



Homicide Survivors, Inc

For Families and Friends of Murder Victims

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Summer 2012



National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims Safety Fair and Candlelight Vigil

**Saturday, September 29,
2012**

St. Augustine Cathedral

Safety Fair: 3-5 Candlelight: 5:30

*“In the depths of winter I finally learned
there was in me an invincible summer”*

Albert Camus

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Support Group Information

Our support group meets every third Thursday of the month at the Patrick Hardesty police substation. The Hardesty building is located at 1100 S. Alvernon Way (22nd / Alvernon) and the group meets from 7-9 pm. If you have lost a loved one to murder, then please come join our group.

You will find an environment of compassion, understanding, and support at our meetings where you are free to talk about your feelings that surround the murder. We have parents, siblings, cousins, and friends of murder victims who attend our meetings and anyone touched by murder is welcome to attend.



Upcoming Support Group Dates

Thursday, July 19, 2012
Thursday, August 16, 2012
Thursday, September 20, 2012
Thursday, October 18, 2012

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Updates and Information

We Want Your Email Address!!!!

Why? So we can send you more updates and we are also going to start mini-newsletters monthly that will only be available online. Drop us a line with you're email address.

New Staff E-mails

Please note that HSI staff emails have changed!

Carol Gaxiola, Director

carol.gaxiola@azhomicidesurvivors.org

Todd Blumhorst, Cold Case Advocate

todd.blumhorst@azhomicidesurvivors.org



*"Forward, forward let us range,
Let the great world spin for ever
down the ringing grooves of change."
Lord Alfred Tennyson*



We would like to welcome Marilyn Hill to the HSI office as a temporary fill in for the remainder of July. She has been helping out since Karla went on maternity and has been a very valuable asset.

Office Hours

We are here to assist you as you make your way down this difficult path.

**Our office hours are:
Monday—Friday 8-5**

If you are in crisis, please call the mobile phone: 520-240-6300

We are also online:
www.azhomicidesurvivors.org





CALL YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TODAY TO SUPPORT VICTIMS' RIGHTS!!

SAY YES TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 106—VICTIMS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 106, INTRODUCED ON MARCH 26, 2012, BY REPS. TRENT FRANKS (R-AZ02) AND JIM COSTA (D-CA20),
READS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

THE RIGHTS OF A CRIME VICTIM TO FAIRNESS, RESPECT, AND DIGNITY, BEING CAPABLE OF PROTECTION WITHOUT DENYING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED, SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR ANY STATE. THE CRIME VICTIM SHALL, MOREOVER, HAVE THE RIGHTS TO REASONABLE NOTICE OF, AND SHALL NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM, PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO THE OFFENSE, TO BE HEARD AT ANY RELEASE, PLEA, SENTENCING, OR OTHER SUCH PROCEEDING INVOLVING ANY RIGHT ESTABLISHED BY THIS ARTICLE, TO PROCEEDINGS FREE FROM UNREASONABLE DELAY, TO REASONABLE NOTICE OF THE RELEASE OR ESCAPE OF THE ACCUSED, TO DUE CONSIDERATION OF THE CRIME VICTIM'S SAFETY, AND TO RESTITUTION. THE CRIME VICTIM OR THE CRIME VICTIM'S LAWFUL REPRESENTATIVE HAS STANDING TO FULLY ASSERT AND ENFORCE THESE RIGHTS IN ANY COURT. NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES GROUNDS FOR A NEW TRIAL OR ANY CLAIM FOR DAMAGES AND NO PERSON ACCUSED OF THE CONDUCT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 2 OF THIS ARTICLE MAY OBTAIN ANY FORM OF RELIEF.

SECTION 2.

FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, A CRIME VICTIM INCLUDES ANY PERSON AGAINST WHOM THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE IS COMMITTED OR WHO IS DIRECTLY HARMED BY THE COMMISSION OF AN ACT, WHICH, IF COMMITTED BY A COMPETENT ADULT, WOULD CONSTITUTE A CRIME.

SECTION 3.

THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE INOPERATIVE UNLESS IT HAS BEEN RATIFIED AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THREE-FOURTHS OF THE SEVERAL STATES WITHIN 14 YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF ITS SUBMISSION TO THE STATES BY THE CONGRESS. THIS ARTICLE SHALL TAKE EFFECT ON THE 180TH DAY AFTER THE DATE OF ITS RATIFICATION."

ARIZONA REPRESENTATION

OUTSIDE SOUTHERN ARIZONA!

FIND YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HERE!

US SENATE

KYL, JON - (R - AZ)

730 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC
20510

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[CLICK HERE TO CONTACT SENATOR KYL](#)

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US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CD-7

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CD-8

VACANT

[CLICK HERE FOR UPDATE ON REPLACEMENT](#)

US SENATE

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US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[Click here for the US House of Representatives](#)

"I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do."

Leonardo da Vinci





Survivor Commentary: Jill McCain

New Pima County Superior Court Ruling for Individuals Deemed Not Restorable or Not Competent

As many of you reading this unfortunately know, the aftermath of homicide for surviving family members is often complicated through further victimization while dealing with the justice system. My family and I know this all too well. In April of 2010, my husband was murdered at our business in Tucson in front of five of our employees in a small lunch room. The murderer was arrested and he confessed to killing my husband. He was charged with first degree murder and the long drawn out legal proceedings began. He was never even arraigned, which is extremely unusual. Prior to the scheduled arraignment, his appointed Public Defender requested a competency evaluation. After numerous Court Hearings over the period of a year, the judge dismissed all of the charges and ordered him released from jail. My family, our employees and I were terrified that the first place the murderer would go was back to our business property, where he could murder all of us, having just been given a license to commit any crime, including murder again, without any legal consequences.

Notification of the imminent release of my husband's murderer traumatized my family and me as much as, if not more than, the murder did. This travesty of justice occurred due to what is known as Administrative Rule 11 in Arizona, which basically states that if a defendant is deemed incompetent and not able to be restored to competency, all charges are dismissed and the defendant is released from custody. It doesn't matter what crime they are accused of committing.

It is my understanding that the Pima County Attorney's Office has attempted to have the Arizona Legislature change this law for several years now to no avail. Apparently, the reason they refuse to change the law is a claim that there are no funds available to pay for placing these defendants in an appropriate facility once the charges are dropped. Our legislators seem to think it is a matter of economics, not safety for their constituents. To me, that is simply insanity.

As the events related to the release of the murderer unfolded, my family and I couldn't understand why the community wasn't outraged. It was no longer just about our family and employees; the application of this law was going to result in a murderer being put out on the streets. After the judge ordered the murderer released, my understanding is that Pima County Jail officials filed an emergency motion to have him sent to a hospital to be evaluated to determine whether civil commitment proceedings could legally be held. Amazingly, he was obviously evaluated and deemed not to be a danger to himself or others! At that point, for reasons unknown to me, the Pima County Public Fiduciary's office became involved and was appointed as his Legal Guardian so that they were, apparently, able to place him in a healthcare facility. I have learned all of this after all of these events, since I have no right to know where he is, including if he has been (or is ever) released from the facility he supposedly was sent to. So many more incidents of victimization for my family and me occurred during the time all of these post release proceedings were taking place that it became obvious that current Victim Rights' Laws are also extremely inadequate in this type of a situation.

Earlier this month, I was pleased to learn that a new Pima County Superior Court Policy requires that a defendant who is found "not competent, not restorable" will now be subject to the creation of a "special plan of action" prior to being released from custody. The new policy is explained more fully in an article from the Arizona Daily Star which can be found at the following website address: http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/pima-court-ensures-incompetent-no-longer-slip-through-the-cracks/article_e3dcfa0a-0c7f-54d5-8d04-b7417611061b.html

I would like to express my gratitude to the Pima County employees who took it upon themselves to address this serious issue and found a way to deal with this "loophole" in our legal system. It is a step in the right direction however the law still needs to be changed. Finally, I would encourage all of you who share my concerns, to express your thoughts to your legislators next year so that we are successful in having this unbelievable law changed.

*"The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice."
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Signs they are Around

By: Todd Blumhorst



Todd Blumhorst

I miss my sister Veronica immensely. She left us over 20 years ago without a trace, she simply vanished. I went to bed one night and woke up the next day to a lifetime of loss and unresolved grief. She was here one minute, and then she was gone. I lamented over her disappearance and the loss. We knew who killed her most likely. We knew why he probably killed her. We just never found out where her body was hidden. She just vanished.

The turmoil takes a heavy toll upon the soul and wears you down day by day. The not knowing is what really gets to a survivor of a missing person case. I read a great saying that rings true in my case and thousands of others around this country. "It's only murder when they find a body; otherwise it's just a missing person." When you have an apparent death but have no body then many questions arise and even the validation of death is difficult to accept.

I struggled for years with this unknown fate of my sister and the lack of closure kept open a void in my heart that seemed like it would never be healed. I had no body to mourn over, no grave to go lay flowers on, or any sense of being able to find peace. I would walk out to our garage and see her car sitting there like it was that night. I would go into her room and look at her things and hold them in my hand. Her worldly possessions were here for me to touch yet she was gone. I missed those moments of hanging out with her and talking to her about the mundane aspects of life. That was all gone; no more would we sit on the porch and talk about the future because there was no future.

My faith waivered greatly and I yearned for answers. One night a few months after she disappeared, Veronica came to me in a dream. It was vividly real, like I could touch her. In this dream I knew she was dead and I asked her when it would end. She said it may never end but it really didn't matter if she was found. I was so perplexed at this dream and it was almost haunting.

A few months later she visited me in another dream. In the dream I heard someone walking on our front porch and went to open the front door. I looked down and saw her shoes and pants that were torn, dirty, and covered with leaves. As I looked up, I saw her face with her glasses shattered as she wore them. She said nothing and simply walked through me. I looked down and saw another pair of highly shined men's shoes. As I looked up I saw her boyfriend who had been behind her. He just sent me the feeling of "Here she is."; and I then woke up.

Several months later I still struggled with the uncertainty of her fate, and another dream formed in my sleep. Our family was all together in this dream and we had gathered for some sort of party, it was a very upbeat and happy event at my childhood home. I remember at one point in the dream my mom saying it was time to leave. As we were out on the front lawn, I noticed Veronica wasn't with us and told mom that I needed to go get her. Mom told me no and that she needed to stay behind. I was confused as to why we were leaving her behind at the party. Mom told me to go say bye to her, so I went back in the house. When I got in the house I noticed the remaining party attendees forming a half circle facing me. I noticed for the first time that they were all family members who were already dead; in the center stood Veronica. I just stood there with wonderment and told Veronica we needed to go, she told me that I needed to go back with the rest outside and that she needed to stay behind. Veronica said she was ok and that she was being taken care of by everyone. She then assured me that we would see each other again someday and I needed to live my life and be happy.

I struggled for years to put those dreams together and make sense of them, but it was difficult to go on with the void of the unknown. What I did know was that those visits had a positive effect on my emotions. It gave me a sense of peace that I was not able to find in previous attempts to ease the pain. This got my mind stabilized enough to get a foothold again on the side of the mountain I was climbing. Many times on the journey up, I slipped and held on by my fingertips hoping grace would keep me from falling. At some points on the climb I almost let go so the pain would stop, but I kept climbing. These visits from Veronica became the ropes that kept me from falling off the face of the mountain.

As the years progressed, I began to study metaphysics and paranormal communication. I realized that many people would think I was mentally unstable for following such beliefs, but it gave me comfort for the first time in years. I began to have faith that she could hear me when I talked to her in those moments when I was alone. She started giving me more signs that she was around over the years. They leave their presence known in many ways and they are usually very subtle in nature. We as humans expect the grandeur of a spirit form appearing before us when it is usually a butterfly hanging out or a song on the radio pops on when you were thinking of them.

Over the years I have been blessed many times with the gifts of contact that she has given me. On one paranormal investigation, we even caught something touching me on my head as we stood in the dark woods. Every time I go to the park where her name is engraved, I am always visited by a butterfly that will stick around and flutter by me a few times. I pay attention more to the signs I am given by Veronica that she is still around me. It doesn't erase the pain I am going through in losing her, but it takes out some of the sting.

The pain of her violent death will always be with me and is a part of me; that is unavoidable. I can however, find some solace in knowing that she is around me and helping where she is able. We all have our faith practices that get us through the difficult times and mine has been knowing that she can hear me and that we will see each other again someday.

Indicaciones Que Nos Acompañan

Escrito por : Todd Blumhorst



Todd Blumhorst

Extraño muchísimo a mi hermana Verónica. Hace mas que 20 años ella se desapareció sin rastro – ella simplemente se no entró a la casa. Yo me acosté una noche y me desperté enfrentando a una vida vacía y a un pesar sin resolución. Yo añoraba su ausencia que era tan misteriosa. Conocíamos a quien probablemente le había matado. Sabíamos probablemente porque lo hizo. Nunca descubríamos donde él había escondido a su cuerpo. Simplemente, ella desapareció de nuestras vidas.

El tumulto toma su efecto en su alma y gasta su energía día por día. El “no saber” es lo que pesa mas que nada a los sobrevivientes de casos de personas desaparecidas. Yo leí un comentario muy sabio que suenas como la verdad para suhay un cuerpo. De otra manera, es solamente un caso de una persona desaparecida.” Cuando aparentemente hay un asesinato pero no hay un cuerpo, surgen muchas preguntas y hasta la muerte de la persona es difícil a aceptar.

Yo batallé por años tratando de comprender el destino tan desconocido de mi hermana. La falta de resolución mantuvo la herida en mi corazón abierta sin poder sanarse. No teníamos un cuerpo para llorar, ninguna tumba donde dejar flores. Existíamos sin sentido de serenidad o paz. Si miraba hacia el garaje, veía su carro, estacionado como aquella noche. Entraba a su cuarto, miraba a sus cosas y las tocaba. Todas sus cosas, en frente de mi para tocar pero sin ella. Extrañaba a las veces cuando ella y yo nos sentábamos a platicar sobre todos los aspectos mundanos de la vida. Ya no mas íbamos a sentarnos en el porche para platicar sobre el futuro porque ella ya no tenía un futuro.

Mi fe en dios fue afectado y deseaba respuestas. Una noche unos meses después de que ella desapareció, Verónica me visitó en un sueño tan real que yo sentía que la podía tocar. En el sueño, yo sabía que ella estaba muerta y la pregunté cuando todo iba a terminarse. Ella me dijo que talvez nunca se terminaría, pero que realmente no importaba si la encontrábamos o no. El sueño me dejó confundido y de una manera poseído.

Unos meses después, ella me visitó en un otro sueño. En este sueño yo escuché a alguien caminando en el porche y yo salí para abrir la puerta. Yo miraba hacia abajo, mirando zapatos y pantalones rotos, sucios y cubiertos con hojas. Miraba hacia arriba y veía a su rostro con sus anteojos puestos, con los lentes estrellados. Ella no dijo nada y simplemente caminó a través de mí. Miré hacia abajo otra vez y mire al novio de ella. Él estaba atrás de ella. Sentí que el me quiso comunicar: Aquí está tu hermana. Entonces, me desperté.

Seguí batallando con el incertidumbre de lo que le había pasado cuando un otro sueño me interrumpió. Toda mi familia estaba junta en este sueño. Íbamos a festejar algo. Estábamos felices y todo sentía bien adentro de la casa de mi juventud. Recuerdo que mi mama dijo que era hora de salir. Todos andábamos en frente de la casa y me di cuenta que Verónica no estaba con nosotros y le dije qué yo tenía que ir por ella. Me dijo mi mama que no, que ella tenía que quedarse. Me sentía confundido. ¿Porque la íbamos a dejar? Me dijo que yo tenía que despedirme de ella. Regresé adentro de la casa. Cuando entré me di cuenta que las personas que estaban adentro de la casa se habían formado un semicírculo mirándose hacia mí. Me di cuenta de una vez que todas las personas eran miembros de la familia ya muertos. En medio de ellos estaba Verónica. Me quedé congelado unos momentos y le dije a Verónica que era hora de irnos. Ella me contestó que yo tenía que salir con la familia y que ella tenía que quedarse. Me dijo que estaba bien, que los otros la iba a cuidar. Me aseguró que íbamos a vernos otra vez un día y que yo tenía que vivir mi vida y estar feliz. Luchaba muchas años en querer comprender a los sueños pero era muy difícil progresar debido al vacío creado por no saber la verdad de lo que había pasado. Lo que si comprendí era que los sueños tuvo un efecto positivo sobre mis emociones. Los sueños me dieron una paz en mi vida que no había podido encontrar antes. Así, se estableció mi pensar suficientemente para que yo pudiera encontrar a un lugar firme en la ladera de la montaña hecha de pena en que me encontraba. Muchas veces al subir, me resbalaba y me agarraaba con los puntos de mis dedos, rezando para no caerme. Unas veces estaba a punto de soltarme para que el dolor me dejara en paz. Los sueños de Verónica se convirtieron en las cuerdas que me salvaron.

Con los años, comencé a estudiar lo metafísico y la comunicación paranormal. Me di cuenta que muchas personas me iban a juzgar como una persona inestable mentalmente por seguir creencias como estas, pero me dieron confort por la primera vez en muchos años. Comencé a creer que ella me podía escuchar cuando, durante momentos solitarios, platicaba con ella. Sentí que ella me mandaba señas que ella estaba cerca de mí. Nuestros seres queridos nos hacen sentir a su presencia en muchas maneras que suelen ser muy sutiles. Nosotros como seres humanos pensamos que nos van a visitar en forma de un espíritu grandioso cuando normalmente toman forma de una mariposa que vuela cerca o una canción favorita de ellos que de repente se oye en la radio al momento de recordarlos. Durante los años yo he sido bendito debido a las visitas de ella. Durante de una investigación paranormal, se notó que ella me tocaba a la cabeza cuando nos encontramos en un bosque oscuro. Cada vez que yo visito al parque donde esta su nombre grabado, siempre me visita una mariposa que me rodea unas veces. Yo presto atención a estos signos de su presencia. No erradica al dolor que siento de haberla perdido, pero lo siento menos agudo.

El dolor de su muerte tan violento siempre será una parte de mí. Esto es inevitable. Sin embargo, yo puedo encontrar consuelo en saber que ella todavía está conmigo y que me ayuda cuando sea posible. Cada uno de nosotros tenemos nuestra fe propia que nos ayuda sobrevivir los momentos difíciles. Para mi, creyendo que ella me escucha y sintiendo que voy a estar con ella otra vez algún día me ha dado la fortaleza de seguir.

Annual Candlelight Memorial 2012

We would like to thank those that helped us out to make our annual Candlelight Vigil a success. Without the many volunteers to help us, we could have never pulled off such an event.



Remembering Those They Have Lost



*"Every parting is a form of death, as every reunion is a type of Heaven."
Tryon Edwards*

Philip Walsted:

Hate Crime in the Street



It was a warm summer night in Tucson when a young man named Philip Walsted decided to take a walk in his 4th Avenue neighborhood after he got off work. Little did he know, this would be the last late night walk he would take and his life would soon be taken from him in the name of hatred. While on his walk, Philip encountered a couple sitting in the bed of a pickup and a conversation was started. At some point, the conversation turned violent. The man in the bed of the truck, David Higdon, pulled out a bat from the truck and began to beat Philip. Fearing for his life, Philip began to run screaming down the street for help. He turned a corner and tried to escape his attacker. Unfortunately, Higdon caught up to Philip and beat him approximately 15-20 times and then robbed him of his belongings. He walked away and left Philip to die in the street. Philip was found and rushed to the hospital where he lost his battle to survive.

For a week after the murder, David Higdon breathed his last free breaths. He was arrested and police found Walsted's eyeglasses, watch, shoes, American Airlines key ring, and driver's license in his possession, as well as newspaper articles about the murder, two baseball bats, clothing soaked with Walsted's blood, marijuana and cocaine. During the course of the investigation, it was learned that Higdon was an avowed white supremacist and after several months the crime was changed from a robbery and murder to a hate crime and reported it to the FBI as a hate crime. Higdon went as far as boasting to other inmates and writing letters confessing his involvement in the murder of Philip. He also had the lightning S's tattooed on his chest while in jail which indicates that he had "killed for the cause" and showed up to court with a shaved head. The trial began in January 2005 and concluded in March of 2005; Higdon was found guilty of first degree murder and was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Higdon has had a number of charges while in prison including sexual abuse which is ironic because of the crime he committed.

Philip was a gentle soul who just wanted to enjoy and live his life in peace. He is survived by a family that misses him terribly. His mother, Judy Boyer, stated "It's something that never goes away," she said. "It's there every day." The 10 year anniversary of his brutal murder just passed recently and his sisters still struggle with the violent loss of their brother, they miss him terribly and still wonder what could drive someone to hate in such a brutal manner.



Philip Walsted: Hate Crime in the Street



Fue una noche cálida en Tucson cuando un joven, Philip Walsted, decidió ir a caminar por avenida 4 en su barrio después de llegar del trabajo. Él ignora que esta noche iba a ser la última vez que él iba a caminar a cualquier lado, pronto él iba a perder a su vida por el odio. Mientras que él caminaba, Philip encontró a una pareja sentada en una camioneta. Ellos comenzaron a platicar con él. Pronto, la conversación se convirtió en un encuentro violento. El hombre que estaba sentado en la camioneta, David Higdon, sacó un bate de la camioneta y comenzó a pegarle a Philip con el bate. Temiendo por su vida, Philip comenzó a correr por la calle, gritando por auxilio. Él dio vuelta en la esquina e intentó escaparse del asesino. Desafortunadamente, David Higdon alcanzó a Philip y le pegó de 15 a 20 veces más. Le robó de sus efectos personales y le dejó a Philip en la calle, casi muerto. Alguien llamó al rescate lo llevaron al hospital. Allí Philip se murió.

David Higdon vivió en libertad por una semana después del homicidio. Luego, los detectives le arrestaron y en su casa encontraron a unos lentes, un reloj, unos zapatos, un llavero de American Airlines y una licencia de manejar. Todas esas cosas pertenecían a Philip. Además los detectives encontraron un artículo recortado del periódico sobre el homicidio, dos bates de béisbol, ropa llena de sangre de Philip, marihuana y cocaína. Durante la investigación, se descubrió que Higdon pertenecía a un grupo de racistas que creían que los caucasianos eran superiores a todo mundo. Así que el crimen se transformó de robo y homicidio a un crimen de odio y racismo. Higdon platicó con orgullo del homicidio con otros prisioneros. Él confesó en cartas que había cometido el homicidio. También, se tatuó los Ss. relámpago en su pecho los cuales indican que el “mató por una causa.” Él se rapó a su pelo para el juicio, como muchos miembros de este grupo racista. El juicio comenzó en enero de 2005 y concluyó en marzo. El jurado decidió que Higdon fue culpable de homicidio en primer grado y fue sentenciado a cadena a perpetuidad. Durante su estancia en prisión, Higdon ha seguido cometiendo crímenes e irónicamente ha sido juzgado culpable de abuso sexual.

Philip fue un joven muy gentil y solamente quería vivir a su vida en paz. Su familia le extraña terriblemente todos los días. Su mamá, Judy Boyer, indica que es algo que nunca se acaba. Está presente todos los días. Recientemente se conmemoró el décimo aniversario del homicidio tan brutal de Phillip. Sus hermanas luchan todos los días con la tarea de asimilar la pérdida tan violenta de su hermano. Le extrañan mucho y se preguntan todavía ¿que podría haber motivado a una persona expresar a su odio de Phillip tan brutalmente?





In Loving Memory of Nichole Renea Katz

08/30/89 – 09/07/08

By: Michael Katz, Nicole's Brother



There is no single word I can say, to make things better, but believe it not or believe it, we are in this together.

This, being the sadness, anger, pain and grief, with maximum heart ache, and minimum relief.

Yet the relief that is there, comes thru support from each other, events we attend, in loving memory of our loved ones, we unite as sisters and brothers.

Siblings in sorrow, questions and fears, pain, anger and heartbroken tears.

Yet over the years, some of those feelings may subside, some days are okay, some we'd rather clam up and cry.

It's certainly a rough ride, as I'm sure you all know, at times it can be frightening, allowing our feelings to show.

In the memory and spirits of our loved ones, as one we are here, for many of us, the moment we heard, that we lost that special someone is still crystal clear.

No matter how many years.... it's been, since we embraced our loved one or friend, one thing is certain, they shall remain in our hearts till the absolute end!

Message to our loved ones: Taken from us to early what can we do, but live every day in honor of you!



En la memoria amorosa de Nichole Renea Katz

08/30/89 – 09/07/08

Escrito por : Michael Katz, hermano de Nichole



No hay una palabra sola que yo puedo decir para mejorar todo, pero créelo o no, estamos enredado en esto juntos

Esto siendo la tristeza, el coraje, el dolor y pesar, con máxima angustia y mínimo alivio

Aún, el alivio existe, nos llega con apoyo de un sobreviviente al otro, en convivir durante los eventos, en el recuerdo cariñoso de nuestros seres queridos, nos unimos como hermanos/hermanas.

Hermanos en pesar, preguntas ¿el miedo, coraje y llantos agudos

Aún por los años los sentimientos normalizan, unos días están bien, otros preferíamos callarnos y llorar.

Indudablemente es un viaje duro, como todos se saben, a veces nos da mucho miedo, dando luz al día nuestros sentimientos.

Para dar honor al recuerdo y espíritu de nuestros seres queridos, unidos estamos aquí, para muchos, el momento de darnos cuenta de que habíamos perdido a esa persona tan especial está tan claro como un cristal.

No importa cuantos años han pasado desde los abrazamos, una cosa es cierto: ellos permanecerán en nuestros corazones hasta el final!

Mensaje a nuestros seres queridos: Robados de nuestra presencia demasiado pronto. ¿Qué podemos hacer mas que vivir todos los días en su honra?

Words of Inspiration

"Grief is a healthy emotion, and it's healthy to embrace it. By accepting loss, we clarify our values and the meaning of our lives."

Dean Koontz

"Grief is a normal and natural response to loss. It is originally an unlearned feeling process. Keeping grief inside increases your pain."

Anne Grant

"Advance, and never halt, for advancing is perfection. Advance and do not fear the thorns in the path, for they draw only corrupt blood."

Khalil Gibran

"Suppressed grief suffocates, it rages within the breast, and is forced to multiply its strength."

Ovid

ADVANCE, AND NEVER HALT, FOR
ADVANCING IS PERFECTION.
ADVANCE AND DO NOT FEAR THE
THORNS IN THE PATH, FOR THEY
DRAW ONLY CORRUPT BLOOD."

KHALIL GIBRAN

"No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear."

C S Lewis

"Grief and guilt. A powerful combination. Guilt like a liquid, a thin liquor, seeping everywhere, informing everything, saturating the whole--corrosive, like seawater, scented with the rich stench of ordure and corruption, and carrying with it hard, abrasive shards of grief."

Simon Mawer

"Grief makes one hour ten"

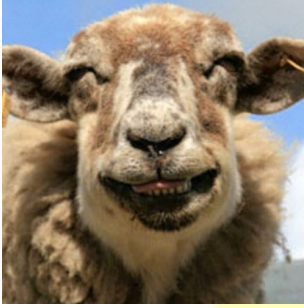
William Shakespeare

"He that conceals his grief finds no remedy for it"
Turkish Proverb

"No greater grief than to remember days of gladness when sorrow is at hand"
Friedrich von Schiller

"Grief is a healthy emotion, and it's healthy to embrace it. By accepting loss, we clarify our values and the meaning of our lives."
Dean Koontz

Laughter Heals the Soul



An Illinois man left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel he decided to send his wife a quick email. Unfortunately, when typing her address, he missed one letter, and his note was directed

instead to an elderly preacher's wife whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her email, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint. At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: Dearest Wife, I just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. P.S. Sure is hot down here.



A duck walks into a bar on a Monday afternoon and sits at the bar. The bartender asks him: "What'll ya' have?" The duck replies: "Got any duck food?" The bartender is thrown off by the question and replies: "What?! No, I don't have any duck food!" The duck thanks him and leaves. This goes on the next couple of days with the same result. On Thursday the duck sits at the bar again. The bewildered bartender asks: "What'll ya' have?" And the duck once again says: "Got any duck food?" The bartender has had it by now and explodes: "NO! I have no duck food. I never have and I never will! If you come in again and ask me for duck food, then I will nail your webbed feet to the floor! Got it?! Now scram!" The duck waddles out of the bar. The

next day the duck comes back in and sits at the bar. The bartender glares at him and says: "What do you want?" The duck replies: "Got any nails?" The bartender is confused and annoyed at the duck "No, I don't have any nails. Why?" The duck says: "Good! Got any duck food?"

Two rabbits were being chased by a pack of wolves. The wolves chased the rabbits into a thicket. After a few minutes, one rabbit turned to the other and said, "Well, do you want to make a run for it or stay here a few days and outnumber them?"



Two little ladies were shopping in the mall when Joanne smiled: "My cat can really play chess!"

With a shocking expression, Angelina praised Joanne's cat: "Really? It must be very smart!"

Just when Angelina finished her sentence, Joanne said: "Well... Actually, I don't know about that. I usually win three out of four times."

Support & Assistance Resources

Homicide Survivors

Office (520)740-5729

1-800-775-7462 x5729

Fax (520)740-5773

information@azhomicidesurvivors.org

www.azhomicidesurvivors.org

Carol Gaxiola, Director/ Victim Advocate

(520) 240-6300—mobile

Todd Blumhorst, Victim Advocate/Cold Case Advocate

Pima County Attorney's Office

(520) 740-5600

Toll Free 1-800-775-7462 x5600

Pima County Victim Services Program

(520) 740-5525

1-800-775-7462 x5525

Pima County Superior Court Calendar

(520)740-8721

<http://www.sc.pima.gov>

Crime Victim Compensation

(520)740-5525

You may be eligible for financial assistance for medical, counseling and funeral expenses

Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victims Rights & Services

(520)628-6455

The National Victim Center

1-800-FYI-CALL

Toll Free Information & Referral

Help On Call Crisis Line

323-9373

Information & Referral

(520) 881-1794

Phone Friends

Tucson Area (all 520 area code)

Debbie Curry	298-6117
Hosea Barnett	829-8160
John Prunty	721-0257
Karen Colvin	883-7377
Kathi Rice	296-6349
Kathy Ross	889-8525
Mary Ann Christensen	906-4405

Amigos Telefónicos - En Español

Carlos Castro	624-4965
Gabby de la Cruz	869-4587
Hope & Johnny Valenzuela	574-3139
Rick & Yoli Villelas	419-6138

Phoenix

Jayne Treen	(602)995-1584
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Southern Arizona

Dan & Darlene Berry	(520)515-0115
Karen Teeters	(520)384-2765
Sue Dupee	(520)586-2618
Victoria Thacker	(520)826-3018

Email Friends

Homicide Survivors Office:

homicidesurvivors@pcao.pima.gov

Holly Schysm	brewha71@netscape.net
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Jayne Treen	Jaynetreen@aol.com
Julie Williams	julie.williams@msn.com
Gabby de la Cruz	gabmar02@hotmail.com
Kathi Rice	azstormy@aol.com
Mary Ann Christensen	Maryann.Christensen@ltaz.com
Sharon LaPlant	dlaplant@new.rr.com
Toni Schneider	Doctor85711@yahoo.com

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