



## Margaret Basta

February 25, 1937 - September 23, 2023

Margaret Ann Basta, age 86, passed away on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at her daughter's home in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Visitation will be held from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at the Silha Funeral Home in Glendive. Funeral services will be at 10:00 am on Monday, October 2, 2023 at the Evangelical Church in Glendive with Celebrant Heidi Carney officiating. Interment will follow in the Dawson Memorial Cemetery in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Margaret was born February 25, 1937, in Richey, Montana. She was the second of three children born to Emmett and Sylvia (Murray) Mickelson. She was raised on a farm near Lambert. The family moved to a farm near Kalispell, Montana in 1946. After four years they moved back to the 'open Eastern Montana country' that her father loved and missed. She attended and graduated from Dawson County High School in 1954.

Margaret was given a rare and wonderful opportunity by her mother to travel the country visiting relatives for nearly a year after high school graduation. Her mother sewed her a new wardrobe for the trip. She traveled with her grandmother to visit family near Brush, Colorado. She next visited a great aunt and uncle in Denver, then on to Dove Creek, Colorado to visit her mother's brother. She then traveled by train to California where she met and visited with three more Mickelson great aunt's and her father's brother Maynard's family. She ended her trip in San Francisco with another brother of her mother's and his family.

She attended college at Missoula in the Fall of 1955, which she said was a truly great experience. Margaret married Dennis Basta (Denny) on November 18, 1956, in Glendive, MT and they moved to San Francisco where Denny was stationed with the Army Nike Missile Project near Fort Cronkhite. They lived in San Francisco for a year during which time Margaret worked at several grocery stores as a clerk.

After leaving San Francisco they moved back to Eastern Montana and farmed with Dennis' uncle Charlie in Savage, MT. While in Savage, Mike, Alan, and Shannon, the first three of their seven children were born. In August of 1961 Denny and Margaret moved to the family farm south of Lindsay where they then had four more children; Ray, Jean, Joel, and Cole. Margaret had high expectations for her children and was the fiercest of mother bears protecting them.

Margaret was a farm girl at heart. Her favorite part of farming was harvesting when she would spend all day out on the combine. We will always remember how good she said that beer (Olympia) tasted at the end of a day of combining to "cut the chaff". She was active in community clubs while in Lindsay. When the two youngest boys (the "little boys") started high school Margaret and Denny had a house in town where Margaret and the boys stayed during the week. In the late 1980's Margaret started the Book 'n' Bear Nook. A gift shop that she had for 25+ years and to this day folks still miss. Margaret was elected to the Dawson County High School Board (April 1983 – May 1998) and the MSBA Board of Directors beginning in 1984. Margaret was passionate about her responsibility to the students and the community she represented. In 1986 Margaret was the recipient of the "Marvin Heintz Award", the highest award the Montana School Boards Association confers upon school trustees. In 1989 Margaret was elected as the MSBA representative to the executive board of the Montana High School Association. She was also invited to be an honorary member of the Montana High School Association Board of Control and proudly carried her "Gold Card".

Margaret loved genealogy (a passion passed down from her mom). She said

her favorite trips were going to libraries and graveyards. She has created many, many albums of pictures and history for family and friends. She also had a love of weaving (another passion passed down from her mom). She loved making that special rug for family and friends.

Margaret was recently diagnosed with cancer. She was with family as she passed.

Margaret is survived by her seven children, Mike (D'Ann) Basta of Glendive, Montana; Alan (Liu) Basta of Austin, Texas; Shannon May of Glendive, Montana; Ray (Kris) Basta of Glendive, Montana; Jean Basta (Jim Temple) of Cheyenne, Wyoming and Glendive, Montana; Joel (Jamie) Basta of Glendive, Montana and Cole (Shelly) Basta of Michigan City, Indiana; her brother-in-law Dave (Fran) Basta; sisters-in-law Marie Basta, Mable Basta and Bonnie Basta; 19 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews; and cousins.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband Denny, her parents, her in-laws, two brothers Lewis and Fred, and brothers-in-law Don, Dan and Tom. Memorials are suggested to the Glendive Public Library. Remembrances and condolences can be shared with the family at: [www.silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.silhafuneralhomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Dawson Memorial Cemetery

2816 West Towne Street  
Glendive, MT 59330

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 1. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Glendive, Montana  
221 N. Meade Avenue  
P.O. Box 848  
Glendive, MT 59330  
(406) 377-2622  
silha@midrivers.com  
<https://www.silhafuneralhomes.com>

## Funeral Service

OCT 2. 10:00 AM (MT)

Evangelical Church of North America  
118 West Borden Street  
Glendive, MT 59330

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Margaret was a very special member of our community and gave so much of her time and talents prayers for her family

Betty Shearer - October 04, 2023 at 12:06 AM

KA

“ Margaret was an amazing woman. To this day I remember out on the farm, coming into her kitchen and seeing her and a couple of other women making pies for a community center picnic. It was an assembly line of more pies than I had ever seen being made at one time and she orchestrated it perfectly with her time, method and motion. Margaret was an incredibly intelligent woman and I remember her lamenting about never continuing her own college education and maybe doing something with it, subsequently committing to affording her children the opportunity to a higher education. May you rest in peace Margaret, I know your family will miss you dearly.

Kathy - September 30, 2023 at 11:37 AM

BN

“ Bryan KyAnn Norcutt lit a candle in memory of Margaret Basta



Bryan & KyAnn Norcutt - September 29, 2023 at 10:21 PM

NM

“ Nancy Mischel-Keller lit a candle in memory of Margaret Basta



Nancy Mischel-Keller - September 29, 2023 at 06:19 PM

LL

“ So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you all.  
Dave and LaRae (Jonas) Letzelter



LaRae Letzelter - September 29, 2023 at 05:49 PM

MB

“ Marie Barthel lit a candle in memory of Margaret Basta



Marie Barthel - September 29, 2023 at 03:07 PM

AB

“ Alice Bachmeier lit a candle in memory of Margaret Basta



Alice Bachmeier - September 29, 2023 at 01:27 PM

TB

“ I spent a couple of summers staying at the Basta farm. Margaret made me feel right at home and welcomed. I will miss her visiting Polson from time to time. Rest in peace.

Tim Basta - September 29, 2023 at 01:15 PM



“ 88 files added to the album Life Tributes



Silha Funeral Home - September 29, 2023 at 01:04 PM

BS

“ Bob Kristie Stanhope lit a candle in memory of Margaret Basta



Bob & Kristie Stanhope - September 29, 2023 at 11:10 AM

BK

“ Brooke Kragt lit a candle in memory of Margaret Basta



Brooke Kragt - September 29, 2023 at 09:09 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Basta.



September 29, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Margaret Basta.



September 28, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Margaret Basta.



September 28, 2023 at 05:30 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Margaret Basta.*



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September 28, 2023 at 02:27 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss ,Margaret was a very dear friend will miss her and our little trips we would take with her cousin from CO.*

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**Mabel Jonson Billings MT** - September 28, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *Grace Koffler lit a candle in memory of Margaret Basta*



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**Grace Koffler** - September 28, 2023 at 09:09 AM



“ *Sending love and prayers to all of you.. Your mom was a sweet lady.  
Lynn and Gary 🙏🙏*



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**lynn ingraham** - September 27, 2023 at 11:48 PM

CW

“ I am so sorry for your loss.



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**Carol Wolff** - September 27, 2023 at 10:22 PM

JB

“ Farewell to Margaret, she is back home again with the lord. Glad I had the chance to visit with her in Cheyenne, she was fun to talk with. James Basta

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**Jim basta** - September 27, 2023 at 11:20 AM

DB

“ And so, with sadness, we bid farewell to Margaret, the matriarch of the Basta family.

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**Dave Basta** - September 26, 2023 at 10:39 PM

CB

“ I have such fond memories of your mom. Such a sweet caring lady she was. Her smile and big heart are what I remember the most. RIP sweet Margaret. Hugs and prayers to all of you that she has left behind and who she loved very much.

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**Cindi Byron** - September 26, 2023 at 07:50 PM

CB

“ I have such fond memories of your mom. Such a sweet caring lady. Her smile and big heart are what I remember the most. RIP sweet Margaret. Hugs and prayers to all of you that she has left behind

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**Cindi Byron** - September 26, 2023 at 07:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Margaret Basta.*



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September 26, 2023 at 04:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Margaret Basta.

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September 26, 2023 at 04:31 PM



“ *To each of you, we send friendship love and hugs!! The memories our family's shared together always brings laughter and smiles as I reminisce through all the years we have shared.. I'm so glad Our parents were best friends! And we were to! Every time I think of your Mom, I think of the tears she had when she laughed, and the heavy foot she had when she drove, the funny stories of our parents and the card parties to!! Those memories will forever bring smiles and laughter in our hearts! Love you guys*

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**Jacky and Mike** - September 26, 2023 at 02:31 PM



“ *My prayers and condolences for you and your family. Your Mom was one if my favorite people. Always enjoyed her sense of humor and to the point.*

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**Jan Kruger** - September 25, 2023 at 01:15 PM

JA

“ *Sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers with your family.*

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**Jamie** - September 24, 2023 at 10:54 PM

CP

“ *So sorry to hear of Margaret's passing. Condolences to everyone. Cherish all the many fond memories.*

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**CHERISE PATTERSON** - September 24, 2023 at 10:39 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Margaret Basta.*

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September 24, 2023 at 09:39 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Margaret Basta.*



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September 24, 2023 at 09:39 PM

MA

“ *Marilyn lit a candle in memory of Margaret Basta*



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**Marilyn** - September 24, 2023 at 07:07 PM

MA

“ *My deepest sympathy for the loss of your mother. I will hold the memories we shared together so close to my heart.*  
*Marilyn Basta*

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**Marilyn** - September 24, 2023 at 07:05 PM

FB

*Rest in peace, Margaret. We'll all miss you.*  
*Fran Basta*

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**Fran Basta** - September 29, 2023 at 09:16 PM