



## Benjamin Franklin Hicks Jr.

October 22, 1946 - September 20, 2007

Ben F. Hicks

Frankfort-Services for Benjamin Franklin Hicks Jr., 60, of Peaks Mill Rd., will be conducted from the Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church, on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. with burial following at Frankfort Cemetery.

He passed Thursday, September 20, 2007, at U.K. Medical Center following an accident at his home.

Born October 22, 1946, he was a native of Morehead, KY., and was District Manager for CTB McGraw-Hill Companies. He was a graduate of Morehead State University where he received his Bachelors Degree and a Double Masters Degree. He also served as a U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. At his request, he was a Kentucky Organ Donor. He was a former Deacon of Buck Run Baptist Church and also a member of the Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Ramsey Hicks, Frankfort; two daughters, Kristi (Charles Allen) Wilkerson, Frankfort, and Stachia (John) Serafini, Lawrenceburg; a step-son, Jay (Tonya) Jacobs, Frankfort; two step-daughters, Jennifer (Danny) Rhoades and Jacque Davis, both of Frankfort; a brother, Tim Hicks, Morehead, Ky; two sisters, Claudia Hicks, Morehead, Ky, and Teresa

Hale-Hicks, Dania Beach, FL; four grandchildren, Carly Wilkerson, Payton, Paige and Reese Serafini; five step-grandchildren, Leighann Jacobs, Abbi and Izzi Davis, and Shelby and Emma Rhoades; and several nieces and nephews.

He was the widower of Virginia Ann Estep Hicks and was the son of the late Benjamin Franklin Hicks Sr. and Calia Hale Hicks.

Rev. Todd Lester will officiate.

Pallbearers will be Garold Bradley, Randy Bradley, Terrell Bradley, Vaughn Fraley, Kevin Crum, Dale Estep, Jay Jacobs and Danny Rhoades.

Honorary bearers will be Odell Estep Jr., Joe Fraley, Johnny Cox, Eric Craig, Bill Estep, Jim Helphenstine, Bo Middleton, Kirby Ramsey, Mike Oder, Frank Stauffer, Dusty Rhodes, Lanny Moore, Scott Trimble, Z.T. Lester and Robby Parrish.

Visitation will be Monday, September 24, 2007, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church.

In continuance of Ben's love for the outdoors, expressions of sympathy may be made to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Attn: Chad Miles, 1 Sportsmans Ln., Frankfort, Ky 40601. These expressions of sympathy will translate into hunter safety and wildlife education for our most precious natural resource, Kentucky's youth.

Condolences may be shared via the online guest book at [www.harrodbrothersfuneralhome.com](http://www.harrodbrothersfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements are under the careful direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Benjamin Franklin Hicks Jr.*

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October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Jan and I and the other staff members from the WV Department of Education who knew Ben are saddened by his sudden passing. He was a wonderful person and a great business partner. We send want to express our deepest sympathy to Donna and the entire family.*

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December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are saddened by the news of Ben's passing. I met Ben for the first time in 1980. We both were new employees in the same region at CTB McGraw-Hill. Ben was a special person in so many ways. His wonderful sense of humor and gentle spirit would light up the room. I saw Ben during a conference this past June. He told me that he was looking forward to retirement and talked in glowing terms about his family. He was so proud of his family and it always came through when he talked about them. It was a privilege to know Ben. Certainly, he will be greatly missed. My sincerest condolences to the family.*

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**John Laramy** - December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Dear Donna,

*I worked with Ben many years ago at CTB/MCGraw-Hill, but had been in touch with him in recent years. I was shocked and saddened to learn of his untimely death this week. The last time we spoke, he told me how happy he was with life and his new wife. Ben was such an innovative thinker and in his unassuming style, was responsible for many of the improvements in today's assessment programs. His wit and wisdom will be missed. May God strengthen you and your family during this difficult time.*

*Thoughts and prayers,  
Judy Mills*

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**Judy Mills** - December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ He seemed a giant of a man the first time I met him in the CTB St. Louis Regional Office, but as I quickly learned there was far more to Ben Hicks than physical size. His dedication to educational excellence through the products and company he represented was only slightly masked by a homespun Kentucky-bred approach with ever present humor at its core. Though his shortened life was not without tragedy, Ben always arrived with a joke or a story to brighten the day of those with whom he associated. He knew his product. He knew his educator customers, and he was always available when fellow employees at all levels needed a helping boost. Predictably Ben made a steady climb up the CTB structure. Professional success, however, never swayed this man from the primary focus of his life -family. I never saw Ben without photos or comments about “my girls.”

*Ben Hicks will be missed by all whose lives were touched by him. It was a joy to work with him at CTB. He was my colleague. Most importantly he was my friend. I miss him.*

*Joann and Jim Brady*

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**Joann Brady** - December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Matt, Katie and I were all so sorry to hear this sad news. We met Ben and his family at his first summer regional meeting over 25 years ago. He wore a full beard at that time, and we all fell in love with this gentle giant who the children immediately dubbed "Bentucky."

*Ben's humor is legendary. What I'll also always remember is his consummate professionalism and work ethic. He was respectful of and respected by customers and colleagues alike and was a teacher and mentor to many.*

*Ben's "girls" were his pride and joy. He especially delighted in relating Kristi and Stachia's accomplishments through the years. (He also delighted in setting out each and every one of their photos with Santa each Christmas--especially as they got older and started dating!)*

*My deepest sympathy goes to you Donna, Kristi, and Stachia, as well as your husbands and all those beautiful granddaughters. May the Lord's promise of eternal life comfort you in the days and weeks ahead.*

*Bev Bouchard*

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**Beverly Bouchard** - December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BB

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*Bev Bouchard*

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**Beverly Bouchard** - December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Ben was a very respected colleague at CTB. He will be sorely missed. My deepest sympathy to your family.

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December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Donna, Stachia, Kristi and families - I worked with Ben for 15 years at CTB and loved his humor, his wit, his sincerity, and his thoughtfulness. He will be missed by all.

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December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Donna, Reading all of the condolences, I grieve with you and your family for the loss of this very special man. I can't imagine a January conference without his wonderfully silly stories, as well as the insight and wisdom he brought to those of us lucky enough to work with him. When I think of Ben, I see you by his side. I imagine him there beside you as you go through this terrible time of grief. God Bless You and Ben's daughters, Linda and Bob Bond

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December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm sure Ben is proud of your choice to request memorial donations to the Ky Fish & Wildlife Department. I know how much he loved the outdoors!

*Please accept our deepest condolences. Your family is all in our prayers.*

*God bless.*

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December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kristi, Stachia and Donna, We're so sorry for your loss. Please know that our prayers are with you. If you should need anything, please know that we are here for you.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
John and Marche*

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December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Donna and all of Ben's family,  
We have known Ben for over 17 years and know how much he enjoyed gardening and the outdoors. In his name we donate to his legacy of being a very kind and gentle person to all he met, be they stranger or friend.  
May God bless Ben, and comfort you all in this time of sorrow for us all.*

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December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our family will miss Ben (Papa) more than words can ever express. This organization was a wonderful choice to honor his passion for life and the outdoors.*

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December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ben was a long-time friend and CTB colleague who will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family in this time of mourning.*

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December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ At this time of loss and sadness may God draw you close in His comfort and care to strengthen and sustain you with His love. You and your family will be in our continued thoughts and prayers. Ben will be very much missed by all.

Tammy Bullock - December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ My heart and prayers are with you always.

December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Donna and Family,  
Words cannot express our sincerest sympathies in the loss of Ben. We will continue to have fond memories of him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ You grieve for Ben because you love him and miss him. I hope your memories will help to comfort you in your time of pain and sorrow. Although Ben has left this place on earth he will remain alive in your hearts. With my deepest sympathy God Bless you all.

December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Our sincere condolences to all the family our thoughts and prayers are with you through this trying time.

December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our sincere condolences to all the family, our thoughts and*

December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ben was an advisor, mentor and very dear friend. I miss him very much. My condolences to his family.*

December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Donna, Stachia, Kristi and families - We are so sorry to hear of Ben's death. It had been so good to see him just a short time ago. We will always remember his friendliness, kindness and big smile. May the Lord give you comfort, peace and strength for today and the days ahead. Please know that we will be praying for you. - Jay and Lucy Dean*

**Jay and Lucy Dean** - December 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Kristi Ben, Stachia, and Donna:  
I first met your father at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. We trained together and later, were assigned to the same base in Germany. When your mother arrived in Germany, we all became very good friends. Little did we know that friendship would span nearly four decades. I had not talked with Ben for some time, but last month, I had this urge to call. I am so happy that I did. Ben and I talked about everything. It always seemed that no matter how long we were apart, we were able to pick right up where we left off. Ben was an easy man to know and to be with. He will be missed, and we offer our deepest sympathies.*

*With love,  
Bob and Donna from Illinois*

**Bob and Donna Nichols** - October 11, 2007 at 03:35 AM

KD

“ Stachia & family:

*I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. May God bless each and every one of you.*

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**Karla Downey** - September 28, 2007 at 11:56 AM

DK

“ *I worked with Ben in the late 80's as a consultant for CTB in the midwest region. All of the CTB staff and particularly Keith Pack and Ben had a major impact on my life. I left in 89, started a company in Illinois that existstoday.*

*Keith had charisma. He lit up the room with his storytelling, laughter and charm. His integrity and dedication can't be understated but his ability to make you feel special and make you laugh were legendary.*

*I appreciate Ben's friendship, advice and helping me in the years I worked at CTB. I was a fellow Kentuckian and we had a special opportunity to work together.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you and feel proud to have been his friend. Ben was one of a kind, a great man.*

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**david kinney** - September 28, 2007 at 06:05 AM

JM

“ Dear Donna,

*I worked with Ben many years ago at CTB/MCGraw-Hill, but had been in touch with him in recent years. I was shocked and saddened to learn of his untimely death this week. The last time we spoke, he told me how happy he was with life and his new wife. Ben was such an innovative thinker and in his unassuming style, was responsible for many of the improvements in today's assessment programs. His wit and wisdom will be missed. May God strengthen you and your family during this difficult time.*

*Thoughts and prayers,  
Judy Mills*

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**Judy Mills** - September 26, 2007 at 12:42 PM

EB

“ Dear Kristi and Stachia and family, our love and blessings to you at this time. As neighbors and family associations over the years through professional contacts and above all through children growing up together, we want to celebrate the great life of Ben and our wonderful memories. You continue in our prayers for strength and inspiration through the present challenges. Peace, Ed and Nancy Ball  
336 Village Dr. Frankfort.

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**Ed & Nancy Ball** - September 25, 2007 at 10:30 AM

SW

“ Donna, Kristi, Stachia and families-

*I got to know Ben, Kristi and Stachia through my mom, Mary Kinzel, who worked with him for many, many years at CTB. Some of my favorite times were at the Summer Meetings, where I always looked forward to seeing Ben (and family). He was such a wonderful man and whenever I was around him I always felt like smiling. I will always treasure those great times at the Summer Meetings, where I got to know some really great people. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you right now, and know that no matter what he will always be looking over you.*

Sarah

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**Sarah Wood** - September 24, 2007 at 12:18 PM

SA

“ Donna, Stachia, Kristi and Families - Ben & I often joked about being the same age and what we'd do when we got old. We will that chance now. He was so proud of his family and took pride in everything you all did. Stand tall and remember how lucky you were to have had him for almost 61 years.

Fondly,  
Sandy

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**Sandy Anderson** - September 24, 2007 at 11:45 AM

GB

“ Ben my friend, you will be missed. My prayers to the family in these times of mourning. For only having Ben pass through my life, I can only imagine the sorrow you all are feeling. God Bless you all.

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**Gary R Bundura** - September 24, 2007 at 11:36 AM

MK

“ Donna, Kristi, and Stachia,

*We are truly saddened to hear of Ben's passing. I worked with Ben for many years and he was a great mentor and friend to me. I know right now you don't know how you will be able to get through the next few days, weeks, and even months, but you will always have your memories of Ben and your dad to help you through them. I always looked forward to seeing Ben at our CTB meetings and to see pictures and hear all about "his girls". We will miss him very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

*Mary & Wayne Kinzel*

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**Mary & Wayne Kinzel** - September 24, 2007 at 11:27 AM

GM

“ Kristi,

*We are so sorry to hear about your father. We've both been there and know the emotion of this well. Please know that God will comfort you. We will pray for healing for you and your family during this time.*

*Greg, Jennifer & Erin McDonald*

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**Greg, Jennifer & Erin McDonald** - September 24, 2007 at 11:13 AM

MG

“ *I am very saddened to hear of Ben's passing! I enjoyed working with him so much. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Marcy*

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**Marcy Guddemi** - September 24, 2007 at 10:59 AM

SD

“ Our deepest sympathy in the sudden loss of Ben. We know he will be missed by family and friends. We still remember Kristi and Stachia growing up with Ben and Ginny and both of them babysitting our boys. We are keeping the family in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Steve and Cheryl Dooley** - September 24, 2007 at 10:48 AM

CM

“ *Kristi:*

*I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. God bless you all.*

*Carol McDonald*

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**Carol McDonald** - September 24, 2007 at 08:21 AM

DT

“ Donna,

*I was so very saddened to learn of Ben's passing. He was so much admired and respected by so many. Ben and I had the opportunity to travel and to present together. I always valued his perspectives on our business and on education; his sincere commitment to Kentucky; his great hunting stories, which he always shared with a unique and generous sense of humor; and his deep love for you and his family.*

*My thoughts are with you today and will be in the days ahead.*

*With deepest sympathy,*

*David*

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**David Taggart** - September 24, 2007 at 08:07 AM

SO

“ *I had the honor of working with Ben when he was the evaluation consultant for the state of Kentucky. His calm demeanor was helpful to me on more than one occasion, but I am especially grateful for the conversations we had about my mom, who was born and raised in Harlan County, Kentucky, and the reminders of the heritage I carry. To have that connection was a comfort to me, more than what Ben realized.*

*Although we hadn't worked together for many years, Ben was always a treasure for me. His memory will always touch me; his passing lends credence to the adage, 'The good die young'.*

*May the peace of God reign over the hearts and minds of those who loved Ben...he will be missed, but we'll see him again!*

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**Susie O\** - September 24, 2007 at 03:25 AM

KD

“ *Stachia & Kristi,  
You and your families are in my thoughts and prayers. Let your faith keep you strong - I know it will be a struggle. I'm here if there's anything at all that I can do for you.*

*Donna,*

*Unfortunately I've never had the chance to meet you, but my prayers are with you as well.*

*God Bless you all,*

*Kris (Hockensmith) Dunn*

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**Kris (Hockensmith) Dunn** - September 24, 2007 at 03:23 AM

GS

“ *Dear Donna and family,*

*I have known Ben for nearly 30 years and am truly saddened by his passing. Ben was the consummate professional sales manager and the best storyteller I ever heard! I still have vivid memories of his joke telling at the annual Mid-continent Regional Dinners and the many strategy sessions we conducted to secure the KY testing business. Although I left CTB some time ago, Ben and I continued to communicate and share our work and personal experiences. I last talked to Ben about 4 months ago and I know he was looking forward to retirement and spending more time with the "girls" in his family. He was a great man and father and both Gail and I miss him dearly. Though you're probably wondering how you'll survive the next few days, weeks, and months without Ben ,in time you (like the rest of us) will have bright memories of Ben's life and his great impact upon everyone he touched.*

*God Bless you.*

*George and Gail Simon*

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**George Simon** - September 23, 2007 at 11:53 AM

BM

“ *My prayers are with you.*

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**Burr Mcdonald** - September 23, 2007 at 11:41 AM

MB

“ *We are truly saddened to hear of Ben's passing. I will always remember his giggle as he told a story at any one of our regional dinners. He always enjoyed his own stories at least as much as everyone else did. Ben was a strong, gentle, kind man who loved his family and never knew a stranger. We will miss him.*

*Mickey & Bob Bathon*

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**Mickey & Bob Bathon** - September 23, 2007 at 09:33 AM

MT

“ *Dear Donna and family,  
I was shocked and devastated to hear of this tragedy. Just a week ago I was at your house and Ben was working on his yard, and I told him not to work his help too hard and he just laughed. His yard was his kingdom and he kept it beautiful. Everytime I came out there the house and yard was as pretty as a picture. I didnt know him extremely well but he seemed to be such a warm and caring man to Donna and his grandkids. Donna, my prayers are with you in this trying time and his entire family as well. May he rest in peace. Love Missy and family*

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**Melissa Tracy** - September 23, 2007 at 06:31 AM

SG

“ Donna, Stachia and Kristi:

*Bill and I were very saddened to hear of Ben's accident and death. I know his passing is a tremendous loss for everyone who loved him. Thank you for allowing his loss to be a blessing to others.*

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**Sandra Gosney** - September 23, 2007 at 06:16 AM

CW

“ Kristi and Stacia,

*I'm so very sorry to hear about your Dad. My family is praying for you.*

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**Cindy West** - September 23, 2007 at 04:56 AM

DM

“ Dear Kirby and Judy,

*We are so sorry for your loss. Please extend our sympathy to Donna and family. We will continue to keep all of you in our prayers. We love you so very much!!!*

*David, Judy and John*

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**David and Judy Mullendore** - September 23, 2007 at 03:13 AM

JT

“ Donna, Kristi, Stachia, and family: Barb and I are so sorry to hear of Ben's passing. He was a great man in so many ways. He will be missed by many friends and colleagues at CTB. Ben played an important role in the growth of CTB/McGraw-Hill, and had a long and distinguished career. He is in our prayers. Jack and Barb.

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**Jack and Barb Thompson** - September 22, 2007 at 01:48 PM

BW

“ So sorry to hear of Ben's accident and your loss.  
With Heartfelt Sympathy,  
Billy and Kay

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**Billy and Kay Warfield** - September 22, 2007 at 01:39 PM

CM

“ To the family of Ben Hicks. We are really sorry for your loss  
I met Ben when he visited our area. He was well liked by all who  
knew him. I am Randy Bradley's brotherinlaw and Randy thought a  
lot of him. Clifford & Jane Muse . Morehead, Ky.

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**Clifford H Muse** - September 22, 2007 at 09:02 AM

SM

“ Donna,

*Don and I had a trip planned to go to Lake Tahoe leaving Sunday,  
September 23 for a week. I debated about canceling it...but I  
thought about what Ben would have said....."Susan, family  
comes first..." and I hope you don't mind, but I have chosen to  
remember Ben as I look at Lake Tahoe. Ben and I had discussed it  
on Friday and he told me all about the place and what I needed to  
do since you two had been there recently. I will think of Ben  
somewhere outside, communing with nature. I will miss him greatly.  
Please accept my sincerest sympathy and know that I will have you  
and your family in my constant thoughts and prayers.*

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**Susan Magee** - September 22, 2007 at 08:36 AM

GC

“ To Ben's family--

*I've worked with Ben at CTB/McGraw-Hill for nine years, and he will be a great loss both personally and professionally. Ben was a wonderful storyteller, and we could always count on him to lighten up any serious management meeting. Ben was extremely compassionate to me when he learned of the death of my husband due to cancer last year. I am thankful to have known Ben, and to know that his light will continue to live and shine in the hearts of his friends, his CTB colleagues and family.*

*Sincerely,*

*Gail Carpenter*

*District Manager, CTB/McGraw-Hill*

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**Gail Carpenter** - September 22, 2007 at 08:28 AM

GF

“ Donna, My deepest sympathy goes out to you and the family. As you know Ben was a true friend to me and I will really miss his support and advice. I can honestly say that he was the best person I've ever had the pleasure of working with and for. I am thankful that I had Ben as a friend for the past four years. Please call if I can ever be of assistance or support in the coming months and years.

*Sincerely yours, Gary*

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**Gary Field** - September 22, 2007 at 02:37 AM

MZ

“ Donna -

*I am so terribly saddened at Ben's passing. He was truly one of the best people I have known, and I consider it a privilege to have not only worked for and with him, but to have counted him as a true friend and mentor. My thoughts are with you and your entire family at this very difficult time. As you know, there are many of us who benefited from and enjoyed his guidance and help. He will be missed dearly.*

*Molly Zebrowski*

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**Molly Zebrowski** - September 21, 2007 at 05:49 AM

TB

“ Kirby and Judy,

*The Booths are praying for your comfort and peace. We are so sorry to learn of your loss. Please express our sympathies to Donna and her entire family. We are here for you.*

*We love you,*

*Tim and Patty*

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**Tim and Patty Booth** - September 21, 2007 at 05:48 AM