

BRAIN TUMOR VIGIL



A Service of Healing, Remembrance, Advocacy and Hope*

created by The Healing Exchange BRAIN TRUST © 2000-2008

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We would be grateful if you would please acknowledge T.H.E. BRAIN TRUST when you use this service we created. We wish you courage, peace and blessings. We send our appreciation for your participation in this special community.

I. Introduction

As we gather together in support of those who need healing, and in remembrance of those who are no longer here, let us join our thoughts and prayers. Our presence as a community strengthens those who are healing, and our words reach out to comfort those who are grieving. May all who are here today be blessed with health and strength, and may all who are mourning find serenity and peace.

II. Responsive Reading – a prayer of remembrance

READER: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.

TOGETHER: **In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.**

READER: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of Spring,
we remember them.

TOGETHER: **In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.**

READER: In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of Autumn,
we remember them.

TOGETHER: **In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.**

READER: When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

TOGETHER: **When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.**

READER: When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

TOGETHER: **So long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.**

**Editorial Note: The prayers in this ecumenical service have been gathered from a number of sources including prayer books from different faiths. Original text by Nancy Conn-Levin and Samantha Scolamiero, founder of T.H.E. BRAIN TRUST, is also included in this service.*

III. Reading of Names

READER: At this time, we remember and honor those who have been diagnosed with brain tumors. Some of these people are no longer living, but their memories continue within us. Others are living their lives as brain tumor survivors, with all of the challenges that surviving may involve for themselves and their loved ones. We send out hope and healing to each of these gentle spirits and to their families and loved ones.

[Read any names you have collected]

In addition to those names read aloud, we invite anyone here to come forward and speak a name or names, including their own. Each of us can also silently acknowledge loved ones and friends that have been affected.

[at conclusion of reading of names]

READER: Out of the glaring darkness of life's chaos,
we must struggle for the words
that will bring light and understanding.
May we be blessed with clarity of thought,
mindfulness of the blessings that surround us,
and a vision of peace.

Life is eternal, love is immortal, and death is only a horizon.
A horizon is but the limit of our sight.

IV. Hope and Healing – a prayer for renewed health

READER: Let us send healing thoughts and prayers to everyone diagnosed with a brain tumor. Research shows that prayer can help in healing. Our gathering is powerful.

TOGETHER: Let us focus our loving attention on everyone in our community in need of healing. May they be restored to renewed health.

READER: Each of us can silently acknowledge loved ones and friends, both present and absent ones who are in need of our prayers.

[A moment of silence is observed]

READER: May all who are ill or suffering find peace and comfort.

TOGETHER: May all who encounter challenges – physical or emotional - find their strength and courage increasing each day.

READER: Grant to all who are in need of healing, the consolation of hope.

IV - ii REFLECTIONS (At this time in the service, gathered members may be asked for additional reflections on healing. Poems, songs or any thoughts are welcomed. This section may be included as time permits)

*V. A Prayer for Our Community
(with opening REFLECTIONS if time permits)*

READER: May all who are living with brain tumors find compassion, comfort and support from our community.

TOGETHER: May everyone in a position to make important contributions to brain tumor research, treatment, and prevention be empowered to do so.

READER: May all people affected by brain tumors, their families, friends, and their lay and professional caregivers, be blessed with courage and hope.

TOGETHER: Allow us to find new meaning in the challenges we encounter.

READER: Grant everyone affected by a brain tumor the blessings and strength of a caring, supportive community like the one we have gathered today.

TOGETHER: Grant us the vision to understand how we can work together.

READER: May all whose lives have been changed by a brain tumor find inspiration to adapt to new ways of living.

TOGETHER: May all of us find comfort knowing that we are not alone, as we encourage one another and share our experiences together.

READER: May we all be blessed with health and strength, as we continue our efforts on behalf of the global brain tumor community.

TOGETHER: Amen

VI. Closing Prayers

READER: Eternal source of life,
You have called us into life
and set us in the middle of purposes
we cannot measure or understand.

**TOGETHER: Yet we are thankful for the good we know,
for the life we have,
and for the beautiful gifts that are part of our life each day.
Fill us with hope knowing that
what is good and lovely does not perish.**

ALL: May we go forth renewed in courage and hope. So may it be.

VII. Conclusion and Announcements