct 18	Daughter of Harriet Reynolds
Keith J. Schexnayder, II	Oct 21	Son of Debbie and Keith Schexnayder
Christopher Hanson	Oct 21	Son of Lynn Hanson
Cody Shaw Fahm	Oct 23	Son of Barbette and Mike Richard
Ann Margaret Eaker	Oct 23	Daughter of Helene Toney
Rose Fay Bitoun	Oct 25	Daughter of Jacques and Courtney
Lauren Valdin Womack	Oct 25	Daughter of Robin Valdin
Alexis Vicari Martindale	Oct 26	Daughter of Kathy Vicari
John "Buddy" Kemna, Jr.	Oct 28	Brother of Donna Marie Smithey
Korey Patrick Spindel	Oct 29	Son of Judy Spindel
Ryan Lawrence Plattsmier	Oct 29	Son of Mary Ann Orgeron
Erin Peters	Oct 30	Daughter of Dena and Erroll Peters



**Phone
Friend
List**

Our listeners are willing to listen, understand, and share.

504-456-8248 – Patsy Ashton, son, 24, drug overdose

504-559-2438 – Jaimie Kimball, sibling, 12, vehicle accident

504-265-0581 – William and Millie Hunton, daughter, 30, accidental overdose