



Recap of the 2007 Butterfly Release in Memory of Our Children Gone Too Soon, But Never Forgotten

The Brevard Chapter of The Compassionate Friends held their 1st Butterfly Release on September 29, 2007 at 3:00 PM at Lake Wanteska in Connestee Falls, NC. Thanks to Sharon and Kevin Palan, the parents of Brandt Michael Koehler (05/10/1980 ~ 12/30/2005), who donated the butterflies. It was a picture perfect day.

Every parent, grandparent and sibling gathered around the lake. Caroline Smith (Chapter Leader) began the program. There were several readings, by Linda Freed, Marisol Gollnick and Sharon Palan and her mom Bea.

Sharon handed each parent, grandparent and sibling an envelope which was labeled "*Our Children Remembered*". Inside each envelope was a butterfly waiting to be released. She also had one box for a mass release.

As each envelope was opened, the butterfly began to emerge on its own. Some took off immediately while others took a few moments to adjust to the light before it flew away. Each one was our child, grandchild, sister/brother, Gone Too Soon, But Never Forgotten. It was a beautiful moment. Elizabeth daughter of Brien Patrick McCall (04/24/1978 ~ 09/08/2007) opened the box with the mass release of butterflies. It was a beautiful ceremony.

The song titled "Back to You" (Song for Mallory – Mallory Kirby Rich 12/04/2001 ~ 04/26/2002) by the Riggsbee was played.

Pastor Richard Handschin talked and gave us a closing prayer.

Linda Freed passed out an angel pin to all the parents, grandparents, sister/brother which can hold a photo.

After the butterfly release, Sharon and Kevin opened their home for us to socialize. Sharon and Kevin prepared soup, grilled chicken and a ceaser salad. Everyone attending brought a dish to share. Linda Freed made a beautiful butterfly cake.