



The Compassionate Friends

Greater New Orleans Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2026

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

SAVE THE DATE!!

ANNUAL BUTTERFLY RELEASE

Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. See Page 3

GRIEF IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

There was a time when grief lived mostly behind closed doors. News of a death traveled by phone calls, handwritten letters, and quiet conversations. Mourning happened in living rooms, places of worship, cemeteries, and support groups. Grief was shared with a trusted circle of people who knew the loss intimately. Today, grief often unfolds on a screen. With the rise of social media, mourning has become both deeply personal and profoundly public. A single post can announce a death, invite condolences, preserve memories, and expose raw emotion — sometimes all at once. This shift has changed not only how we grieve, but how grief is seen, interpreted, and responded to.

By Brenda Busby - See Social Media on Page 3

Grief in the age of social media moves in waves of presence and absence—sometimes a flood of messages and memories, sometimes a quiet that feels almost forgotten. There are moments when support arrives from every corner, and moments when the screen goes still, leaving you alone with what remains. Coping is learning to receive the connection without depending on it, to step back when needed, and to honor your grief both in the open and in private. And trusting that whether shared with many or held close within, love continues to find its way forward.

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 March Birthday Cake was sponsored by Isabel Miranda-Vigne in memory of her brother Lazaro Miranda. The April Birthday Cake will be co-sponsored by Christi Vercher in memory of her son John "Jay" Joseph Lawson V; and co-sponsored by Andree Charvet in memory of her son William "Billy" Laderer, IV. The April Birthday Ice Cream will be sponsored by Michele Burns in memory of her son Dylan Burns.**

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:

April 13, 2026

**Lafreniere Park Foundation
Center Conference Room**

7:00 – 9:00 pm

2nd Monday of every month

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

12 Jan 26	9 Feb 26	9 Mar 26
13 Apr 26	11 May 26	8 Jun 26
13 Jul 26	10 Aug 26	14 Sep 26
12 Oct 26	9 Nov 26	14 Dec 26

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 11, 2026 – held in the Children’s Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

Memorial Walk and Auction

September 19, 2026 – held in the Children’s Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

WorldWide Candle Lighting

December 13, 2026 – Held in the VFW Post 3267, 1133 Hickory Ave., Harahan.

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
Memorial Park Director	Jacques Bitoun
Memorial Brick Director	Peggy Boardman
Memorial Brick Installer	David Ashton

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

Regional Coordinator – William Hunton

(504) 251-1938

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

TCF Greater New Orleans Chapter Butterfly Release

On **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, our Greater New Orleans Chapter of *The Compassionate Friends* will gather once again for our **Annual Butterfly Release Ceremony**—a sacred and beautiful day of remembrance, love, and hope.

Bereaved families, relatives, and friends who have experienced the death of a child are lovingly invited to join us as we come together to honor **all beloved children who have died too soon**. This gathering is not just an event; it is a space where grief is understood, love is shared, and hearts are gently held by others who truly “get it.”

The day will begin with a **picnic at 11:30 a.m.** at *The Compassionate Friends Children’s Memorial Garden*, located behind the Foundation Center in **Lafreniere Park**. The picnic is a time to reconnect, to laugh, to share stories, to play, and simply to be *family* together. Families are welcome to bring their own food, tables, and chairs—or just a blanket to sit on and soak in the companionship.

If you are unable to attend the picnic, you are warmly welcome to join us for the **Butterfly Release Ceremony at 1:00 p.m.** The ceremony will include meaningful readings, poems, and music created to touch the heart and lift the spirit.

We will release **300 Painted Lady butterflies**, each gently nestled in specially designed envelopes for our bereaved families. As the envelopes open and the butterflies take flight together, the moment is breathtaking—one that fills the air with beauty, wonder, and shared emotion. In addition, we will hold a **mass release of 100 butterflies**, an awe-inspiring sight that never fails to move hearts.

This day is **not a time to mourn**—it is a time to **celebrate that our children lived**. Since ancient times, the butterfly has symbolized renewal and transformation. The Compassionate Friends has embraced the butterfly as a sign of hope, reminding us that our children live on in another dimension—one of greater beauty, peace, and freedom.

If you wish, you are invited to bring a **single-serve dessert** to share during the picnic.

You may also bring a **self-standing framed photo** of your child, sibling, or grandchild to place on our Memorial Table during the ceremony. Please keep frames no larger than **11 x 13 inches**, allowing space for all loved ones to be honored.

For additional information, please contact **William or Millie Hunton** at **504-265-0581**, or email **tcfnola@gmail.com**.

We hope you will join us as we release butterflies into the sky—and love into the universe—together.

SOCIAL MEDIA (Cont from Page 1)

Social media platforms have become spaces where millions of people publicly express loss. As of early 2025, there are over 3.3 million Instagram posts tagged with #grief, illustrating how many people turn to social media to share mourning, memories, and emotions online. In specific bereavement contexts, research shows that nearly two-thirds of people bereaved by suicide reported using social media after their loss, with most of them describing it as beneficial or very beneficial to their grieving process. These figures reflect a larger cultural shift: people now routinely use social media as part of how they remember, connect, and process their grief, especially when traditional practices feel isolated, inaccessible, or insufficient.

Before social media, grief had clearer boundaries. There was permission to step away, to be unseen, to mourn quietly. People brought casseroles, sent sympathy cards, and sat in silence together. There was no expectation to explain how you were feeling or to update others on your healing. Grief moved at its own pace, largely unobserved by the outside world. Memories were kept in photo albums and told through stories passed between people in person.

Today, grief is often shared in real time — sometimes within minutes of a loved one's death. Posts may include heartfelt stories, photos, videos, and reflections shared with hundreds or thousands of people. Across generations, this visibility can provide a lifeline of support: extended family members, distant friends, coworkers, and even virtual strangers offer condolences, empathy, and shared remembrance.

Research underscores this shift: social media now functions as a digital mourning space, enabling what grief scholars call “continuing bonds” — ongoing connections with the deceased through posts, comments, and shared memories.

How Social Media can help:

For many people, social media brings several meaningful benefits:

- 1. Connection and Support**

Sharing grief publicly allows immediate emotional support from a broad network — not just close family or neighbors, but friends from all stages of life, even across continents. This connectedness can reduce isolation, a common experience in grief.

- 2. Remembering and Legacy-Building**

Online memorial posts, tribute pages, and hashtags allow collective remembrance. These become modern digital memorials where stories, photos, and memories live on.

- 3. Peer Support and Resources**

Some people use social media to find groups or peers who have experienced similar losses. These connections can offer empathy and understanding that might not be available in one's physical community.

- 4. Accessible Expression**

Platforms provide space for expression in many forms — text, photos, art, music, poetry, and video — giving mourners options that resonate with their personality and emotional needs.

Despite its benefits, public grief also brings challenges:

- 1. Pressure and Expectations**

There can be pressure to post updates about your emotional state or to publicly display your mourning in ways that others expect to see — even when you don't feel ready to share. This can unintentionally turn grief into performance.

- 2. Constant Reminders**

Social media feeds can resurface memories through “memories” features, old messages, or anniversary reminders. For some, these automatic reminders can reopen emotional wounds unexpectedly.

- 3. Comparison and Visibility Stress**

Seeing how others grieve — or perceive others should grieve — may lead to unhealthy comparison or self-judgment. Not everyone grieves in the same way, and social media can amplify a sense that there is a “right” or “wrong” way to mourn.

- 4. Emotional Overwhelm**

Notifications, comments, and messages of support can be comforting — but they can also feel overwhelming, especially in the early days of grief.

Grief has not changed at its core — it is still love with nowhere to go. What has changed is the landscape in which it lives.

Social media can offer support, connection, and remembrance — but it does not replace the need for personal care, in-person support, or professional help when needed. Thoughtful use of these platforms can amplify healing, but it's also okay to step back, limit interaction, or grieve quietly away from screens.

Most importantly, whether grief is shared in whispers or posts, what matters most is that no one feels they must walk it alone. We invite you to join us in one of our many Facebook groups or connect with us through another platform such as Instagram. You can find a list of our Facebook groups on our website: compassionatefriends.org.

By Brenda Busby, Director of Operations and Volunteers, The Compassionate Friends

♥ SAVE THE DATE ♥
Children's Memorial Walk & Auction
📅 **Saturday, September 19, 2026**
📍 *Lafreniere Park – Metairie, LA*

🕒 **Registration: 8:30 AM** | 🚶 **Walk Begins: 10:00 AM** **Auction to follow at the Foundation Center**

The Compassionate Friends invites bereaved families, relatives, friends, and our entire community to come together for a morning of love, remembrance, and hope. On this day, we will **WALK TO REMEMBER** every beloved child who has left this earth too soon — and to show their families they will never be forgotten.

Whether you walk two miles or just a few steps, what matters most is the reason you walk — to honor these precious children and keep their memories alive.

We will wear race-style bibs, each carrying the name of a child loved beyond measure. Some will walk for their own child, others for children whose families cannot be present but want their names spoken and remembered.

Every dollar raised through pledges and donations will help our Greater New Orleans Chapter continue its mission — covering the cost of our monthly newsletter, outreach, and the programs that offer **friendship, understanding, and hope** to grieving families.

Your presence that day will be more than an act of support — it will be a promise to every bereaved parent, grandparent, and sibling that their child's life and love will always be remembered.

Mark your calendar. Walk with us. Remember with us. Hope with us.

Plan Donations you can make for the Auction. Help us collect baskets.

GRIEF IS COMPLICATED

It isn't just sadness and crying, although that is certainly part of it. It's forgetfulness. Earlier I went to put the laundry in the dryer only to realize I had never turned the washing machine on. I've lost important paperwork, my glasses, my coffee cup, etc. I will swear I told Greg or Allison something only for them to tell me I didn't.

It's exhaustion. Sleep doesn't help. I can sleep 3 hours or 13 and I wake up exhausted. It's the kind of tired you feel in your bones. The kind that makes me feel like I've aged 20 years in the last month. The kind that makes it incredibly difficult to do anything at all. It's questioning yourself about everything. Did I tell him I loved him that night before we left? I know I did, but I keep second guessing myself. Did I pray for him enough? And if so, why did this happen? Why him? Did my extreme worry over that bike somehow make this happen? Did I worry it into fruition? It's all so silly, but when you are in the thick of grief, nothing makes sense. So you question everything. Am I praying hard enough now to keep the rest of my family safe? Do I have any control over anything anyway?

It's anger. Anger at the person you lost, at others, at yourself, at no one at all. Anger that can't be fixed by screaming or throwing things. It just sits with you. And it changes depending on the day, even the minute. It's physical pain. Heart racing, headaches, constant nausea, and stomach aches. Everything hurts. It's guilt. Guilt for continuing to breathe when he stopped. For laughing at something on TV or at each other. Guilt for being sad, because I know he wouldn't want us to be sad. He was the fixer. He couldn't stand for us to be sad.

And it is sadness. It's crying until you physically can't cry anymore. It's working, doing housework, eating, reading, etc. but the sadness never really leaves. You get small glimpses of hope now and then, but the sadness overshadows it. It is a deep sadness that unless you've been through this, you'll never understand. It's complicated. It is gut wrenching and awful and I pray you never have to go through it. I miss my boy so much. Grief may change, but that never will. I will miss him for the rest of my life.

By Lindsay Simmons, Ryan's mom

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Chelsea Marie Hunton

April 17, 1986 ~ October 17, 2016

Happy Heavenly Birthday our dear Chelsea



Time flies more quickly than we can imagine. It has been more than nine years, and our hearts still ache in a way words can barely describe. No comfort can give us what we long for most—to have our Chelsea back in our arms. We ache to hold her, to hug and kiss her, to hear her sweet voice again.

There are moments when she feels close, as though she knows how deeply she is missed and still shares in the unfolding of our lives. In our dreams, she returns to us—if only for a little while. We see her reach for our hands, and we gather her into our arms, never wanting to let go. In those quiet, sacred moments, we hear her voice, feel her touch, kiss her face, and see the light in her beautiful blue eyes. We imagine her free—free from pain, from struggle, from every burden she carried—now at peace, embraced by the glories of Heaven.

But when we wake, the weight of her absence returns, and the world feels dim again.

Her passing was sudden, and the pain of not being there to comfort her still lingers deeply within us. We carry the deep sorrow of knowing she may have felt alone in her struggle, and we would have given anything—everything—to ease her pain and spare her from turning to drugs to relieve her pain. She left this life far too soon.

Chelsea's life, however, left an imprint that time cannot erase. We hold onto her in our memories—her radiant smile, her joyful spirit, her zest for life, and her unwavering desire to help others. These memories are our treasures, and we speak her name often, keeping her presence alive in our hearts and in our home.

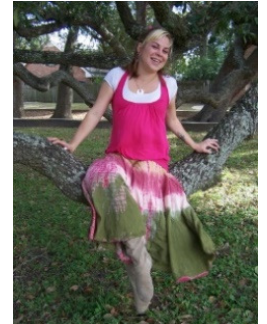
Time may soften the sharpest edges of grief, but it never takes it away. We are not the same people we once were. Losing a child changes everything, and nothing could have prepared us for this kind of heartbreak.

And still, somehow, we move forward. Some days we are strong; other days we are not. Grief remains a constant companion, but so does love.

Chelsea, you are forever in our hearts. As long as we breathe, you will be remembered, cherished, and loved beyond measure. And we hold onto the hope that one day, we will all be together again.



*Love,
Mom, Dad &
Jessica*



Dedication sent in by Millie and William Hunton



NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Sean Barringer

April 2, 1996 – April 26, 2018

Empty Places

I drove the old way yesterday.
It'd been a while, you see.
And there, without a warning,
the pain washed over me.

I drove the old way yesterday
and sadness came on strong,
taken back by so much feeling,
since you've been gone so long.

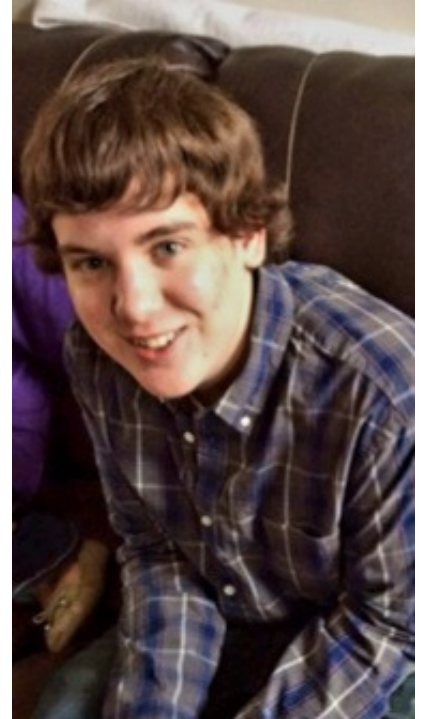
Places seem to lie in wait
to summon up the tears,
to say remember yesterday,
those days when you were here.

Places where you laughed and played
are places where I cry.
These places hold the memories
that will live as long as I.

Genesse Gentry, TCF Marin County, CA, In Memory of Lori Gentry

Dedication sent in by Hugh Barringer

Love you, Dad





NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Amina

April 13, 2016 – October 17, 2017



My dearest, beautiful Amina,

April 13 would be your 10th birthday. Your little sister asks me all the time what you would be like and it's like she read my mind.

I know you were present when Omi left us on Mother's Day. That grief has been so profound, that sometimes I almost don't feel my grief over losing you..... until moments when I can see you running around – a happy, healthy little girl.

There aren't that many places left on this earth that I still occupy where you once were. And, so I go to those places & miss you terribly. Remember the feel of your hand in mine, your soft hair against my cheek, the wonder of watching you learn new things. You would be an amazing big sister and daughter and I wish you were here. Happy Birthday, Beautiful.

Love you always, Mama

Dedication sent in by Monika



NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Zane Rainier Vicari

12 April 2011

*We love and miss you
so much my little love!*



ZES¹ HOURS IS THE APPROXIMATE TIME I HAD SPENT WITH YOU, HOWEVER,
ALL OF THE LOVE YOU CONTINUE TO GIVE ME IS WHAT KEEPS ME ALIVE.
NEVERMIND WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN, BUT RATHER,
EVER PATIENTLY YEARN FOR WHAT WILL COME WILL BE EVEN SWEETER.

REST YOUR WEARY SOULS.
ALL IS WELL WITH ME.
I AM IN HEAVEN NOW,
NESTLED LOVINGLY IN GODS ARMS.
I HEAR YOUR TEARS AND FEEL YOUR SAME ANGUISH
EVERY YEAR, MONTH, DAY, AND SECOND WE ARE APART.
REVEL, THOUGH, THAT HOLDING ME AGAIN IS GUARANTEED.



VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU,
I, TOO, WAS BLESSED TO HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW BOTH OF YOU BEFORE I WAS
CARRIED UP TO OUR FATHER.
AND IN EVERY LIGHT BREEZE YOU FEEL ON YOUR FACE,
REMEMBER THAT IT IS ME GIVING YOU A KISS.
I LOVE YOU MOMMY AND DADDY.

Dedication sent in by Jerrie and Jason Vicari

¹Zes is Six in Dutch

Author Calvin Kwan, 2011 

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Jessica Talley

April 28, 1984 – January 31, 2021



January 31st made five years that my beautiful daughter Jessica gained her wings and went to her eternal home. We didn't know we only had 36 years to make memories, but because of Jess we have so many memories to keep alive. She taught me so much in life! Her attitude was always positive even during her last days. She taught me to live life to the fullest, and most of all, to always have faith and hope, and to always stay close to your family and friends. Jessica was the best mother to her sweet little girl! While I was blessed to have Jess for 36 years, her daughter only had four years with her mother. In those four years, Jessica devoted her whole life to Loving and caring for her little girl. Thank you Jessica for loving me and for being my best friend. You gave me the courage and strength to keep breathing and living. "Everything will be okay". Fly high my baby girl and until we meet again please keep watching over all us every day.

Love you with all my heart. Mom 

Dedication sent in by Cindy Lacour

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Sherrell Ann Gorman

June 20, 1964 – April 23, 2021



It is so hard to realize that it is 1825 days since I last saw your beautiful smile. My baby girl, the family planner, the one who knows the value of friends. The one who was in her glory in all that was Mardi Gras, lending help to anyone who needed her. I hear from so many of your friends, too many to mention, but among them: Lori, Maria, Chuck, Joyce. You are remembered by so many. I stayed out of Mardi Gras this year—it is just not the same without you.

I am very lonely and realizing now how great our lives were together—the triplets always together. Your brother and SIL try real hard to take care of me, but I try to keep my independence. Never forget how much you are loved. Please pray for me to learn how to live without you and your sister. I know you did it your way, and now I am trying to do it my way.



Dedication sent in by Charlene Gorman

Love you, Mom



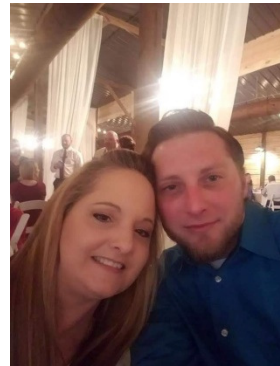


NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
John "Jay" Joseph Lawson V
April 26, 1988 ~ June 27, 2021

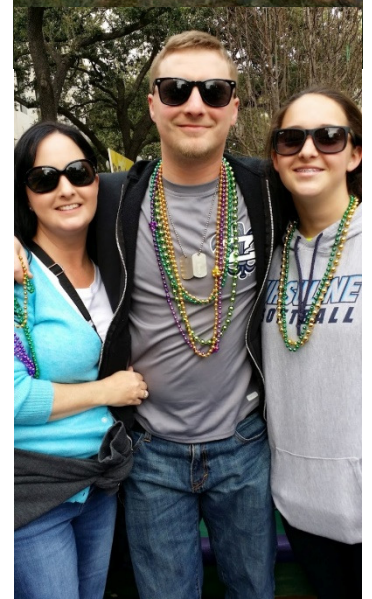
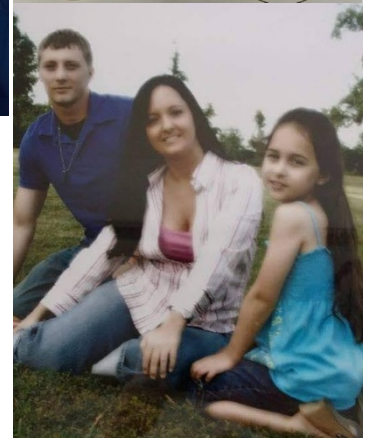


Happy Heavenly Birthday

To My Son, Happy 38th Heavenly Birthday
Each year on this special day, I celebrate your birth, Jay.
Today and always will never become just another day,
I will remember and honor you in every special way.
I will treasure the memories of your birthdays I was able to share and
get you through,
You are with me still in everything I do.
Having to live this life without you in it is a pain I wish I never knew,
But each day that passes brings me closer to you.
There will always be Sadness, Heartache, Grief, Pain, and Tears,
That will never go away no matter the years.
I cherish and hold onto what you mean to me,
How much you mean to me you can now see.
Every day of every hour I miss you more and more,
The hole in my heart and emptiness I feel I cannot ignore.
You are always in my thoughts and how much I Love you so,
I'll never get over having to let you go.
Please continue watching over us all from Heaven above,
The memory of you will forever live on with our never-ending Love.
I would give anything to be able to hug you, kiss you, hear your voice again,
But for now, I close my eyes and I can see your face, Until then.
Love you Always,



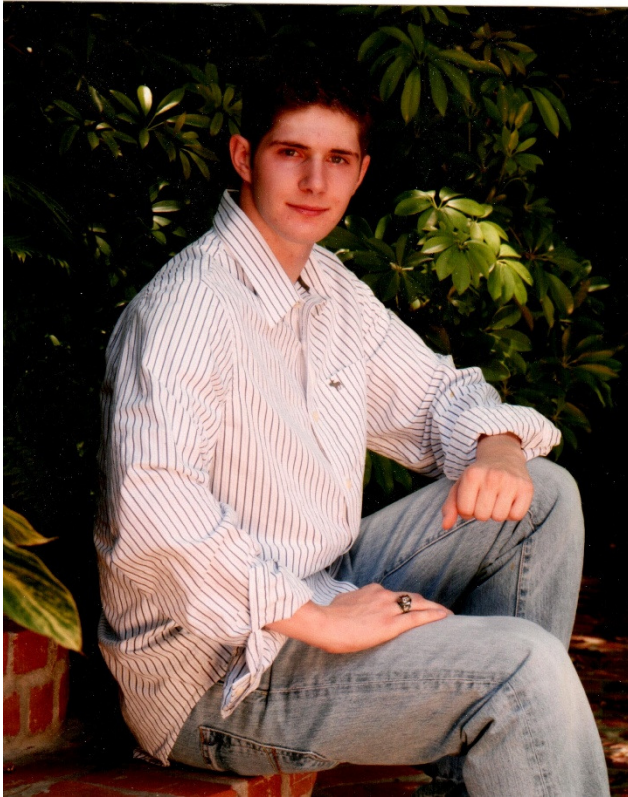
Mom, Codi and Margaret





MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF *William E. Laderer, IV*

October 17, 1990 – April 11, 2021



They Say There is a Reason

*They say there is a reason,
They say that time will heal,
But neither time nor reason,
Will change the way I feel.
For no one knows the heartache,
That lies behind our smiles,
No one knows how many times,
We have broken down and cried.
We want to tell you something
So there won't be any doubt,
You're so wonderful to think of,
But so hard to live without.*

-Unknown Author

*Time still hasn't made the loss of you feel any easier.
I am forever missing you, my baby brudder!! I love
you with all of my heart!*

Love, Sis ❤️



In Loving Memory of My Brother

There are no words that can fully capture the depth of this loss or the space you leave behind. You were more than my brother—you were a part of me, a constant presence in my life, someone who understood me and looked up to me.

I will always remember your laughter, your strength, and the way you showed up for the people you loved. You had a way of making ordinary moments feel meaningful, and mostly your spirit brought light into a room you entered. That light will never truly fade—it lives on in the memories we carry, in the lessons you taught us, and in the love that will always remain.

Losing you is a pain I will carry, but so is the privilege of having had you as my brother. I am endlessly grateful for many moments that we shared. A part of you will always live within me.

I miss you more than words can express. I love you always. Take care of my angel babies, Celine and Celeste, your nieces. Until we meet again.

Your big sister, *Noelle*

Billy, it has been five long years since my life was turned upside down. I wonder what life would have been like if you were still here & five years older. The chapters in the book of our family's life has forever changed and I miss you more and more every day!

Love always, Ma

Dedication sent in by Andree Charvet, and her daughters, Jolie and Noelle

LOVE GIFT DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Lisa Ann Eschmann

April 22, 1973 ~ February 15, 1981

With all of our Love



LOVE GIFT DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Tynia C. Alexander

April 10, 1977 ~ May 14, 2008

With all of our Love



DAYS OF GRIEF

There will be days when your grief is deep and consuming, dark and lonely. I hope you find refuge in supportive friends, family, and counselors on the days when you most need someone to sit beside you in that darkness.

There will be days when your grief is a bit more subtle and silent, content with buzzing in the background instead of being center stage. I hope you don't feel guilty for the days when this allows you to feel joy or hope. These days are so deeply important as you move forward at your own pace.

There will be days when your grief turns on a dime, demanding different things from you moment to moment, giving you emotional whiplash as you try and keep up. I hope you are gentle with yourself on these days. Your heart is looking for ways to process a love that has changed due to loss (a love that is still present, but in a different way). That is a lot of work on a weary soul.

There will be days when your grief softens enough to allow your mind to wander in memories, to rejoice in remembering, to allow the light to trickle in to the most painful spaces. And on those days, I hope you let the comfort surround you like a warm sweater. I hope you let the light in and feel it surrounding you. Because grief will bring about many different kinds of days. May we take them one day at a time, one moment at a time, and make room for the tension that it brings.

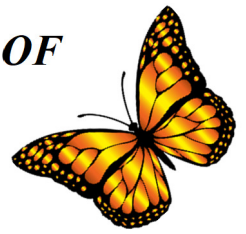
-Liz Newman

We have our own Facebook Page. This page will allow us to post events, activities, and grief related material, which will be beneficial to all of our members. If you have not joined us yet on Facebook, please do. This is a PRIVATE group. Only the members invited and accepted can see this page. Please see the link below to join our page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/246693646774570/?ref=share>

Also visit us at our Website – www.tcfneworleans.com.



NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
David Allen Ashton, Jr.
April 1, 1982 – May 10, 2006



HE KNOWS, HE KNOWS

By: Rachel May Wilson

Listen closely, my heart doth say.
He has not left you, he's here to stay.
I hear his whisper on a gentle bayou breeze, I feel his arms encircling me.
Hush says the wind as the old porch swing sways. Sit beside me as night takes over day.
The lump in my throat threatens to close. The old oak tree whispers, "he knows, he knows."
Tears fall like an afternoon rain
The streetcar bell calls his name
The trumpet players play his song
The mourners march and hum along
The river flows and curves effortlessly
As the seagulls cry, "remember me."
My voice is cracking, I fear I cannot speak. Thoughts of him envelope me.
The Green Wave ceases to crest. The jazz musicians place their instruments to rest.
The key is turned, the engine stops. The floor beneath me seems to drop.
Hush ways the wind as the old porch swing sways. Did you know I loved you Big Dave?
The lump in my throat threatens to close. The old oak tree whispers, "he knows, he knows."

~ Author - Rachel Wilson, one of David Allen's many, many friends! - NOLA, Louisiana
Love, Mom, Dad and Julie



Dedication sent in by Patsy and David Ashton



Our Children Remembered



Angel Birthdays

Chad Wershale	Apr 1	Son of Debbie Wershale; Sister of Brandi
David Allen Ashton, Jr.	Apr 1	Son of Patsy and David Ashton, Sr.
Sean Barringer	Apr 2	Son of Hugh Barringer
Lindsay Nichols	Apr 2	Daughter of Jolene Dufrene; Mother of Peter
Tabitha Hingle Duvernay	Apr 4	Daughter of Cindy Masters
Rennie Lee Coludrovich, Jr	Apr 5	Son of Lana Coludrovich
Marc Lundberg	Apr 7	Son of Olie and Anna Lundberg
Aaron Stephen Lopp	Apr 9	Son of Sonya Batten
Tynia C. Alexander	Apr 10	Daughter of Charlene Alexander; Sister of Rickie, Jr., and Tiphane
Challing Eugene Albert	Apr 11	Son of Liz and Stephen LeBlanc
Zane Rainier Vicari	Apr 12	Son of Jerrie & Jason Vicari
Dylan Conor Burns	Apr 12	Sone of Michele Burns
Jessica Lynn Smith	Apr 13	Daughter of Connie Smith
Amina Gerhart Hambrick	Apr 13	Daughter of Monika Gerhart-Hambrick
Jeremiah Palmisano	Apr 15	Brother of Amanda Palmisano
Jonathan Miller	Apr 15	Son of Darwin and Dawn Miller
Chelsea Marie Hunton	Apr 17	Daughter of William and Millie Hunton; Grand-daughter of Joe and Sharon Meyers
Laura Whittaker	Apr 21	Daughter of Karen Whittaker
Lisa Ann Eschmann	Apr 22	Daughter of Nancy and Dennis Eschmann
Brandon J. Bartholomew	Apr 23	Son of Ellen Bartholomew
John "Jay" Joseph Lawson V	Apr 26	Son of Christi Vercher
Victoria Wintter	Apr 27	Daughter of Chuck Eagerton
Jane O'Neal Dixey	Apr 27	Daughter of Rusty Dixey
Jessica Talley	Apr 28	Daughter of Cindy M. Lacour
Joshua Chestnut	Apr 28	Son of Colleen Chestnut
Mary Lee Bonura	Apr 29	Daughter of Judy and Dominick Bonura
Andres Pelaez	Apr 29	Son of Nancy and Armando Pelaez; Br of Alejandro, Daniel and Felipe
John Paul Sicotte	Apr 30	Son of Barbara and Steven Sicotte

Angel Anniversaries

Everleigh Mae Moser	Apr 1	Daughter of Maddie Nixon; Granddaughter of Kathleen Bernard-Nixon
Brent Ashley Isenberg	Apr 2	Son of Sandra and Jack Isenberg
Nancy Elizabeth Lamantia	Apr 3	Daughter of Pat & Steve Lamantia
Paul Mills	Apr 3	Son of Susan Monroe
Alexander Riecke	Apr 4	Son of Dana Tozel
Chad Sievers	Apr 4	Son of Debbie and Keith Schexnayder
Heather Ashleigh Butler	Apr 7	Daughter of William and Elizabeth Butler
Nicole "Niki" Gustin	Apr 9	Daughter of Annette Gustin; Niece of Ann and Richard Folk
Andrew Banks	Apr 9	Son of Margaret and Andrew Banks
Monica Lynn Savoie	Apr 9	Daughter of Susie and Ron Savoie
Amielyn Cortez Melancon	Apr 10	Daughter of Eugene Cortez, Jr.
Lawrence Herr	Apr 10	Brother of Laurie Herr Forster
Billy Laderer	Apr 11	Son of Andree Charvet
Rene Pierce	Apr 11	Brother of Prashanti van Calsem
Zane Rainier Vicari	Apr 12	Son of Jerrie & Jason Vicari
Jaece T. Stroud	Apr 15	Son of Rhonda Johnson-Stroud
Joseph "Joe" Sauvinet	Apr 17	Son of Sherry and Eric Sauvinet
Destinie Fate LeBlanc	Apr 21	Daughter of Jolene and Mark Conlin
William M. Cain, Jr.	Apr 21	Son of Vicki Cain
Sherrell Ann Gorman	Apr 23	Daughter of Charlene Gorman
Erskine Rockie Webster III	Apr 24	Son of Charisma Bennett; Grandson of Sandra Webster
Sean Barringer	Apr 26	Son of Hugh Barringer
Dawson A. Theriot	Apr 28	Son of Sheri Theriot



**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