



The Compassionate Friends

Greater New Orleans Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6

June 2024

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

SAVE THE DATE – July 12 - 14, 2024 47TH TCF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

See Page 9 for more Information

National Conference Memory Board Photos Needed

See Page 9 for more Information

TCF-GNO Chapter Gift Basket Items Needed for National Conference Silent Auction

See Page 9 for more Information

Summer Days, by Millie Hunton

No one can really give us the comfort we crave that could only be achieved by getting our Chelsea back. There is nothing we want more than to hold Chelsea in our arms: to hug her, to kiss her, and to hear her sweet voice again. However, I found some solace in completing a project she started months before her passing.

See Summer Days – Page 3

BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION: Birthdays and Anniversaries 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/Annv 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 May Birthday Cake was sponsored by Stacie Coates in honor of her brother Bobby, and by Eileen Brocato in honor of her daughter Lauren.

You will lose someone you can't live without, and your heart will be badly broken, and the bad news is that you never completely get over the loss of your beloved. But this is also the good news. They live forever in your broken heart that doesn't seal back up. And you come through. It's like having a broken leg that never heals perfectly - that still hurts when the weather gets cold, but you learn to dance with the limp.” –Anne Lamott

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.

Without you in my arms, I feel an emptiness in my soul. I find myself searching the crowds for your face — I know it's an impossibility, but I cannot help myself.” – Nicholas Sparks

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

June 10, 2024

Lafreniere Park Foundation

Center Conference Room

7:00 – 9:00 pm

2nd Monday of every month

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

8 Jan 24	19 Feb 24	11 Mar 24
8 Apr 24	13 May 24	10 Jun 24
8 Jul 24	12 Aug 24	9 Sep 24
14 Oct 24	11 Nov 24	9 Dec 24 ZOOM

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Denise St. Pierre

504-460-2970

denisestp12@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, 2024 – held in the Children’s Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

Memorial Walk and Auction

October 19, 2024 – held in the Children’s Memorial Garden in Lafreniere Park

WorldWide Candle Lighting

December 8, 2024 – Held in the Foundation Center Patio 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
Special Advisor	Denise St. Pierre
Treasurer	Isabel Vigne-Miranda
Facilitator	Millie Hunton
Newsletter Editor	William Hunton
Webmaster	Jason Vicari
Database Management	Jerrie Vicari
Coffee Hostess	Patsy Ashton
Memorial Park Director	Jacques Bitoun

Steering Committee: William Hunton, Millie Hunton, Denise St. Pierre, Isabel Miranda-Vigne, Jan Dutilh, Patsy Ashton, and Dena Peters.

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 700

Summer Days (cont. from Page 1)

On our inner yard fence, she had begun painting flowers on the fence boards adding color and décor to our backyard. Summer soon got hot, and we suggested giving it a break. But before she could resume the project, she had passed. Following the shock and turmoil of this horrible event, I had it in the back of my mind of returning to her project. But the thought of it would break me down in tears. I put it aside, but soon I continued to ponder it.

And finally, I built the courage, the courage to face the challenge of completing Chelsea's project. I gathered paints, brushes, and sketches. I knew what I needed to do, but I knew it needed one thing that was not in the original plans. Besides the floral designs she had painted on the fence, it now called for butterflies! So, I got started. The first attempts were devastating; brush in hand, I would just look at the fence and start crying. So, I would have to pack it up. But I knew I wanted to do this more than anything to honor our Chelsea. I knew we could look at the finished project and reflect that this is what Chelsea would have done had she been here. So, I pushed on continuing the project with tears flowing from my eyes, and salty sweat burning my eyes so severely that I had to continually wipe them.

The heat was intense, the sun was beating on the back of my neck, but I was feeling accomplishment in the project. I couldn't stop. I just couldn't put the brushes down. Days passed, and those days turned to months, as I would add to it day after day. It was growing bigger and bigger, covering the full-back fence and the side fence as well. The butterflies and flowers were blending together in a beautiful orchestration of harmony. I knew this little girl, and I knew how she would draw. Her expressions of art were flowing through me with such vibrance that I could feel her in every stroke. It was indeed a labor of love for the child I loved so much. I know she is looking at that fence. I know she was part of it. I think I have honored her in a way only I could. I love you, Chelsea.

There are many different ways of coping with the loss of a loved one, such as in memorial functions, lighting a candle, reading books, writing letters or journals, or even planting a garden. All of these can be part of the healing process but never of forgetting the love of your deceased child.

By Millie Hunton, Co-Leader, TCF Greater New Orleans Chapter 1615

A Father's Grief

It must be very difficult
To be a man in grief.
Since "men don't cry"
and "men are strong"
No tears can bring relief.
It must be very difficult
To stand up to the test.
And filed calls and visitors
So that she can get some rest.
They always ask if she's alright
And what she's going through.
But seldom take his hand and ask,



"My friend, how are you?"
He hears her cry in the night
And thinks his heart will break.
And dries her tears and comforts her
But "stays strong" for her sake.
It must be very difficult
To start each day anew.
And try to be so very brave –

He lost his child too.

Eileen Knight Hagemeister

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Ellie Rae Siddall

June 7, 2022 ~ October 10, 2022



Ellie,

I cannot believe it is your second birthday. We miss you more than words can say. Even though we only had four months with you, we are so grateful the time we did have and all the memories we made in that time. You had the biggest personality and lit up our lives.

We wish more than anything you were here to celebrate your birthdays, but we will still celebrate you every time. We all love you and there will never be a day we do not think of you.

Happy birthday baby girl.

Love you always, Mom, Dad, Bentley, Lucas, and Hailey.



Dedication sent in by
Annie Siddall

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Jenny Ann Kimball

June 13, 1988 – February 23, 2001



Dear Jenny,

Happy 36th Birthday! It has been a long year. I am busy with work. Thanks for that by the way. Dad still misses you every day. We still talk about you all the time. Our lives would be so different. I still can't believe you have been gone for 23 years now. It still feels like yesterday. I just want you to know I loved being your sister. Happy 36th Birthday Jen!

XOXO.

Love, Jaimie



Dedication sent in by Jaimie Kimball

NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF *Aubrey Pitre*

June 16, 1987 – February 19, 2018

Aubrey, my angel,

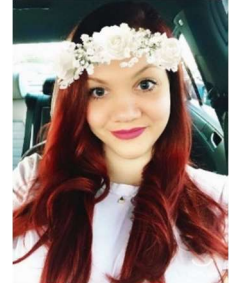
I wake up every morning by the fiery roosters crow,
Only to hear, I just don't know, I just don't know.
I lie in my bed holding my rosary between my hands while
praying,
Rolled up in a ball weeping and laying.
I don't want to get up, no not yet,
What lies ahead in my empty, lonely day, I fret.
Forcing myself to arise,
I do so with despise.
My day goes on, so very, very long,



Awaiting the stars and moon to shine bright, so I that I don't
have to try anymore today to be strong.
Every day I shed deep, painful tears,
See, my daughter Aubrey, my angel, has gone to heaven and
doesn't have any more fears.
She has reached solace and is in peace,
Not only being with The Lord Jesus, but all of her worries and
suffering did cease.
My heart is missing a huge piece, so painful, so broken,
But I know I will be with Aubrey, my angel, again as Jesus has
spoken.
I love and miss you so much Aubrey, my angel,

Momma

P.S., It's Aubrey's 37th birthday today. I am a member of a grief group for parents that have lost a child. I wrote this one night as Aubrey was in my mind, as always. I'm not to the point of celebration yet, but I have hopes of being there one day.



Dedication sent in by Kathy Perkins

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NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF *Sherrell Ann Gorman*

June 20, 1964 – April 23, 2022

You've just walked on ahead of me, and I've got to understand.
You must release the ones you love and let go of their hand.
I try and cope the best I can but I'm missing you so much.
If I could only see you and once more feel your touch.
Yes, you've just walked on ahead of me, don't worry I'll be fine.
But now and then I swear I feel your hand slip into mine.
God took you into his loving home, here just wasn't meant to be.
He wrapped you in His loving arms and whispered,
"come home and be with me."
You tried so hard to stay with us and your fight was not in vain,
God took you to His loving home and freed you from your pain.

Happy Birthday Baby girl,

Love & miss you,

Mom, Stan, Tammy, Nik & Elaine



Dedication sent in by Charlene Gorman



NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Erin Peters

June 18, 1996 - October 30, 2016

Happy Heavenly Birthday my Angel



You are missed even more than you know!

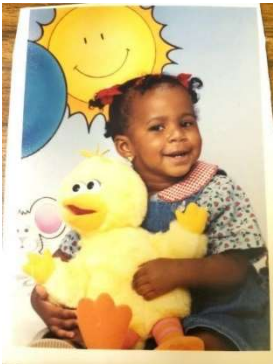
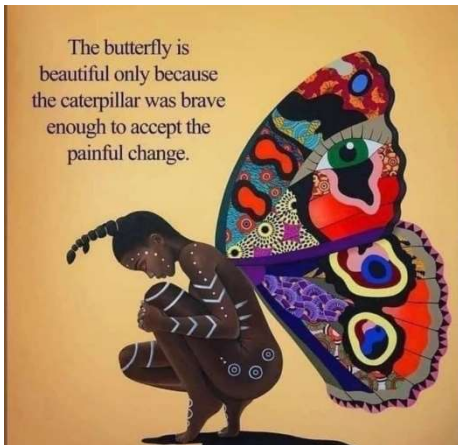
Since you have been gone, my heart aches and there is a big empty hole. Although I smile and try to enjoy my days, inside I am torn apart screaming in silence and pain.

Thank You for choosing me to be your earthly mother!!

I will cherish our memories shared throughout your 20 years, while longing for the day I get to hold you in my arms again. I still hear your voice telling me to "Be strong and to live my life." It is not easy but I have decided to take your advice.

Our time will come again sweetie, until then I must keep pushing forward in your honor. Until that day arrives, I will just have to survive!

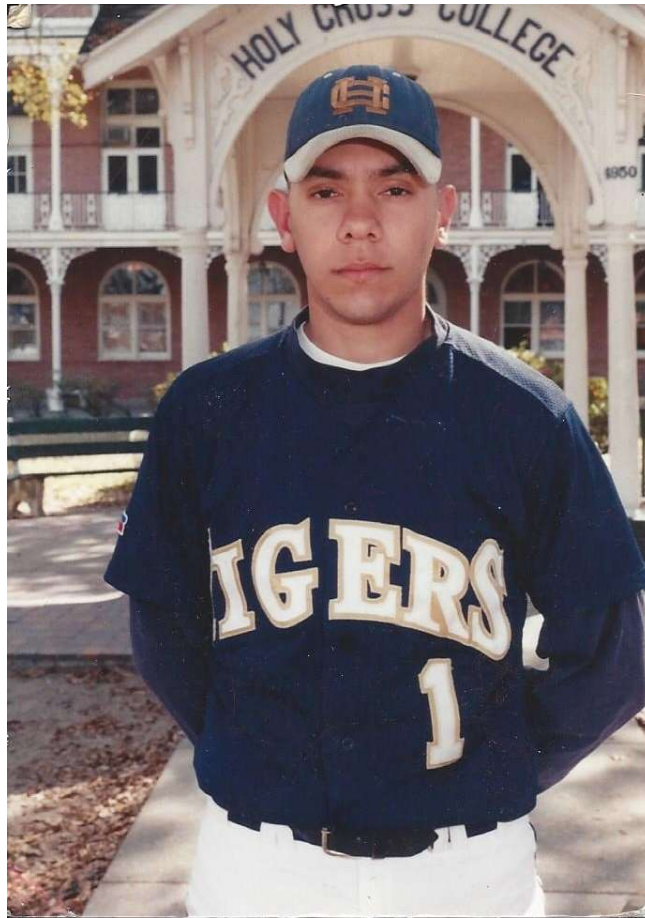
Missed Severely by Mom, Dad, and Big Sis Erica



Dedication sent in by Dena and Errol Peters

*NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Jonathan Richard Wallace*

January 7, 1981 – June 9, 2003



My Dearest Jonathan

It's been 21 years now since you've been gone from our lives.

We miss you so much!! I just want to thank you for the 22 years we had together.

There were so many good times and so much love shared.

All that you've experienced throughout your lifetime was all part of your journey to your heavenly home.

I never imagined that your life would be short lived. I never imagined that you would no longer be part of my life here on earth. I miss you so much!!

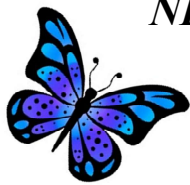
I love you, Jonathan. You will always be my son.

You will always be forever in our hearts. Until we meet again....

*Love Always,
Mom, Dad & Jessica*

Dedication sent in by Niecy and Stanley Wallace





NEWSLETTER DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF Paul Mills

June 27, 1974 ~ April 3, 2021
My Son, My Beautiful Boy



I miss you son. Dearly. I miss our conversations that spilled your knowledge of war and humankind. I miss you telling me of your boyhood that I missed so much of. Thank you for forgiving me. I'm still so marveled at your strange quite wit. Even though it was long drives to rehabs and MD appts for your failing liver, your suboxone, to take you to safety by your sister while you sober up, I was always glad to be near you. And when you were sober, the car rides allowed me to hear your stories, of wars and of your younger years. You are here as my son spirit my right wing alongside your sister Ayme, my left wing. I see you often as a monarch and especially as a dragonfly. Love you dearly my boy. Always and forever.



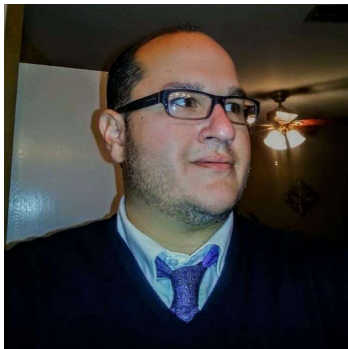
*I miss you dearly!
Love always, Mom*

Dedication sent in by Susan Monroe





Memorial Newsletter Dedication Ray Keith Constantine, Jr. September 28, 1978 ~ March 29, 2021



*With all my heart
With every inch of my soul
With every breath I take
I promise to love you forever.*

**Always Missed, Always Loved
Love Mom**



Dedication sent in by Mom, JoAnn Giovingo

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.

2024 TCF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Compassion
FILLS THE AIR



TCF 47TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024
✦ New Orleans, LA ✦

The 2024 TCF National Conference will be right here in New Orleans at the Marriott Hotel. While many people will be volunteering to work during the event, Local Volunteers will be needed to assist our Local Leads. If you would like to volunteer for one of these Committees please contact me at your earliest convenience. This is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer for a wonderful cause and to be able to do so in honor of your child, grandchild, or sibling.

Feel free to contact William or Millie Hunton at tcfnola@gmail.com or at 504-265-0581.

47th TCF National Conference Silent Auction

TCF National Staff has asked if our chapter would like to donate a basket to this year's Silent Auction/Raffle at the 47th TCF National Conference here in New Orleans for July 12-14, 2024. We are welcomed to come up with your chapter's own original idea of what to put in the basket. My plan is to use a New Orleans Theme with a hand crafted pirogue. Members can volunteer to donate an item such as a souvenir. (Of course, New Orleans souvenirs with a butterfly on it would be ideal.) I hope this will give the opportunity for many of our members to be involved with something for the conference, even if they cannot make the conference.

Once the items are collected then we will place the items in the hand-crafted pirogue for the final presentation. Millie and I will transport the basket to the TCF National Conference and present it from the Greater New Orleans Chapter. Some suggestions for the basket are:



Cafe Du Monde Beignet Mix
New Orleans Souvenir Coffee Mug
New Orleans Souvenir Fridge Magnets
New Orleans Souvenir Spoon Rest
New Orleans Souvenir Glasses
Hurricane Drink Powder Mix
(Any other creative item, which would match the theme.)

Cafe Du Monde Coffee and Chicory
New Orleans Souvenir Coasters
New Orleans Souvenir Oven Mitt
New Orleans Souvenir Hot Pad
Fleur-de-lis Wine Stoppers

Please feel free to bring items to the meetings. You may also contact me at 504-251-1938 and I will arrange to pick it up from you.

JOIN US IN REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN

Millie and I will be displaying photos of our Chapter's children, grandchildren, and siblings at the TCF National Conference here in New Orleans. If you wish your child, grandchild, or sibling's photo to be displayed on the Memory Boards then please notify us via text or email. These beautiful Memory Boards have been built by our chapter members this year. We can use an existing photo or you can send us a new one. Photos will be displayed on the Photo Boards and will be view by members from throughout the nation. Please text or email requests to 504-265-0581 or tcfnola@gmail.com.

William and Millie Hunton - TCFGNO

Our Children Remembered



Angel Birthdays

Michele C. Hogan	Jun 5	Daughter of Wanda Hogan
Connor Nicholas McKeithen	Jun 6	Grandson of Barbara and Terry McKeithen
Ellie Rae Siddall	Jun 7	Daughter of Analyn Siddall
Nathaniel Freedman	Jun 8	Son of Robin Freedman
Jayson Hardesty	Jun 8	Son of Shirley Hardesty
Onzaye Morris	Jun 10	Son of Diane Morris; Brother of Nia Woods
Frankie Matto III	Jun 12	Son of Beth O'Neal and Frank Matto, Jr.
Jenny Ann Kimball	Jun 13	Sister of Jaimie Kimball
Charlotte McGuire	Jun 13	Daughter of Sara McGuire
Aubrey Pitre	Jun 16	Daughter of Kathy Perkins
Monica Lynn Savoie	Jun 17	Daughter of Susie and Ron Savoie
Erin Peters	Jun 18	Daughter of Dena and Errol Peters; Sister of Erica
Sherrell Ann Gorman	Jun 20	Daughter of Charlene Gorman
Joseph P. Traina	Jun 22	Son of Cynthia and Paul Blache
Mason McStay	Jun 22	Son of Donna and Ross McStay
Matthew Minton	Jun 24	Son of Rebecca Minton
Paul Mills	Jun 27	Son of Susan Monroe
Chase Anthony	Jun 30	Son of Sandy and Brent Chester; Brother of Molly

Angel Anniversaries

Rennie Lee Coludrovich	Jun 1	Son of Lana and Rennie Lee Coludrovich, Sr.
Challing Eugene Albert	Jun 2	Son of Liz and Stephen LeBlanc
Terrance J. Mascaro	Jun 4	Brother of Melanie Boudreaux
Brian Jones	Jun 6	Son of Laura Porter
Sheri Bundy	Jun 7	Daughter of Carita and Buddy Arnold
Jeffrey Hergert	Jun 7	Son of Donald & Roxanne Hergert
Casey James Hart	Jun 8	Son of Debra Hart; Step Son of Lynn Champagne
Jonathan Richard Wallace	Jun 9	Son of Claranecia and Stanley Wallace; Brother of Jessica
Jessica Lynn Smith	Jun 12	Daughter of Connie Smith
Charlotte McGuire	Jun 13	Daughter of Sara McGuire
Michael Troy Rognes	Jun 15	Son of Alyson Carriere
Rosalie Miranda Fournett	Jun 15	Daughter of Isabel Miranda-Vigne
Randall "Randy" Greg Ardon	Jun 17	Son of Diane Ardon; Brother of Ryan Ardon
Chad Michael Ardoin	Jun 17	Son of Judy Johnson
Julie Ann Marino	Jun 18	Sister of Sharon Nami
Justin R. Smith	Jun 18	Sidney Smith
Amie Miller	Jun 19	Daughter of Darwin and Dawn Miller
Lindsay Nichols	Jun 21	Daughter of Jolene Dufrene
Caridad Rea	Jun 23	Sister of Isabel Miranda-Vigne
Jeffrey Samuel Rodosta	Jun 24	Son of Margie Galloway
Melissa Rein Banderet	Jun 25	Daughter of Wendy and John Rein
John "Jay" Joseph Lawson V	Jun 27	Son of Christi Vercher
Todd Leveritt	Jun 27	Brother of Jason Leveritt
Rene Michael Ford	Jun 28	Grandson of Kelly Ford
Taylor Friloux	Jun 29	Daughter of Jamie Reavis and Suzi Guerin



**Phone
Friend
List**

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

504-454-3293 – Melva Duhon, son, 41, suicide

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

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

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