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Emails to Heaven Newsletter  
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# ETH News

## Does Anyone Care?

Does anyone care? I asked myself that a lot. I have been fighting for change coming up on 5 years now. I care about widows who lost their husband. I care about widowers who lost their wife. I care that they are struggling and trying to make ends meet. I care that they are forced into homelessness because they can no longer afford to live in their home. I care that their family and friends abandoned them when all they wanted was a gift of their time. I guess being widowed is a topic that no one likes to discuss. I have not received any responses. No one wants to print the stories that I want to tell. Below is a letter to the Observer Reporter Editor I wrote on August 17, 2024 that was never published. If you care, please let me know. I would love to hear from you.

## Letter to the Editor

Once again Washington County released their notice of properties for delinquent taxes. 30 pages of property listings and this is just Washington County. Are the property owners widowed or seniors? Does anyone care? I do! Our elected officials don't seem to care about us losing our homes over a tax we can no longer afford to pay. What happened to property tax reform? My opinion, it was just a campaign promise to get elected but would never be fulfilled. I have written letters to Bartolotta and Ortity. I even put together a presentation of why we need property tax reform and met with Ortity back in May 2023. I got the impression that he didn't care about what I had to say. I have written to both Bartolotta and Ortity since then but never received a response back. I wrote to Governor Shapiro in July 2023. You can read my letter to him on the home page of my website [www.emailstoheaven.org](http://www.emailstoheaven.org). I have written another letter to him since then but never received a response to either of my letters. Within my nonprofit I am trying to make a change for our widowed neighbors and my biggest issue is school property taxes. Ortity and Shapiro talked about the increase in the property tax/rent rebate program and how it was going to make Pennsylvania a better place to live. Most of us got \$130 out of the \$350 increase. But Canon Mac raised the school taxes "again" and the \$130 doesn't even cover the increase we now have to pay. Our elected officials need to start thinking outside the box on funding Pennsylvania schools because property taxes isn't the answer. This expense is too much for property owners to handle alone and no one should have to lose their home, especially for those of us who receive "no service" for this tax. Think about this the next time you vote. These 3 have done nothing to help our widowed property owners or seniors with this tax burden. AARP wrote an article on homelessness growing among older Americans starting now at age 55 with a dramatic increase where they will be unable to secure housing over the coming decade. I guess Bartolotta, Ortity and Shapiro would rather see us homeless than to find a solution to this tax problem. Shame on them!



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## Saying Goodbye to Xena

I had many cats over the years. I fostered Xena and her sister Marlee then adopted them both. Marlee died 2 years ago on September 4th from cancer. Xena was the last of my cats. She had a stroke and was paralyzed from the neck down. But what is sad and broke my heart is that she was alert, eating and talking to me. I had to manually give her water with a syringe and placed a puppy pad under her since she could not get to the litter box. I had to say good-bye to her on July 22nd because there was nothing they could do for her. I had a couple of my cats visit me in a dream that night. I guess they were here to tell

me that Xena crossed the Rainbow Bridge and she was with them. Rest in peace Xena. I miss each and everyone of you very much.



*“Losing someone you love is like losing a part of yourself. You miss them and you miss who you were with them. Nothing will ever replace that. ~unknown*

### Rainbow Bridge Poem

As you journey to the Rainbow's arc, I hold you close, though it tears my heart. With gentle whispers, I bid adieu, Promising love that forever rings true. Through fields of gold and skies so blue, I'll cherish the memories; I'll hold onto you. For though you've left this earthly plain, Our bond remains, a timeless refrain. In dreams and stars, we'll meet again, Where pain and sorrow are washed away by the rain. Until that day, my dear friend, Know that my love for you will never end. So cross the bridge, my precious one, In fields of light, our souls shall reunite as one. And though you're gone from sight to see, You'll forever reside in the heart of me.



### Widowed Penguins—Animals Need Someone Too!



**Abandoned Beautiful World**  
July 18 at 1:58 PM · 🌐

The lighter penguin is an elderly female whose partner died this year. The darker one is a younger male who lost his partner two years ago. Biologists have followed them as they meet every night to comfort each other. They stand for hours together watching the lights. Photographer Tobias Baumgaertner captured this image of two widowed fairy penguins looking over the Melbourne skyline. It has won an award in Oceanographic magazine's Ocean Photography Awards 2020. Also read: <https://animesonnet.com/last-day-full-of-love-with-my-kene/>



## In 10 Words or Less

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In July 2024, AARP sent me a poll to complete where I can tell the candidates in 10 words or less what it is like to walk in my shoes. For those of you who know me, I am a detailed writer so completing this poll in 10 words or less wasn't going to be easy. I wrote it in 11 words. BUT, the form gave me an option to tell them more so I did.



### **Tell candidates: What it's like in YOUR shoes**

Living on a fixed income and worried about high prices? The responsibilities of caring for a loved one? Or Social Security and Medicare's future?

You're not alone: so many people 50-plus are struggling. From affording our medication to worrying about retirement, AARP knows there's a lot on your mind. That's why we're collecting stories from everyday people like YOU.

Our struggles deserve to be heard — and acted on — by candidates. We'll share your stories online to raise the voices of America's strongest voting bloc — because if candidates want to win elections, they need to know what we care about.

**\*Tell us in 10 words or less: What should politicians know about your day-to-day struggles as a person 50-plus?**

Programs for widowed neighbors. Better tax laws for us without children.

**Tell us more — what do you want candidates to know about what it's like to walk in your shoes? (optional)**

In order to claim yourself as a surviving spouse you must have a child living with you. If you don't, then you have to claim yourself as single which means paying more taxes. Just because I am widowed doesn't mean I have tons of money to give to the government. Try losing a paycheck and see how it hurts. This also applies to property taxes. School taxes should be eliminated for all widowed property owners who have no children in school. |

### Writing Letters as a Form of Grieving

I had previously spoke about writing letters to a loved one or a pet. In my opinion, it helps with grieving. I would write to my husband about my long days, his empty chair at the dinner table, my struggles, my challenges and how people, especially his side of the family, have treated me since his funeral. Feeling abandoned or being treated as if you are contagious is a horrible feeling but it is a fact of life for many of us who have lost their spouse. Some suggest even talking out loud helps as well but writing is better for me because I found myself wanting to yell at him for leaving me. So I would sit at my computer and write, sometimes with my eyes filled with tears, but it felt good to put how I was feeling into words because there was no one else I wanted to talk too but him.

I did research online and found a website that I would like to share. So if you know of someone, besides me ,who is still struggling with the loss of their spouse, give them this link:

<https://www.evmemories.com/writing-letters-as-a-form-of-grieving>

#### **Conclusion**

While writing a letter to your deceased loved one may not hasten the grieving process, it can help you find a sense of stability and aid you in addressing the stress caused by this emotionally upsetting time. The path to healing through letters occurs when we are able to label our feelings, voice them without judgment, and be genuine about our thoughts to our deceased loved ones.

#### **Baby Animals**



**Be kind to all animals**




## Definition of Widowed

Since 2017 I have been trying to get the attention of our elected officials to start a conversation on how the IRS discriminates against those of us who are widowed without children living with us. We cannot claim ourselves as widowed for tax filing purposes. We have to claim ourselves as single. To the right is the definition of a person who is widowed:

Below is the IRS's definition of widowed. Before 2022 they called it "Qualifying Widow(er)" - in 2022 they changed the filing status name to Qualifying Surviving Spouse. The definition stayed the same.

I am not sure what having a child living with you decides whether or not you can claim yourself as widowed/surviving spouse, because the only qualification that I need to call myself a widow is that my husband is now deceased. I have sent letters to President Trump twice, Senator Toomey once, President Biden once, and recently to Lara Trump at the Trump NC and the RNC Headquarters. I am hoping for a response, if not, I will keep trying.

 **widowed**  
[ˈwɪdəd]  
having lost one's spouse by death and not married again:

 **widow**  
wid-ow [ˈwɪdɔː]  
become a widow or widower; lose one's spouse through death:

### Widow - Wikipedia Article

A widow or widower is a person whose spouse has died and has usually not remarried. The state of having lost one's spouse to death is termed widowhood. An archaic term for a widow is "relict," literally "someone left over". This word can sometimes be found on older gravestones. The male form, "widower", is first attested in the 14th century, by the 19th century supplanting "widow" with reference to men.

en.wikipedia.org Text under CC-BY-SA license

## IRS 's Definition of Widowed

### Qualifying Widow(er)

You can check the "Qualifying widow(er)" box at the top of Form 1040 or 1040-SR and use joint return tax rates for 2021 if all of the following apply.

1. Your spouse died in 2019 or 2020 and you didn't remarry before the end of 2021.
2. You have a child or stepchild (not a foster child) whom you can claim as a dependent or could claim as a dependent except that, for 2021:
  - a. The child had gross income of \$4,300 or more,
  - b. The child filed a joint return, or
  - c. You could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return.

**Filing status name changed to qualifying surviving spouse.** The filing status qualifying widow(er) is now called qualifying surviving spouse. The rules for the filing status have not changed. The same rules that applied for qualifying widow(er) apply to qualifying surviving spouse. See *Qualifying surviving spouse*.

### Qualifying Surviving Spouse

You can check the "Qualifying surviving spouse" box at the top of Form 1040 or 1040-SR and use joint return tax rates for 2023 if all of the following apply.

1. Your spouse died in 2021 or 2022 and you didn't remarry before the end of 2023.
2. You have a child or stepchild (not a foster child) whom you can claim as a dependent or could claim as a dependent except that, for 2023:
  - a. The child had gross income of \$4,700 or more.
  - b. The child filed a joint return, or
  - c. You could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return.



## 4 Paws Bracelets—Purchase a Bracelet—Help Feed Shelter Dogs



I was left for dead...

Someone taped my mouth shut so I could not eat...

And taped my legs so I could not run...

What did I do wrong?

I was a good dog...

I never barked.

I brought him toys to throw to me...

What did I do to deserve this?

This is the reality millions of dogs face every year.

These poor, voiceless animals are left to suffer for no reason...

Sometimes owners feel 'tired' of taking care of them...

Or they 'bark too much'...

And the absolute worst... "They just got too old"

At 4PawsBracelets, we do not accept this reality for any dog.

We believe that every dog, no matter their age, color, or size deserves a full belly.

And that's why we need you.

Today, we are calling out to anyone who cares about saving dogs as much as we do.

For every bracelet ordered from our site, we send 5 meals to a shelter dog in need...

Click here to order a bracelet and feed dogs: <https://4pawsbracelets.com/products/bracelet>

You can make a difference in these innocent animals' lives...

Your kindness can bring hope and happiness to dogs just like this puppy...

Join us in helping these special animals and spread our message to anyone who will listen!

Click the link below to buy a bracelet and feed 5 shelter dogs!

Click here to feed 5 shelter dogs: <https://4pawsbracelets.com/products/bracelet>



**Every Item  
Feeds A Shelter  
Animal**

For every item ordered, we send a portion of the funds to charities that provide meals to local animal shelters. This lowers euthanasia rates and allows shelters to put more funds toward **medical care** and helping their pets find their forever

## HOW IT WORKS



Pick your favorite colors and place your order!



We'll send you an email with a story about a dog you helped feed!



You'll receive your bracelets in about 7 days!



We donate from the proceeds to our partner charities

Wear as a conversation starter or given as a gift, our I Love ALL Dogs Bracelet™ is the perfect way to introduce people to raise awareness about our mission to feed 1 BILLION shelter animals.

**A Must Have For Anyone Who Loves Shelter Dogs!**



## I No Longer Fit In



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**Kathé Johnson**  
One of the best descriptions I've read about how it feels

11m Like Reply
- 

**Cheryl Sklar**  
I just hate this feeling. I don't even fit in with my family. 😞

10m Like Reply
- 

**Peggy Gurley**  
This says it all I feel the same way

4m Like Reply
- 

**Annette Stooksbury**  
Amen! 🙏

2m Like Reply
- 

**Elvie Mendes**  
It's so true, i don't really know where I belong 🙏

17m Like Reply
- 

**Sandra Henry Benat**  
And it is hard to explain to people. 😞

“FRIENDSHIP isn't about who you have known the longest. It's about who walked into your life, said I am here for you and proved it. ~Positive Outlooks

## Comical Animals

Something to make you smile.

