November/December 2025
Volume 22, Number 6

Bereaved Parents OF THE USA

Twenty-Two Years of Hope & Healing

Please join us in celebration of our children's lives as we enter this Holiday Season with Love, Compassion and Hope for all

Annual Service of Remembrance
Sunday, December 14, 2025
6:00 p.m.
First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City
14391 Minnieville Road, Dale City, VA



Program will consist of readings, music, slideshow of our children and lighting candles in their memory

RSVP at the following link by Wednesday, December 3, 2025 :

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948ACAE22A4F8CF8-52924055-annual

The Annual Service of Remembrance provides an opportunity for parents, grandparents, siblings, relatives and friends to remember our precious children. Please join us in celebration of our children's lives as we enter this Holiday Season with Love, Compassion and Hope for all.





Slide Presentation *~ During the program, we will be presenting a slide presentation of our children. To have your child(ren) included, please provide a photo of your child, sibling or grandchild to Jodi Norman, 539 Harrison Circle, Locust Grove, VA 22508. Photos can be mailed or e-mailed to bpusanova@gmail.com. If you are sending an original photo to be scanned, it will be returned to you. Also, provide the child's name, date of birth and date of death.* ***Deadline to submit a photo is Wednesday, December 3rd.*** *Any questions, contact Jodi at 703-656-6999.*

Fellowship and Pot Luck Dinner to follow the service. *Please bring a main dish, salad, side dish or dessert to share.* ***Beverages will be provided****.*

Please bring a framed photo of your child *(no larger than 8x10) identified with your child's name and age. A table will be set up for you to display your child's picture.*

Poinsettias *will be used to decorate for our Service. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia in memory of your child, we are asking for a $15 donation. You will take the poinsettia home with you at the end of the evening. Please let Jodi know by Wednesday, December 3rd, if you would like to sponsor a poinsettia.*

We will again this year, collect birthday cake kits for a local food pantry. If you would like to bring a birthday cake kit in memory of your child, it would be greatly appreciated. See more information below.

We encourage people to participate in the program. *If you would like to participate in the program by doing a reading, provide music, read the names or anything else you would like to do, please let Jodi know at bpusanova@gmail.com by Wednesday, December 3rd.*

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with the service starting promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Any questions, please contact Jodi Norman at 703-656-6999 or e-mail:
bpusanova@gmail.com

RSVP by Wednesday, December 3rd



Celebrating birthdays is a big deal, especially for young children! Their excitement about turning another year older, enjoying a delicious cake, and being showered with attention is contagious. But for some families, celebrating a child's birthday with all the trimmings can be a challenge financially and they cannot provide what is needed. That's where we can step in to help by creating **birthday cake kits** for our **local food pantry in memory of our precious children who can no longer celebrate**.

Each kit contains the following items:

- **9×13 disposable aluminum foil pan (best with covers)**
- **a box of cake mix (any flavor)**
- **frosting (Dollar Tree Frosting is the perfect size)**
- **1 (12 oz only) can of any flavor soda (store brand will work) in case the recipient doesn't have eggs or oil**
- **birthday candles**
- **sprinkles or cake decorations**
- **Birthday Card**
- **tie with a ribbon**

Please bring complete kits to the Service of Remembrance to donate to the local food pantry in memory of our beloved children. I will have the recipe cards and stickers to put on the kits. If you would like to place a sticker on the kit stated who it is memory of or put a note in the kit, that would be great! Also, if you do not have a clear cover on the kit, please use a sticker to mark the flavor of the cake.

There is a meeting for everyone! Join us at one of these meetings!

Caring & Sharing Meetings

In-Person Meetings:

First United Presbyterian Church
14391 Minnieville Road
Dale City, VA
4th Sunday @ 3:00 p.m.
(No Meeting in Dec due to the Holidays)

Manassas Church of the Brethren
10047 Nokesville Road, Room 207
Manassas, VA 20110
1st Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.
(No meeting in Jan due to New Year's Day)

Zoom Meetings

2nd Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.
Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86813541644?pwd=RDBwOWkzZmxoWXJ5NnovT3VIY2lrQT09

For more information contact:
Jodi Norman, Chapter Leader
703-656-6999 (cell)
bpusanova@gmail.com

Ruckersville Support Group Meeting
3rd Sunday @ 2:00 pm

Four Seasons Clubhouse
Card Room
444 Four Seasons Drive
Ruckersville, VA 22968

For more information contact:
Linda Harkness 703-405-7379
harknesslm@gmail.com

AMORe

(All Murdered Offspring Remembered)

2nd Sunday @ 3:00 p.m.
3182 Golansky Blvd, Suite 101
Woodbridge, VA

A support group meeting for parents whose children have been murdered.

For more info contact:
Beverly Ruane
540-628-4758 (h) or 703-395-9546 (c)
ruane.beverly@yahoo.com

Life After Loss Support Group for Suicide Survivors

"Shining A Light for Those in Darkness"

DAVID J COBB FOUNDATION

1st Sunday of Each Month
1:00~2:30 p.m.
Meetings held at ACTS
9317 Grant Ave, Manassas, VA

For more information contact: Kimberly Fleming
Office: 571-377-8134 or Cell: 703-349-9184
email: kimberly.fleming@djcfoundation.org
website: www.djcfoundation.org

Sibling Support Group

The Virtual Support Group is making changes to the virtual meetings and they will now be held on the 3rd Tuesday
7:30-9:00 pm.

If you are a bereaved sibling, over the age of 18, and are interested in participating in this Virtual Support Group, please contact Amanda Hughes, Sibling Coordinator at
202-596-7573 or
siblings@bereavedparentsusa.org

Due to the Holidays, there will not be a meeting on Sunday, Dec 28th.

No Manassas Meeting on Thursday, Jan 1st.

Tell Us Your Story



Interested in sharing your child's story for a book designed to give other Bereaved Parents hope?

We are looking for parents who would be willing to be interviewed and have their story written (with your approval) OR write your own story for submission.

Contact Sue Cerrone for more info at 703-819-8604 or Suebcerrone@gmail.com

Refreshments at Meetings

If you would like to remember your child's birthday or the anniversary of his or her death, please bring your child's favorite cake or cookies to the meeting that month. Please let Jodi know that you will be bringing refreshments.



Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden is going to need a lot of work come spring, it's not too early to think about next year and we are hoping to have chapter members step up to work on the garden on a regular basis – weeding, watering, planting. If you enjoy garden work and have spare time, we could really use you to help out. If this is something that you can commit to please let Bev Ruane know. Please contact Bev via text, call, email, or Facebook.
Her cell is 703-395-9546, home 540-628-4758, and e-mail ruane.beverly@yahoo.

Book Club

Our Book Club meets on the last Monday of the month at 7 p.m. We will meet in person at Sue Cerrone's home, 15937 Cucumber Magnolia Way, Haymarket. **We will not be meeting in November and December due to the Holidays. Our next Book Club meeting will be on Monday, January 26.**

Please email bpusanova@gmail.com, if you would like to receive emails about the Book Club. We'd really love to have more people participate.

For more information contact Sue at suebcerrone@gmail.com or call 703-819-8604. Please RSVP if you are attending.

Our book for January is Lives Unfinished, Parents' Reflections on Child Loss. The book is available on Amazon. Books for 2026 will be chosen at the January meeting, so if you have any books you recommend please bring your suggestions.

Volunteering at Jiffy Lube Live in 2026

After a very busy summer and fall volunteering at Jiffy Lube Live concerts, I am happy to report that we made thousands of dollars and were able to pay for our speakers for the retreat. 14 volunteers earned enough in tips to pay for their retreat registration fees.

Now we need to decide if we want to commit to working the 2026 concerts. If we have enough volunteers we will do it again next year, so please let me know if you would be interested in volunteering. We had a fun time and the work is not that hard and we are in an air-conditioned building. I need to know how many of you are interested before making a decision on volunteering or not.

We had 15 active volunteers and we could use more so we can cover all the concerts. We can have as few as 2 and as many as 10. I am hoping for enough volunteers so no one volunteer has to work all the concerts. Hope you would like to volunteer in 2026!

Let me know at bpusanova@gmail.com.

Chapter Retreat in Richmond

By Linda Harkness

For those who were “on the fence” about whether or not to attend the retreat held at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond, Virginia in October, you really missed out on a beautiful event. At first, there was some disappointment at the small turnout of 41 attendees, but for the 41 of us in attendance, it was a weekend filled with gifts of new and old friendships, a reflection of our individual journeys, phenomenal speakers sharing their messages of survival and hope, and a beautiful spot to appreciate nature while being nurtured by one another.

After checking into our roomy, comfortable accommodations Friday evening, we gathered for an hour of line dancing. Whether one was brave enough to participate, or chose to observe, everyone admitted that it was not only a good ice-breaker, but an opportunity to be swept away in the fun and forget during that time, the reason we were gathered for the weekend. After all, it’s hard to feel down when dancing.

Dinner followed, and besides being quite good, the food was certainly plentiful with some of us choosing to have seconds. For those gluten or lactose-free guests, they were accommodated with a number of choices. Soup and salad accompanied each meal as well.

We then had an introduction of all speakers for the weekend which left us with much to look forward to for the next two days.

Those of us brave enough to venture out into the brisk evening air enjoyed s’mores, hot dogs and fruit-filled pies prepared over a campfire. It was another great way for us to get to know one another. Saturday brought us a day of amazing speakers. Most had written books and/or spoken at numerous events over the years attended by over a thousand attendees. Those of us in attendance felt so lucky to have the caliber of speakers for such a small group. Each had a unique style and topic, and it was hard not to come away without having been touched by something shared throughout the day.

One of the speakers was our own Sue Cerrone who taught skills on writing our personal stories. No doubt this workshop proved that we may have a few future authors in our group. Whether newly bereaved or having been bereaved for years, there was something for everyone to take away from the day.

A highlight was our evening candle light Service of Remembrance in the beautiful, quaint chapel which sits on the James River. Although somewhat emotional, as always, we loved sharing our child’s name and picture with one another. I personally felt, too, that it was a perfect moment to publicly thank Jodi for her 24 years of commitment to BP with a poem I’d written in her honor which can be found in this newsletter.

After a somewhat exhausting day, some retired to their rooms while others chatted by an outdoor fireplace to discuss life and the events of the lovely weekend.

Sunday wrapped up with some attending a meaningful morning service in the lovely chapel, followed by a hearty breakfast. We then moved our belongings out of our rooms before a presentation by one more awesome speaker.

The retreat ended with the flying of kites everyone had decorated in memory of their child. It was amazing that after a very still day on Saturday, the wind picked up nicely on Sunday for us to be able to “Fly to Remember.” Some felt our children could have had a hand in our perfect weather. However, while a few kites soared high, others had trouble getting their kites off the ground which made for a laughable moment.

Our first Northern Virginia Bereaved Parent Retreat was absolutely a great success and there is a rumor that a second might be in the works for 2027. We hope you will consider joining us next time. As one of the newly bereaved parents shared following the weekend, “I was hesitant to attend, but it brought me a lot of peace and comfort to be surrounded by others who truly understand and have so much knowledge to share. I am looking forward to attending the next one.”

Important Message from Your Leader

I want to share that after much thought and a heavy heart, I've decided to step down as leader of our chapter. This was a very difficult decision for me, however after 23 years as leader, I feel it is the right time. On February 1st we will be celebrating 23 years as a chapter and I would like to make that the end of my leadership.

It's hard for me to believe it will be 25 years in June since Christian's death, over twenty-four years attending meetings, first as a bereaved parent and not long after becoming the leader. In a late night browsing on the internet, I stumbled across the Bereaved Parents of the USA organization, I contacted them, and they welcomed our small chapter with open arms, being the first and only chapter in the state of Virginia! Our chapter has grown to over 200 members and we have one of the most active chapters in all of BPUSA.

Over the past nearly 25 years, this group has become my lifeline and many lifelong friendships have been made. Serving as leader has truly been an honor. While I am stepping down from a leadership role, my commitment to our chapter remains strong.

In order for the chapter to continue on and help newly bereaved, and not so newly bereaved, on this journey we call grief, I need some of you to step up and keep the chapter going. In addition to new leaders, we need volunteers to help run the chapter. There are dozens of tasks that go into running our chapter and our special events. If you feel you are now in a place in your grief journey where you can help and give back to the chapter in any way, we would love your help. Most of us find that when we reach a point of giving back to those who come after us, we gain far more then we give. Some of the areas where the chapter needs help with are the special events, (Picnic, Butterfly Release, Kite Festival, Service of Remembrance, dinners and other activities). Other areas of need are in publishing the newsletter, keeping the website updated, publicity, outreach, and helping at the Memorial Garden. The more volunteers the better!

If you would like to volunteer to help our chapter, please contact me at bpusanova@gmail.com or 703-656-6999. If you would like to be the new leader or volunteer in any way, please let me know. I would like to have a meeting in January to reorganize the chapter. Once I know who is interested in stepping up to help, I will set a date that works for everyone.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be your leader these past 24 years! As they say this is not a club we want anyone to be a part of but the friendships made, the hugs and the tears shared have brought comfort to those on this difficult journey. It is my hope that this chapter will continue for years to come, offering hope and healing to those that need it most.

As I step down as leader, I want to thank you all for being such an important part of my journey and my life and allowing me be part of yours. Your love and friendship, means the world to me! ❤️

Healing Hugs, Jodi

A Heart-Felt Message from Linda Harkness

Almost 24 years ago, Jodi and Kelly Norman faced the unimaginable with the loss of their 16-year-old son Christian Paul Norman due to a cerebral edema on June 3, 2001. Their sons Josh and Jake also lost their brother that day. As any bereaved family reading this knows, the days following the loss of our child(ren) is a blur, but as the fog begins to lift, we are faced with the question, "What now?" There is no definitive answer, but some make the decision to dedicate their lives to support others in order to assure them that they are not alone and they will survive. So began the journey of Jodi Norman as she established the Bereaved Parents of the USA chapter of Northern Virginia.

It is almost impossible to count the number of lives touched by Jodi over the past 24 years, but some of us are very aware of the countless hours and expense she and Kelly have given. Thank you just doesn't seem like enough in showing our appreciation for all she has done in keeping this chapter not only afloat but thriving. Just think about 24 years of newsletters written (and at one time addressed to over 200 and mailed); butterfly releases, Services of Remembrance, potlucks, and social outings planned; memorial garden established and maintenance involved; website maintained; meetings planned and organized to include sibling groups, losses by addiction, murdered children, survivors of suicide, and zoom meetings started during the epidemic. As if this wasn't enough, Jodi spent years at the national level of BPUSA, primarily focused on the planning and execution of the annual National Gathering with little or no thanks.

In July of 2011, the Northern Virginia chapter, led by Jodi, hosted the annual National Gathering in Reston, Virginia. To this day, she has been told that it was one of the "best, most touching, and tender-hearted Gatherings ever held by the organization." We pride ourselves in that accomplishment as a chapter, but it couldn't have been done without the leadership of Jodi and with the assistance, as always, of her wonderful behind-the-scenes husband Kelly and the additional support of their sons Josh and Jake. After the overwhelming accolades of the 2011 Gathering, our chapter agreed to again host a second Gathering in Northern Virginia which was held in 2017 and was again a great success.

Just this past month, we had the opportunity to attend another Jodi-inspired event, a weekend retreat held at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond, Virginia. 41 of us gathered at the beautiful retreat center located on the James River. Our accommodations were roomy and comfortable, the food was quite good and plentiful, and the grounds were beautiful and serene. All planned and organized by Jodi.

As a non-profit organization, funds haven't always been easy to come by, especially to keep a chapter up and running for the last 24 years. With this need, Jodi also implemented a number of fund raisers for the chapter, to include a handful of us working all of the concerts at the Jiffy Lube Live concert venue in Bristow, Virginia over this past summer. We were able to raise thousands in order to not only support the needs of the chapter, but to alleviate costs incurred by our speakers in attending the retreat.

It is said that it takes a village. In the case of the Northern Virginia chapter of Bereaved Parents, Jodi Norman has been that village. Many of you never took the opportunity to meet her, but she has continued to assure you that you and your child have never been forgotten. There was a point in which Jodi was given the information that you had suffered the death of one or more of your children. She was quick to respond with a letter of introduction and an invitation to participate in our support group. Since then, you continue to receive invitations to events as well as a copy of the newsletter. You probably even continue to receive a card on the angel date of your child(ren). Personally, I am so grateful to Jodi for reaching out to me almost 18 years ago following the loss of our own 18-year-old daughter Kristin. I started attending meetings within just a few months of her death almost 18 years ago, and I remain active in the support group today, even starting my own group in our community outside of Charlottesville. I am of the belief that it is my responsibility to be able to share with the newly bereaved that if I have been able to survive, they can do it too. All of this is because of Jodi and her pledge to be there for others which she made almost 24 years ago.

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Although I've expressed that it would be close to impossible to thank Jodi, I wrote a poem in appreciation of her that I read before our candlelight ceremony at the retreat last month. I hope you won't mind me sharing it with all of you now.

I should be standing here
with an award, flowers or gift for you,
But nothing seemed to be meaningful enough
so, I hope this poem might do.

Bereaved Parents of the USA,
an organization formed 30 years ago,
You thought perhaps there was a need in Northern Virginia,
and there was more than you could know.

Some have pitched in to help,
but for the most part it was only you.
As is always the case when needing an assist,
most work is done by only a few.

People wonder how just one person
could possibly do it all.
Your response is fairly simple,
You do it in honor of Christian Paul.

The "Forever 16" son of Jodi and Kelly,
Middle brother of Josh and Jake.
Afraid it might keep her too busy
but that was a risk she was willing to take.

There isn't anything we wouldn't do for our child,
and this we all know too well.
So, she chose to share the hope of BP
Knowing their message was important to tell.

She assured them they weren't alone,
and to also offer them hope,
And in time they would understand the need
in finding their own way to cope.

She's given BP almost 24 years,
her blood, sweat, tears and heart
Which brings me back to this poem,
and what I mentioned at the start.

How can we possibly thank someone
for being there at the worst time of our lives?
Offering healing and hope to grandparents, siblings,
and of course, to husbands and wives.

You've been such a blessing Jodi,
and hundreds of families are grateful to you.
24 years in honor of Christian,
We know he loves you and is so proud of you too.

With Love, Thanks, and Gratitude for Everything Jodi,
Linda Harkness, Mother of Kristin Marie Harkness (3/19/89 - 2/22/08)

Grief

I wish more people understood
that child loss isn't just being sad
and crying.
It's anger.
It's numbness.
It's being shattered into pieces and
still having to function.
It's every emotion all at once…
and sometimes, none at all.
When you lose a child, you don't
just grieve their absence.
You grieve the life they should
have lived.
The milestones they'll never reach.
The moments you'll never get
back.
It changes you mentally,
physically, spiritually. It drains
your energy, your hope, and
sometimes your will to keep going.
Grief is love with nowhere to go.
It's whispering "this too shall pass"
while your heart screams that it
never will.
It's forcing yourself to eat when
food has no taste.
It's showering just to cry under the
water where no one can hear you.
It's isolating because being around
people feels exhausting…
and surrounding yourself with
noise just so you don't have to
think.
Grief is messy. It's heavy.
It's lifelong.
So, if you can't understand why a
parent grieves so deeply,
for so long…
consider yourself lucky not to
understand. 💔

FIVE WAYS TO GET THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

By Heidi Gessner

Holidays can be difficult when someone you love has died. Or you've lost your job. Or an important relationship has ended. It can be hard to watch others being joyful and merry while your life feels joyless. You may need to be more intentional about your plans this year.

Here are 5 innovative ways you can get through (and maybe even enjoy them).

- **Light a candle**. Engage in a meaningful ritual. Set aside some intentional quiet time to think of your loved one (and your life). Perhaps write a letter letting him or her know what you miss the most this year. And what you are most grateful for.
- **Give back.** Giving back can transform you, your community and your life so that you can experience more abundance, joy and meaning every single day. It can also remind you that you are not alone in your feelings of hopelessness. There are other people who are struggling and in need of some help. Consider serving a meal at the homeless shelter, giving a donation (in honor of a loved one), or inviting someone else who is alone to share in a holiday meal or festivities.
- **Get out in nature**. There is a restorative power in nature and reconnecting with the natural world is the key to good health. Research shows that spending time in nature can promote physical health, mental acuity, and emotional enhancement. Nature reveals the cycle of life and a connection with it ignites a sense of meaning and wonder so profound that it touches the very core of what it means to be human.

MORE TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- **Have genuine conversations.** Consider investing in a card game, like Vertellis Holiday Edition, that actually brings people closer together. With screen time increasing daily, talking about what matters can be grounding and hopeful. It may become a new tradition! Vertellis Holiday Edition is a card game that you can look forward to playing every year during **Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve,** or a casual get together. Vertellis means **"tell me more'** in Dutch and through questions that trigger memories and stories, you will get to know those closest to you in a new (deeper) way.
- **Use your imagination.** Every year we are given the opportunity to start again and this year is no exception. This is the perfect season to set an intention for the coming New Year. What is one thing that would make your year great in 2026? Take some time to ponder this question, write it down, and then tell one person your intention. Send it out into the universe! Start now visualizing your intention coming true. Come back to your imagination whenever you like and see your intention happening. Add juicy details. Now pay attention to your surroundings and look for opportunities to make it happen.

Heidi Gessner, MDiv, BCC, is an ordained United Church of Christ minister, life transition guide & coach, teacher, and former end-of-life professional.



We Remember Our Children Who have Birthdays and Death Dates in November and December

CJ Angelos	5/28/85 ~ **11/18/06**
Mielen Arquines	**12/01/68** ~ 6/04/08
Scott R. Barley	**12/07/81** ~ 9/29/11
Stephanie Webber Bartley	9/29/87 ~ **12/20/16**
Antonino "Nino" Basile	**12/13/84 -** 10/06/12
Jennifer Becker	**12/30/67** ~ 7/26/70
Brandon Berenson	**11/24/92 ~** 8/30/21
Tiffany Blackwood	**12/08/84** ~ 6/09/21
Ashley Blue	**11/23/05** ~ 10/11/19
Clayton Breeding	10/23/77 ~ **12/12/01**
Benjamin Brletic	5/17/77 ~ **12/30/21**
Brian Brumbaugh	**11/09/83** ~ 5/02/07
Abigail Buckley	4/25/15 ~ **11/17/16**
Amy R. Buckley	3/13/86 ~**11/17/16**
Claire Buckley	7/27/11 ~ **11/17/16**
Erwin F. Burock	**12/17/48** ~ 5/25/13
David John Butts	10/18/80 ~ **12/16/05**
Barbara (Dotson) Cleary	**12/3/66** ~ 1/21/18
Autumn Coffie	4/16/88 ~ **12/29/14**
David Combs	**11/22/79 ~ 11/23/01**
Ryan Conde	**12/02/04** ~ 02/02/17
Michael Costanzo	7/07/98 ~ **12/22/20**
Christina Curtis	3/01/74 ~ **12/25/07**
K.J. Edwards	**12/03/85** ~ 10/31/03
Brian Elero	**12/30/80 ~ 10/29/01**
Rhonda Flannery	7/31/63 ~ **11/10/01**
Dillon Foley	**11/16/98** ~ 4/02/20
Kimberley Geisler	**11/29/93 ~ 11/15/12**
Ahmad Glenn	3/06/83 ~ **12/04/06**
Christian Green	**11/12/91 ~ 11/01/08**
Emily Nelson Greer	**11/26/95 ~ 11/06/21**
Adon Grey	**11/05/81** ~ 1/20/18
Daniel Grimsley	3/02/88 ~ **11/17/21**
Clay Haga	**12/09/88** ~ 8/26/19
Michael F.K. Hammaker	**12/02/98** ~ 5/21/21
Kimberley Hellandbrand	**11/03/69** ~ 4/27/19
Victoria Holman	**12/27/98**- 07/23/22
William Holt	9/10/84 ~ **12/23/17**
Philip Hottle	2/16/85 ~ **12/03/08**
Olivia Howard	**12/31/91** ~ 9/03/09
Adrienne Ingram	6/25/79 ~ **12/02/07**
Leslie Ann Kramer	4/20/71 ~ **12/17/06**
David Lesser	**11/20/56 ~ 11/07/18**
Marc Lopretto	**11/11/76 ~ 11/26/20**
Erika (Brummett) Lott	4/06/77 ~ **11/05/13**
Sara Kelsey Lott	**11/01/95 ~** 7/23/08
Brian Alan Mature	**11/23/83 ~ 11/23/12**
Annie McCann	1/05/92 ~ **11/02/08**
Darren McKeever	**12/07/80 ~ 11/19/98**
Artemis McRae	10/01/20 ~ **11/01/22**
Jeremy Nottingham	1/25/91 ~ **11/22/21**
Michael O'Berry	9/13/94 ~ **12/15/97**
Brian Ogden	7/04/87 ~ **12/24/17**
Angela Oliver	**11/07/67** ~ 1/06/11
Michael Page	4/20/90 ~ **12/06/21**
Christina Panzo-Bowers	1/08/94 ~ **11/01/14**
Jaid'n Payne	3/14/00 ~ **11/19/21**
Michael Pennefather	**12/09/95** ~ 2/04/08
Louisa Pettenati	**11/16/23 ~ 11/19/23**
LaTonya Phillips	**11/16/76 ~ 11/01/01**
Catzby Pitzvada	8/07/88 ~**12/17/19**
Carie Ann Polizzi	**11/23/78 ~ 11/11/18**
Kylene Privett	**12/14/83** ~ 8/13/07
Tanja Quinn	10/21/84 **~ 11/17/18**
Ronald Ralph, Jr.	7/27/66 **~ 11/04/02**
Stephen P. Ramos	4/24/87 ~ **11/11/19**
Marcus Robinson	**12/29/07** ~ 10/04/17
Courtney Shelby	**11/23/93** ~ 5/14/01
Jacqueline Simoes	**11/05/66** ~ 3/15/06
Cody Slayton	**12/11/12** ~ 8/09/21
Ben Smith	**12/22/70** ~ 1/26/03
Karl Smith	**11/20/83** ~ 4/25/04
Ananth Sridhar	**11/12/94** ~ 3/20/18
Grace Stone	8/20/99 ~ **11/01/18**
Jerry Taybron	**11/21/75** ~ 8/18/07
Shawn Terrill	2/23/82 ~ **12/03/06**
Brian Trotter	**11/24/94** ~ 10/17/20
Andrew Vogel	6/25/69 ~ **11/13/13**
Kevin Woods	**12/08/93** ~ 8/06/14
Andre' Waters	5/31/97 ~ **12/23/07**
Melinda "Mindy" Weakley	**12/20/83** ~ 9/02/09
Keith West	9/22/66 ~ **11/25/10**
Jessica Williams	9/18/89 ~ **12/05/19**
Brenden Wilson	1/10/98 ~ **11/10/14**
Stephen Wright	6/06/89 ~ **11/21/13**
Ahmet Yilmaz	**12/18/97 ~** 4/02/24

We apologize if there are any mistakes in the "We Remember Our Children" section. If we spelled any names incorrectly, have any dates incorrect or your child's name is not listed and has a birthday or death date during the months of November or December, please provide us with your child's information so they can be included correctly in future newsletters.

Bereaved Parents of the USA Welcome

We are the parents whose children have died. We are the siblings whose brothers and sisters no longer walk with us through life. We are the grandparents who have buried grandchildren.

We come together as Bereaved Parents of the USA to provide a safe space where grieving families can connect, share our stories, and learn to rebuild our lives.

We attend meetings whenever we can and for as long as we find helpful. We share our fears, confusion, anger, guilt, frustrations, emptiness, and feelings of hopelessness, knowing these emotions will be met with compassion and understanding. As we support, comfort and encourage one another, we offer hope and healing. As we confront the deaths of our loved ones, our shared grief brings us to a common ground that transcends differences, building mutual understanding across the boundaries of culture, race, faith, values, abilities, and lifestyle.

Together we celebrate the lives of our children, siblings, and grandchildren, sharing the joys and the heartbreaks as well as the love that will never fade. Together, strengthened by the bonds we create, we offer what we have learned from one another to every bereaved family, no matter how recent or long ago the death.

We are the Bereaved Parents of the USA. We welcome you.

Upcoming Events
Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, December 14th– Service of Remembrance Candle Lighting Service

Monday, February 2, 2026 – Anniversary Dinner

Sunday, May 31, 2026 - Annual Picnic and Lotus Flower Release

Sunday, July 12, 2026 – Butterfly Release

***Dates and Events are subject to change**

Chapter Contact Information
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Bereaved Parents of the USA
www.bereavedparentsusa.org

Chapter Leadership

Chapter Leader: Jodi Norman
Co-Leaders: Bev Ruane, Debbie & Tim Shirt
Manassas Meeting Leaders: Sue Cerrone, Melody Ridgeway & Jodi Norman
Book Club Leader: Sue Cerrone
Ruckersville Leader: Linda Harkness

Please Check E-mails & Facebook

Almost all of our Chapter Communication is done via email. Please check your emails at least once a week. Everything from the newsletter to Chapter Announcements are sent through email. It would also be helpful to respond to all emails sent regarding the Chapter. That lets me know that you did see the email and that I have a correct email address – a simple "got it" would be better than no response at all!

It would also be helpful if you would join our private Facebook page. Please check this page on a regular basis. A Facebook page has been set up for our chapter. Members can join our group at **Bereaved Parents of the USA/Northern VA Chapter**. This is a closed group for privacy purposes, so nothing posted here will go into your regular News Feed for your regular FB friends to see. Request to join the group and approval will be sent to you.





