**Family, friends to run half-marathon in California**

**In memory of those who perished in 2009 Butte plane crash**

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Courtesy photos Pam Feldkamp holds the hand of her son, Buddy Feldkamp, at the memorial service for the Pullen family in April 2009. They will run in a Southern California marathon on Sunday, along with Maggie Cotton, another daughter of Pam Feldkamp, in memory of the 14 people who died in the Butte plane crash. Pam Feldkamp lost two daughters, two sons-in-law and five grandchildren in the crash.

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It's been almost a year since 14 people died in the plane crash in Butte — including the Pullen family from Galt, Calif.

While surviving family members and friends are still reeling from the crash, 18 of them are dedicating a Southern California half-marathon on Super Bowl Sunday to their loved ones who perished last year.

Pam Feldkamp, her two grown children, Maggie Cotton and Buddy Feldkamp, and some cousins and friends will participate in the Surf City Marathon on Sunday morning in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Pam Feldkamp lost two daughters, two sons-in-law and five grandchildren in the March 22, 2009, crash in Butte. One of her daughters, Vanessa Pullen, 37, lived in Galt, Calif., with her husband, Mike, 39, and their two children, Sydney, 9, and Christopher, 7.

Another daughter of Feldkamp's, Amy Jacobson, of St. Helena, Calif., died along with her husband and three children.

They were headed to a Montana ski resort on a private plane that Pullen's father had leased. The pilot was also a family friend.

Almost a year after the tragedy, Feldkamp said she has her ups and downs.

"I cry every day at some point," she said tearfully on Wednesday. "You try to focus on the (loved ones) you have. You try to carry on. You have these waves. You think we're going to make it, that things are getting better, but then a wave hits and you start crying." "I still have trouble going into the girls' bedrooms," Feldkamp said. "We have boxes of their things, we have photo albums, pictures from their houses. Amy was a real good scrapbooker. It's just hard for me to sit with those things right now." More emotion is coming in March, when the family flies to Butte on the first anniversary of the tragic crash. They were present for a special dedication last August at the crash site, which now has pictures and information on the victims.

Today, Feldkamp focuses on her husband, Bud, her two remaining children and four grandsons (a fifth is on the way).

"We're in grief all the time, but when you see your grandchildren, you have to be joyful for them," she said. "God has been a whole part of our experience." Reprinted in [The Montana Standard](http://www.mtstandard.com) with permission from the Lodi, Calif., News-Sentinel.

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