



## Elsie Caroline Mutzenberger

December 27, 1917 - October 13, 2015

Elsie Caroline Mutzenberger, age 97, of Glendive, Montana, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at the Glendive Medical Center in Glendive. Funeral Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, October 19, 2015 at Zion Lutheran Church in Glendive with Pastor Avis Anderson officiating. Interment will be held in the Dawson County Cemetery in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Elsie was born on December 27, 1917 in Mercer County, North Dakota, the second of seven children born to Andrew and Elizabeth (Baisch) Mutzenberger. The family moved to Montana in 1927 and farmed between Lindsay and Glendive.

Like many rural students during the 1930's, when it came time for her to go to high school, she moved into Glendive and worked for her room and board. For two-and-a-half years she lived with and worked for Dr. Melville Danskin and his wife, Minnie. "It was a hard job," she always said. Following her graduation from Dawson County High School in 1937, she started work as a maid at the Northern Pacific Hospital. The superintendent of nursing at the hospital recognized her potential and encouraged her to pursue a nursing career. She took her on as the first nurses' aide at the hospital.

In 1939, Elsie was able to go to nursing school in Rochester, Minnesota. Following her practice of always looking for a new challenge, she chose to do a special eight-month course in obstetrics and pediatrics in Chicago rather

than settling for the shorter course offered in Rochester. After her training she returned to Glendive and worked as a surgical nurse at the NP Hospital. Elsie wanted to join the military, so she applied and waited for the letter telling her to report for a physical. That letter never came and Elsie could never figure out why. One day Elsie was in the office of the superintendent of nursing and noticed a letter with her name on it lying on the desk. When she asked the superintendent about it, the superintendent admitted the letter was from the military. She had received others and had been returning them with a note that Elsie was not available until the hospital could find a replacement for her. Elsie realized this ended any hope of a military career.

The closest Elsie came to the dream of being in the military was the year she spent working in a Veterans Administration hospital in Wisconsin. Her nurse's training had not included much experience in communicable diseases and the VA hospital was set up for the patients with tuberculosis so Elsie thought that would give her experience she needed.

Elsie returned to working in the VA hospital working as the superintendent. Along with her role as a superintendent, she taught in the hospital nursing program. Since it was a degree program and Elsie did not have a degree, the head of the school asked her to return to college to finish her bachelor's degree in nursing. Which she did.

Elsie moved to Billings, Montana where she was the Operating Supervisor at Billings Deaconess Hospital for twenty-four years before health reasons forced her to retire. Elsie continued volunteering in the hospital's gift shop for another twenty-five years before returning back to Glendive in 2001.

Elsie enjoyed traveling and often took trips with friends or by herself, visiting places such as Alaska, Hawaii, Canada and Europe, making new friends and seeing many interesting things.

Elsie was preceded in death by her parents, Andrew and Elizabeth Mutzenberger; sisters, Hertha DeBeaumont and Selma Mutzenberger and two brothers, Arthur and Edwin Mutzenberger.

She is survived by her two sisters, Lorraine Guthrie of Spokane, Washington

and Martha Hilger of Glendive; and ten nieces and nephews.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.silhafuneralhomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Dawson County Cemetery

Corner of North Sargent Ave. and East Allard  
Street  
Glendive, MT 59330

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT 19. 10:00 AM (MT)

Zion Lutheran Church  
401 Riverview Avenue  
Glendive, MT 59330

# Tribute Wall



“ *Elsie Caroline Mutzenberger*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *My Aunt Elsie was my prayer warrior. My favorite memories are waking up in the Billings Hospital when I was 6 after my tonsil surgery and seeing her smiling face, spending time with her and our family in the backyard at Ray and Toni's house, visiting her at her apt. in Billings and walking over to the swimming pool when I was young, talking to Elsie on the phone and talking about faith, receiving a fridge magnet "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," hearing her recite all niece and nephew names and all their family member names. She was always so kind and caring to me, strong, mentoring, positive... She is with her Lord and I rejoice in the fact that I will see her again one day; until then, I will talk to her on my back porch and sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." LaDonna Lamphier Zimmerman*

**LaDonna Zimmerman** - October 26, 2015 at 03:28 PM



“ *I loved hearing Elsie's about her nursing career and how far nursing has come in the course of her life. She was a special lady. Barb Stockwell*

**Barbara Stockwell** - October 19, 2015 at 04:19 PM



“ *The retired nurses from the Deconess of Billings would like to share their deepest sympathy. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.*

**June Goodale Noyes** - October 17, 2015 at 07:50 PM

KS

“ Karen Schock lit a candle in memory of Elsie Caroline Mutzenberger



Karen Schock - October 17, 2015 at 05:00 PM

LM

“ Leslie Mcheletto purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Elsie Caroline Mutzenberger.



Leslie Mcheletto - October 16, 2015 at 02:18 PM

MA

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your dear loved one. The Bible promises that death will be no more and you will see your loved one again in good health in Paradise found at Isaiah 25:8 and Luke 23:43.

Marquell - October 14, 2015 at 04:51 PM



Sorry to hear about loss of your loved ones. I enjoy doing her hair. We will miss her at sunshine beauty shoppe. God bless her

Clarice Barth - October 16, 2015 at 12:09 PM

SF

In 1972, Elsie hired me to be a surgical nurse at Deaconess Hospital. She was a great nurse, mentor, leader, and above all a wonderful person. We kept in touch when she volunteered at the gift shop and I have fond memories of her Cherry Dream Dessert. My deepest sympathy for your loss of Elsie.

Sandra Fladmo - October 19, 2015 at 10:12 PM