



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

GALVESTON COUNTY CHAPTER

July 2011

Support Meetings held on 2nd Monday
of the Month (exception is December)

Mail:
PO Box 568
Texas City, TX 77592

Phone:
(409) 996-9440
(Calls to this number will be returned
within 24 hours)

Website:
www.tcfgalvestoncounty.org

Co-Chapter Leaders:
Larry Oshel
Bambi Oshel
grammy127@earthlink.net

Treasurer:
Dana Rogers
sabalo130@comcast.net

Newsletter:
Lori Kelly
For email submissions:
sabalo130@comcast.net
grammy127@earthlink.net



Next Meeting
July 11, 2011
7:00 pm

at
First United Methodist Church
317 Fifth Avenue N
Texas City, TX 77590

National Office: The Compassionate Friends
PO Box 3696
Oak Brook, IL 60522-3696
(877) 969-0010
www.compassionatefriends.org

Special Thanks

Texas City Terminal Railway
For all your support of the
Galveston County Chapter
The Compassionate Friends

Manning Masonry Co, Inc.
For the placement of the bricks
In the Memorial Garden

Anniversaries and birthdays are difficult for bereaved parents. In the days ahead, may we lovingly remember these children and support their families. Your child is listed here only at your request, with a signature on the response form in this newsletter. You need to submit it only once.

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.

JULY REMEMBRANCES

Jacob Andrew Wentzel
July 3rd
AG & Debbie Wentzel, parents

Rae Gina Perrin
July 8th
Dee Mauck & Jim Malm, parents

Michael Dick
July 15th
Sharon Willingham, mother
Lanette Harris, sister
Cathy Langmaid, fiancé

Melissa 'Missy' Marie Gennusa Rodriguez
July 15th
Rose Gennusa, mother

Tonya DeSha Johnson
July 16th
Angela Hollins, mother

Toby J. Menduni
July 18th
Vicky J Hays, mother

Todd Thomas Bentley
July 20th
Donna & Earle Bentley, parents

Jim Dowd Puckett
July 22nd
JD & Jennifer Puckett, parents

Joe Don Stovall
July 30th
Mary & Jess Stovall, parents

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Sonny Henderson
July 1st
Doris Henderson, mother

Jason Flanigan
July 3rd
Ted & Debbie Flanigan, parents

Christopher E Hughes
July 9th
Jolenta Court, mother

Ian N Franklin
July 15th
Paul & Barbara Marques, parents

Denshay Jarahd Benson 'DJ'
July 16th
Candace Ford, mother
Margie Ford, grandmother
Treslynn Ford, sister

Anthony "Tiger" Gonzales
July 22nd
Gloria Esquivel, mother

Ella Kathleen Buratti
July 23rd
Leslie & Mark Buratti, parents

Keith D Thorne
July 25th
Annie White, mother

David Wesley Strain
July 26th
Dot Wilbanks, mother

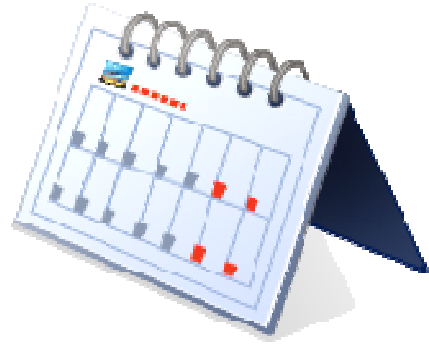
James Ruschenberg
July 27th
Verna L. O'Toole, mother

Rae Gina Perrin
July 29th
Dee Mauck & Jim Malm, parents

Tammy Lee Lollar
July 30th
Rose Lee Lollar, mother

Special Information

Food King in Texas City makes a donation of 1% to our chapter for all purchases we make there. Just drop your receipts off at Rust & Dust, 1519 6th St Ave N., Thursday—Sunday



TCF National Conference
Minneapolis, MN
July 15—17, 2011
more information on page 10

Our cookbooks, **Recipes of Times Remembered, Volume 2**, are now available. You can find them at Rust & Dust, 1519 6th St N, Texas City, Thursday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. The cook books are \$10 each.

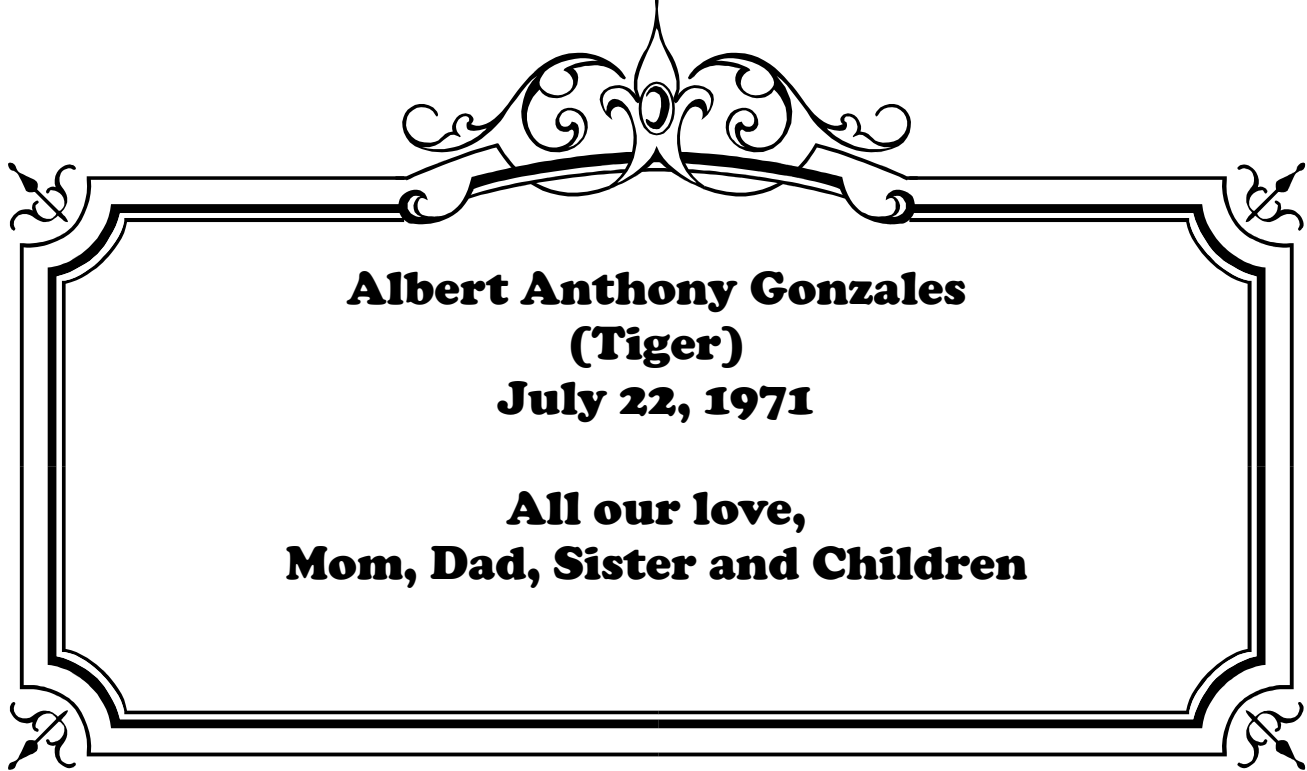


A Note from the Newsletter Editor:

When submissions are received we try extremely hard to place the submission in the newsletter exactly as submitted. However, there are times when this is not possible. You are always welcome to send the pictures and notes, poems, etc in without setting it up. I am always

happy to lay out your page for you. Please email your submissions to ggrammy127@earthlink.net or sabal0130@comcast.net or snail mail it in to the po box. Submissions are welcome anytime!

*Thanks,
Lori
Newsletter Editor*



**Albert Anthony Gonzales
(Tiger)
July 22, 1971**

**All our love,
Mom, Dad, Sister and Children**

Empty Places

by Genesse Gentry ~ TCF, Marin Cnty CA

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.

In memory of Lori Gentry (2/2/70 to 6/28/91)

9 Months

9 MONTHS!....9 whole months since that Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day!!

Several people have compared it to the 9 months of pregnancy, those happy months of anticipation before Jason was born. Yesterday things kept coming to mind, so here is my list of comparisons.

When I found out I was pregnant with Jason the excitement ran high. I had not told Stan I was hoping because we had been disappointed many times before. After the test at the clinic, I found Stan to share the news. We were elated! We held each other and laughed.

When I got the phone call about Jason's accident, I found Stan (via cell phone) to share the news. We were devastated! We held each other and cried.

Nausea! Not feeling well through most of the pregnancy.

Nausea! Physical pains throughout my whole body the past 9 months.

Sorting clothes to get ready for a new little one. How fun!

Sorting clothes to give away or get ready for a garage sale. How heart wrenching!

Reading books that people have given me to try to understand my pregnancy.

Reading books that people had given me to try to understand my grief.

Choosing equipment that will be needed for this baby.

Choosing a tombstone that will help us and others remember him forever.

Phone calls of "how are you doing?"

Phone calls of "how are you doing?"

Not sleeping because my back hurt.

Not sleeping because my heart hurts.

Feeling overwhelmed with so much to do and so little energy to do it.

Feeling overwhelmed with so much to do and so little energy to do it.

At the end of the 9 months we made phone calls to tell others about the birth of this beautiful little boy...this gift from God.

At the beginning of these 9 months we made phone calls to tell others about the death of this wonderful young man.

Helping older brother, David, adjust to having a baby brother.

David helping us now as we all adjust to Jason being gone.

The pregnancy ended after 9 months. Life was good!

This void will last forever.....

Joann Marner
Brighton, Iowa
In Memory of my son Jason
(Permission granted for use by TCF)

A Summer Story

Once upon a time there was a wise man who used to go down to the sea-shore to do his writing. He had the habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day, as he was walking along the shore, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance to the day. So he began to walk faster to catch up with the strange figure.

As he drew closer, he saw that it was a young man, and the young man wasn't dancing but, instead, he was reaching down to the shore to pick up something which he then threw gently back into the sea. "Good morning. What are you doing?" he asked the young man. "Throwing starfish back into the sea," came the reply. "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back in, they'll die." "But, young man, there are miles of beach and hundreds of starfish along it. You cannot possibly make a difference." The young man listened politely and then threw another starfish into the sea. "It made a difference for that one," he said.

There is something very special in each and every one of us. We have all been gifted with the ability to make a difference. And if we can become aware of that gift, we can transform the future. We must each find our starfish on Menorca; and if we throw it wisely, the world and especially our island will be blessed.

Rev. Dr. Simon Stephens,
TCF Founder
Chaplain of Menorca
Balearics, Spain

Summer Thoughts

Summer is a time when things naturally slow down, a time when many are waiting for the orderly routine of their lives to begin again. For those of us in grief whose lives are already in limbo, it can seem endless if we let it. Seeing children, babies, and teenagers is not easy for us, and we see them everywhere from shopping centers to beaches. Everyone is out living, loving, enjoying carefree activities with their children, and we want to scream, "it's not fair!" I was sitting on my patio one evening at dusk recently listening to the shouts of children playing, and I was crying as I remembered the sounds that my child used to make. I became very depressed as I thought what a long summer this was going to be.

In my reverie, I was reminded of a recent comment that I had heard at a TCF meeting: "My child was such a loving, giving person. He would not want me to waste my life being bitter." I also remembered a good friend telling me to "count my blessings" and naming all the things I had to be grateful for. I was furious at the time. Nothing that I had to be grateful for could compensate for the fact that my child was dead.

Now, sitting in the twilight of this early summer evening, I began to see things differently. I was determined that this summer would not be an eternity; I would not let it be. I decided first of all to stay busy. I know I can find plenty to do if I only take the time to look. I am also going to try to enjoy the simple things that used to give me so much pleasure, like working in my garden, and flowers. I then decided to try to be truly grateful for the blessings that I have, like my husband, my surviving children, my job, friends, etc.

It has been almost five years for me, and I know that last year this would not have worked. Of course, I still have times of sadness. I know I always will, but I have decided that in the process of grieving, we close so many doors that the only way to recovery is to reopen them gradually at our own pace.

I know I will never be the same person I was before the death of my child but I hope eventually in some ways I will be a better person because suffering can be beneficial if we learn and grow through it. A year ago I didn't feel this way, and I know I still have a long way to go, but in the meantime, I know the greatest tribute to my child will be to enjoy this summer as he would have done.

Libby Gonzalez
TCF ~ Huntsville, AL



Chapter Information

LOVE GIFTS

A love gift is a special way to remember a child.

The Compassionate Friends charges no dues, and your voluntary donations are our only source of income. All gifts are tax deductible. TCF is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization and 100% of all income is used to reach bereaved families through this newsletter, brochures, our grief materials library, and special events like our annual December Candle Lighting Remembrance and our Garden remembrance.

Checks should be made payable to
The Compassionate Friends
PO Box 568
Texas City, TX 77592

NEWSLETTER

In order to include your child's information in the newsletter written permission must be on file. If you would like to have your child's information included please send in the data sheet so that we can insure that we have the correct information.

Submissions for the newsletter are always welcome and can include short articles, poems & book reviews. Please include any authors or other sources if known.

All submissions are due for inclusion in the newsletter by the 20th of each month, some exceptions may arise but will be included as a note in the newsletter.

Submissions should be sent to either the PO Box listed under the love gifts or emailed to Bambi Oshel at grammy127@earthlink.net or Dana Rogers at sabalo130@comcast.net



***Note:** When you purchase a brick to be placed in the Memorial Garden be advised that they are placed randomly. The bricks are put in place by the generosity of Manning Masonry Co, Inc. While someone within the organization will be notified after installation of a set of bricks is completed, notification prior to the installation is not available.*

Beautiful Memorial Garden Bricks

Acme Engraved Bricks @ \$50.00 each

Please make checks payable to Compassionate Friends and mail to **P.O. Box 568 Texas City, TX 77592**. Should you have any questions regarding this order form please call **Louise Krone at (281) 534-3639** or email at lak51757@yahoo.com

To order an engraved brick: Fill the appropriate boxes below with desired inscription.

LINE 1														
LINE 2														
LINE 3														

LINE 1														
LINE 2														
LINE 3														
LINE 4														

Customer's Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: - Zip: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Thank you for supporting the Compassionate Friends Memorial Garden

Love Gifts, monetary or
Gifts-in-kind are a beautiful expression of our deep
And never-ending love for our children, and help us "reach out" to bereaved families.
Our expenses include postage, printing & special programs.
TCF is a 501 (c) (3) Organization—donations are tax deductible.
Time is also a wonderful gift, volunteers are always needed.
Thank You for contributing and supporting the work of our local chapter.