



Frank Vincent Datta

March 8, 1942 - October 7, 2021

Frank Vincent Datta, age 79, of Wibaux, MT, passed away on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at the Billings Clinic in Billings, Montana, surrounded by his loved ones. Visitation will be from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM with a Rosary service at 7:00 PM on Friday, October 15, 2021 at St. Peters Catholic Church in Wibaux. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at St. Peters Catholic Church in Wibaux. Rite of Committal will be in the Wibaux Cemetery. Silha Funeral Home of Wibaux has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Frank was born March 8, 1942 in Beach, ND to Phillip and Cecelia (Piesik) Datta. He was a 1960 graduate of Wibaux County High School. Frank began his newspaper career at a very early age, junior high to be exact. He gave up playing basketball to work at the newspaper as a print devil. It was very obvious that Frank, knew what path he should take in life, he clearly had a passion for the written word and photography. When he purchased the Wibaux Pioneer-Gazette, he did so for \$1. Frank spent most of his life, 65 years, committed to the community by keeping his people informed. The Wibaux Pioneer-Gazette has been published weekly since 1907. That record was very important to Frank. He served for 10 years on the Montana Newspaper Association, which he was president of in 1988. One of Frank's proudest moments was being awarded Master Editor Publisher award from his MNA peers in 1995.

The people of Wibaux were the real winners when it came to Frank. He loved

to protect his community, he served as a Disaster Emergency Service Coordinator for 32 years, County Coroner for 20 years, served on the volunteer fire department and the ambulance service, he was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church. We always knew when severe weather was on our horizon.

Frank married Lynda Utgaard on August 26, 1967 in Wibaux, MT. They moved half a block from where Frank grew up, this is where he resided until his passing. Unfortunately, after 28 years of marriage Lynda passed away on August 17, 1996. During their marriage, they enjoyed working together traveling to Longhorn sporting events and opening their hearts and home to many special family members along the way. Frank had a heart big enough for everyone and was always willing to share his craft with those around him. Countless nieces, nephews and other family remember helping Frank "put out the paper". Family was important to Frank; his heart and his home was open to many whether it was traveling together to sporting events, providing a safe home, or a place to spend your summer.

Even though Frank already had a very large extended family, he had room for more. In 2010, Mickey Unverzagt joined Frank's family. Mickey had a very special place in Frank's heart. He enjoyed spoiling her every chance he got. He loved traveling to Hardin, MT to her home. This was a place he felt at peace and a place where he felt he could rest. Frank also grew very close to Mickey's three children, grandchildren and Mickey's cat "Lady".

Frank loved all of his family so much, he could not wait to travel to all of their special life events, weddings, graduations, birthdays and holidays. It is like he had a bag constantly packed and ready to hit the road.

Frank was an avid sports fan and you could find him on the sidelines of every Longhorn home game played, camera in hand. He always had to get the next great shot for "the paper". Frank loved the Atlanta Braves and he even traveled by train to take in a game. He enjoyed his bowling league and always looked forward to Tuesday nights.

Frank was dedicated to his family and to the community of Wibaux and he will

be greatly missed.

Frank is survived by his sister, Mary (Marvin) Christianson of Shelby, MT; Special Friend, Micky Unverzagt, Hardin, MT; a large number of brother and sister-in-law's along with countless nieces and nephews.

Frank is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Lynda (Utgaard) Datta; his brother, Larry Datta and his sister, Rosemary (Datta) Tennant and nephew Michael Christianson.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Wibaux Cemetery

Wibaux, MT 59353

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

St. Peter's Catholic Church
313 1st Avenue Southwest
Wibaux, MT 59353

Rosary Service

OCT **15**. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

St. Peter's Catholic Church
313 1st Avenue Southwest
Wibaux, MT 59353

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Peter's Catholic Church
313 1st Avenue Southwest
Wibaux, MT 59353

Tribute Wall



“ *Frank Vincent Datta*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *My thoughts & prayers are with Frank and family & friends... I always enjoyed meeting Frank on the street or in the gazette. So nice to visit with and always interested in what I was doing and what was going on in his life. I have so much admiration to Frank, attend all the important events around Wibaux, taking pictures, and putting the paper together for print. Who ever follows Frank have some huge shoes to fill!!! He wil be so missed by so many of us... take care 🙏*

Carol Barthel - October 15, 2021 at 05:10 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Frank Vincent Datta.*



October 13, 2021 at 08:55 PM

SR

“ My thoughts are with the good people of Wibaux and to the army of Franks friends on the loss of this wonderful, irreplaceable man. I came to know him in the last decade and always loved to stop by the paper to share a visit when i passed through town. He always greeted me with a smile and would share memories of knowing my grandparents many years ago. He knew how much that meant to me. We were instant friends. I remember he would point to his head and say 'it's all up here', which is so true, he loved and cherished all he knew in Wibaux.

I am very very sad to learn of his passing. Surely he died knowing how loved and appreciated he was. My sympathies...

Sue Riley

Detroit Lakes, Mn

Sue Riley - October 12, 2021 at 10:15 PM

DO

“ Frank was an Icon in Wibaux. He has been a true friend of mine since I met him when I moved to Wibaux in 1973. I have met with him several times over the years after we moved away. I am having a tough time realizing that he is gone. I offer my thoughts and prayers to his family and the Wibaux community. You can never replace a person, who has meant so much to so many people.

Dave Oswald - October 12, 2021 at 05:44 PM

TF

“ Frank, Frank, Frank! So many memories of DES meetings and conferences, Skywarn talks and phone calls. I never tired of helping him with his technology issues on his cell phone and his laptop, and always loved coming to Wibaux to see him. He always had a smile for me, no matter where we were. I'm glad I got in one last text message back and forth with him while he was in the hospital in Glendive. His retirement party was on my calendar (and the card was ready to go), and it makes me sad that now we have his funeral instead. He was a wonderful man, and I hope he's reconnecting with old friends and loved ones in heaven.

Tanja Fransen - October 12, 2021 at 05:29 PM

RF

“ I remember Frank as a visitor to my brother's office. as head of the local paper in Wibaux. It's God's will when it's your time.

Richard Franks - October 12, 2021 at 02:14 PM



“ I remember sitting in the basement newspaper shop watching Frank print the WPG, one page at a time. I think it was called a letter press. Must have been around 1973 or so.

BillandTerrie Miller - October 12, 2021 at 11:24 AM

JH

“ Rest in Peace, Dear Frank. We have cherished you. May God bless your family and your friends.

Jan Huisman - October 12, 2021 at 09:32 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frank Vincent Datta.*



October 11, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ *I was the postmaster in Wibaux for 13 years. There wasn't a kinder more friendly man in all of Wibaux than Frank. Everyday he would come in and we would visit for a few minutes and try to solve the problems between the post office and his paper. We never accomplished our mission but sure tried. Wibaux has lost a great man. RIP Frank.*

Irene

Irene Trogden - October 10, 2021 at 08:33 PM



“ *We would like to express our condolences to you following Frank's death. Frank was one of the first people in Wibaux to welcome me when I first came to teach and coach, He was such a strong supporter of the town of Wibaux, the school in general and the athletic program in particular. I appreciated the fact that he always wrote something positive whether things went well or poorly. Unfortunately we will not be able to attend the funeral as we have another funeral at the same time here in Bismarck as well as another church activity. May you find peace in a life well lived.*
Don and Lynne Bigwood

Don and Lynne Bigwood - October 09, 2021 at 04:06 PM

DN

“ *My thoughts & prayers are with Frank’s family & friends. Our entire community is grieving with you.*

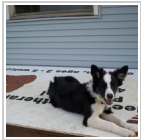
Diane Nelson - October 09, 2021 at 01:07 PM

DD

“ *Dan And Donna Dobson lit a candle in memory of Frank Vincent Datta*



Dan and Donna Dobson - October 09, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ *Phyllis Wandler lit a candle in memory of Frank Vincent Datta*



Phyllis Wandler - October 09, 2021 at 11:22 AM

SL

“ *Susan Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Frank Vincent Datta*



Susan Lawrence - October 09, 2021 at 10:16 AM

SD

“ You can lay your burden down now Frank and put your paper to bed finally. May you rest in peace.

Sharon Dietz - October 08, 2021 at 09:08 PM

CH

“ Carol Hanson lit a candle in memory of Frank Vincent Datta



Carol Hanson - October 08, 2021 at 05:18 PM