
COMPASSIONATE NEIGHBORS

Aftercare Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2010

Created and distributed by Koenig & Strickland Funeral Home



You're Not Alone

Article Written By John Belvill, FDIC/Owner

It goes without saying, that the days after a funeral for your loved one become the most difficult. Having to face special dates and holidays can be the most trying.

It has been proven that the more active a person is the easier it can be to overcome the sense of loss. What is meant by being active is to encircle yourself with such things as volunteering for local charitable groups or becoming more involved in church activities. All of these venues allow for interaction with other people outside your normal circle of friends. You will find that new friendships can lead to a way of putting your loss into perspective, and a realization that your life is not over, but may be a new chapter.

New friendships are not to replace the loss you have encountered, but to share and to find foundation for you to continue as a whole person. It is a support when you face difficult days, those people that will be empathetic to how you feel, without passing judgment on how you are working through the grieving process.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 You're Not Alone – Article by John Belvill
- 2 Outreach Program – Article by Rowena Belvill
- 3 My Thoughts – Article by Deacon Mike Meisner
- 4 Suggested Distribution List For Certified Death Certificates
- Calendar of Events
- Preparing a Eulogy
- Texas Bluebonnet History

ANOTHER SPRING DAY

(Inspirational Poem written by John Belvill)

Love on a spring day
May one day wither and fly away
Without presence it takes flight
Only to spread the fertile seed of life
Not knowing when or how far in flight
Only to one day bring the blossom of spring
Through the encounter of a new friendship
Never to face spring alone again, the renewal of life
Not replacing the Love of Spring, but finding comfort in
who I am.

Outreach Program

Article Written By Rowena Belvill

We at Koenig & Strickland Funeral Home will be developing a program to bring together families that have lost loved ones to help in the many obstacles that can confront a family during the grieving period. Our program will be informative, answer questions and at the same time, bring together people who are dealing with the same types of feelings and worries that can confront families who have lost loved ones. It will develop a fellowship with people who can relate to your everyday life without your loved one.

Beginning the month of June and each month thereafter, each family who has lost a loved one, will receive an invitation to our first "Outreach Program". The invitation will give you an agenda of what that specific program will consist of: speakers, date, time, and location.

If you have any suggestions on any programs you might be interested in, please give us a call at (979) 968-3121, send us an email (rbelvill@lagrangefunerals.com) or drop us a note in the mail (P. O. Box 630, La Grange, TX 78945). We will look forward to your suggestions and comments.



My Thoughts.....

Article Written By Deacon Mike Meisner

It is with excitement and anticipation that I learned about this publication—its intentions and its purpose, its possibilities and its potential benefits—a newsletter of sorts, an aid or avenue of assistance for those affected by grief and loss. Not only practical, not only spiritual, not exclusively psychological, and by no means financial; it is, as I understand it, destined to be a resource for anyone who has or will have to deal with the loss of a loved one.

Oh, we've had support groups, funeral after-care programs, grief-care issues and a hundred other programs that were sometimes embraced by the public but often not. This newsletter, Compassionate Neighbors, has great potential in that it will cover an array of issues, deal with problems and issues that real people do encounter, and has no hidden agenda or motive for the benefit of the reader suffering a recent loss.

I am excited to be asked if I would like to produce a letter or article on a topic of my choice for each issue. No directives or guidelines, no restrictions, no limitations, and I am especially grateful to Mr. John Belvill for that. As an ordained member of the clergy, I believe this to be a wonderful opportunity to serve others outside, as well as within the confines of my own denomination. As a licensed funeral director for some 40+ years, I also find this as a tool that may very well be an important means of help that a grieving family or post-grief individuals may find to be of paramount importance.

So, I'll be here with each issue, at least until management decides that I've done all the damage I can do. And I'm sure I'll give you a little boredom; maybe some humor, hopefully some thoughts worth considering, and if you don't like it, tell me about it. I won't be too bothered if you tell me that I don't know what I'm talking about, for you certainly may be far more knowledgeable on these topics than I am. My wife is quick to remind me that I am not perfect. But one nice thing about being imperfect is the joy it brings to others.

Seriously, I hope you like this publication, Compassionate Neighbors, which is for you; and I hope to have a small role in what I believe can become a big special thing to lots of good folks. God's blessings to you.

Suggested Distribution List For Certified Copies of Death Certificates

1. **Life Insurance.** A Certified Copy is needed for each insurance policy.
2. **Health Insurance.** One Certified Copy may be needed if insurance is employer provided.
3. **Financial Institutions.** Usually, banks, savings and loans, and credit unions will ask to photocopy a Certified Copy for their records. No Certified Copies are retained.
4. **CD's (Certificates of Deposit).** (See Item #3-Financial Institutions).
5. **Bonds.** One Certified Copy is required each time U.S. Savings Bonds or corporate bonds are cashed in or transferred.
6. **Stocks.** If held in individual or joint name, a Certified Copy will be necessary for each company where stock is held. If a brokerage house holds the stocks in "street name", only one Certified Copy is required per brokerage house.
7. **IRA's.** One Certified Copy is needed for each financial institution where funds are maintained.
8. **Pension.** There may be a death benefit along with a pension fund. Both the pension and the death benefit may require one Certified Copy.
9. **401k/403b/Retirement Plans.** One Certified Copy for each depository.
10. **Real Estate.** One Certified Copy is needed for each county in which property is titled.
11. **Secretary of State.** Each time a title is changed or transferred, for a car, boat, trailer (anything licensed by the State) a Certified Copy is required.
12. **Current Pay & Vacation Pay.** If still actively employed, you may need one Certified Copy.
13. **Federal & State Income Tax.** If taxes are to be paid in the year of death, you may need one Certified Copy for each return.
14. **Probate.** If there is to be a Probate of the Estate, you may need three or more Certified Copies.
15. **Airline/Cremation Urns.** In order to carry on your loved ones, you may need to have a Certified Copy for security reasons.
16. **Interest in Oil Wells/Leases.** In order to transfer interest to other individuals.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Ceremony honoring our fallen troops.

DATE: MONDAY, MAY 31, 2010

PLACE: KOENIG & STRICKLAND FUNERAL HOME

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

AGENDA

RIDE-IN OF THE PATRIOT RIDERS

WELCOME.....JOHN BELVILL

OWNER/FDIC – KOENIG & STRICKLAND FUNERAL HOME

INNOVACATION.....REV. SID RODEN

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CALLING OF THE ROLL.....CALVIN KUEHN

AMBASSADOR – KOENIG & STRICKLAND FUNERAL HOME

RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS

PLACEMENT OF NEW COLORS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....LEON HUMPHREYS

FUNERAL DIRECTOR – KOENIG & STRICKLAND FUNERAL HOME

MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS.....DAN MILLER

J.P. PCT #4

PLACEMENT OF THE MEMORIAL WREATH.....

MEMBERS VFW, AMERICAN LEGION, MARINE
CORP. LEAGUE, VIETNAM VETS

A MOMENT OF

REMEMBRANCE.....MOMENT OF SILENCE

TAPS.....GUS LINDEMANN

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED

PUBLIC INVITED

Preparing a Eulogy

A typical eulogy is about 5 minutes in length. It is recommended to leave the emotional elements for the end of the eulogy. Any additional tributes given by family or friends should be limited in length to keep the service from going too long. Young children and family members may want to write down a few sentences to be read aloud by the minister or the person giving the eulogy.

Whether or not you are giving the eulogy, it is helpful to have certain facts and information available. Here is a sample eulogy outline to aid you in preparing the necessary information.

Outline of a Eulogy

- Give a brief history including birth date, place of birth, parents, grandparents, siblings.
- Where did they grow up? What was their childhood like?
- Where did they go to school?
- Professional and career accomplishments?
- Who did they marry? When and where? Children and grandchildren.
- How long were they married?
- Significant life accomplishments.
- Personal interests, hobbies, achievements.
- Character qualities, Christian service, and how they affected other lives.

"Article from several funeral documents"

Quote of the Month:

*"Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow;
may looking back in memory help comfort you
tomorrow." Author Unknown*



Texas Bluebonnet History

As the state flower of Texas, bluebonnets have an interesting history. Texas actually has five state flowers. They are all bluebonnets. Here is how it happened.

In the spring of 1901, the Texas Legislature got down to the serious business of selecting its official state flower. The ensuing floor debate was hot and heavy. One state legislator spoke emotionally in favor of the cotton boll since cotton was king in Texas in those days.

Another, a young man from Uvalde, extolled the virtues of the cactus so eloquently, noting the hardy durability of the plant and the orchid-like beauty of its flowers, that he earned the nickname of "Cactus Jack" which stuck with him for the rest of his life. He was John Nance Garner, and later became vice president of the United States under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

At the end of the day, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America won. Their choice was *Lupinus subcarneus* ("generally known as buffalo clover or bluebonnet," stated the House resolution) and it was passed into law on March 7 without any recorded opposition.

Thus began the Bluebonnet Wars.

Lupinus subcarneus is a dainty little plant which paints the sandy, rolling hills of coastal and southern Texas with sheets of royal-blue in the early spring. But some folks thought it was the least attractive of the Texas bluebonnets. These individuals wanted *Lupinus texensis*, which is a showier, bolder blue beauty which covers most of Texas and gives inspiration to many an artist.

So, off and on for 70 years, the Legislature was encouraged to correct its oversight. But legislators weren't about to get caught in another botanical trap, nor did they want to offend the advocates of *Lupinus subcarneus*. As seen often in the political world, a solution was hammered out.

In 1971, the Legislature handled the dilemma by adding the two species together, plus "any other variety of bluebonnet nor heretofore recorded", and lumped them all into one state flower.

Among the many things the Legislature did not know then was that the state of Texas is home to three other species of Lupines. The umbrella clause makes all five of them the state flower. And, if any new species are discovered, they automatically will assume the mantle of state flower as well.

Texas is so large and grand, that we cannot have just one state flower.

The five state flowers of Texas are:

- *Lupinus subcarneus*, the original champion and still co-holder of the title, grows naturally in deep sandy loams from Leon County southwest to LaSalle County and down to the northern part of Hidalgo County in the Valley. It is often referred to as the sandy land bluebonnet. The plant's leaflets are blunt, sometimes notched with silky undersides. This species, which reaches peak bloom in late March, is not easy to maintain in clay soils.
- *Lupinus texensis*, the favorite of tourists and artists, provides the blue spring carpet of Central Texas. It is widely known as THE Texas bluebonnet. It has pointed leaflets; the flowering stalk is tipped with white (like a bunny's tail) and hits its peak bloom in late March and early April. It is the easiest of all the species to grow.
- *Lupinus Hvardii*, also known as the Big Bend or Chisos Bluebonnet. The most majestic of the Texas bluebonnet tribe, it has flowering spikes up to three feet. It is found on the flats of the Big Bend country in early spring, usually has seven leaflets and is difficult to cultivate outside its natural habitat.
- *Lupinus concinnus* is a tiny little lupine, from 2 to 7 inches, with flowers which combine elements of white, rosy purple and lavender. Commonly known as the annual lupine, it is found sparingly in the Trans-Pecos region, blooming in early spring.
- *Lupinus plattensis* stretches down from the north into the Texas Panhandle's sandy dunes. It is the only perennial species in the state and grows to about two feet tall. It normally blooms in mid to late spring and is also known as the dune bluebonnet, the plains bluebonnet and the Nebraska Lupine.

"Article from texana.texascooking.com"



Koenig & Strickland Funeral Home

208 W. Pearl St.

La Grange, TX 78945

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED