



Betty Marie Whalen

October 20, 1940 - November 23, 2017

Betty Marie Whalen died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 77 on Thursday, November 23, 2017. She was born a proud Dane in Dillon on October 20, 1940, the middle daughter of Holger and Marie Carlson.

Growing up on a ranch, Betty's parents instilled in her the value of hard work and prudent money management, skills which would serve her and her family well in business and ranching partnerships with her future husband, Emmette "Tike" Whalen. As a child, Betty spent countless hours working on the ranch and riding horses. After graduating from Beaverhead County High School in 1958, Betty obtained her nursing degree from St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula.

Betty met Tike, her partner of nearly 50 years, in her hometown of Dillon. They were married on September 9, 1961. Betty worked as a nurse until she and Tike started a family and tire business shortly after their marriage. Betty was an integral part of the family business. While Tike promoted the business and ran day-to-day operations, Betty managed the company books and cared for her young family on only \$75 a month, a family budget she and Tike had agreed was necessary to grow the family business. Betty found her greatest happiness working with Tike for nearly 40 years on the Butte ranch, a ranch she and Tike purchased from Tike's family in the early 1970s. She continued ranching after Tike's death with her son, Tom.

Betty was known for her quick, dry wit and her knack for striking up conversations with complete strangers. She often said, "Strangers are just

friends you haven't met yet." She was a woman of many words, none of which were laced with even a hint of profanity. She had many dear and life-long friends whom she greatly cherished.

While helping run the family ranch and business and raising children kept her busy, Betty found time to teach Lamaze, volunteer at 4-H and speech and debate events, and support local charities. She was an avid traveler and enjoyed taking each of her grandchildren on their own special trip. She never missed an important family event. Regardless of time, weather or location, her grandchildren could count on her to attend their graduations, weddings and other special events.

After an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family, Betty joined Tike in death on what would have been Tike's 82nd birthday. Betty is survived by her four children, which include her son, Tom Whalen of Butte, and Tom's children Ty, Whitnee (Lanse) and Shandelle; her daughter, Terri Nash and her husband, Mike of Dickinson, and their children, Paige (Jake), Scott, Tracy and Sean; her daughter, Tracy Barton and her husband, Mike of Spokane, and their children Tanya and Tasha (Andrew); and her daughter, Tamara Murock and her husband, Scott of Spokane, and their children, Miranda and Clayton. Betty is also survived by her great-grandson, Tyson; her sister, Patty Cookson and her husband, Jack; and her aunt, Margaret French. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and her sister, Barb Kimball.

Betty's family would like to give special thanks to Betty's life-long friends, Delores Heser and AvaLee Thomas, and to the many other friends and family who meant so much to her, including her sister and brother-in-law, Patty and Jack, and her sister-in-law, Judy Whalen.

A luncheon in Betty's honor will be held at the Copper King Inn following services and interment. Memorials in Betty's memory may be made to the 15-90 Search & Rescue, or the Butte Center for Performing Arts, Inc., The Mother Lode Theatre.

Cemetery Details

Mount Moriah Cemetery

2415 S. Montana Street
Butte, MT 59701

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 1. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
corner of Utah & E. 2nd St
Butte, MT 59701

Service

DEC 1. 10:00 AM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
corner of Utah & E. 2nd St
Butte, MT 59701

Tribute Wall

GG

“ The last time I was with Betty, she organized a reunion of our high school class (1958) at the Lyon's Den in Dillon. It was our 55 reunion. She organized it without help. She stated we said we would get together in 5 years after our 50th. Betty made sure we did. I will always remember her for diving in and getting the job done. I married Don Gransbery, who worked on Betty's folk's place when he was young-mostly haying. Gayle and Don

Gayle Gransbery - November 30, 2017 at 02:51 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Betty Marie Whalen.



November 30, 2017 at 11:40 AM

JB

“ John B Bunting purchased the Graceful Wreath for the family of Betty Marie Whalen.



John B Bunting - November 29, 2017 at 03:35 PM

IW

“ My friendship with Betty was not an every day thing, but it was an always thing. We became friends when she came to "town school" from the country school she had attended since first grade. It was 8th grade and she was getting ready for high school. I already knew her from the canivals that the Rebeka Group held every year. I liked her the moment I met her. Who wouldn't? I spent several fun filled times staying with her at the ranch. I loved her mother and Dad. After high school we drifted away on different paths but she would come back into my life on many occasions and I was always so happy to see her. When I moved to Portland in 1990, I was totally alone there...didn't know anyone. She flew out so I wouldn't have to spend my birthday alone. The last time I saw her was a year ago when she came here to help me celebrate my birthday. It was a wonderful day. I was hoping she would do it again this year. We exchanged cards, phone calls, texts and personal visits. She was a special lady and I am going to miss hearing her voice on the other end of the call. I was proud of her and Tike. They worked so very hard but they can truly say they did it "their way". Goodbye my friend. I hope it's true that I will see you again. May God value you as much as I always did.

Irene (Davis) Wolfe
Nampa, Idaho

Irene Wolfe - November 29, 2017 at 03:23 AM

CB

“ Charlene & Brandi, Bob, Ginger & Tammi Berryman purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Betty Marie Whalen.



Charlene & Brandi, Bob, Ginger & Tammi Berryman -
November 28, 2017 at 09:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Marie Whalen.*



November 28, 2017 at 01:01 PM



“ *My condolences on the loss of your Mom. May your memories keep her forever in your heart.*

*Sincerely,
Gino Dunfee*

Gino Dunfee - November 28, 2017 at 11:28 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Betty Marie Whalen.*



November 27, 2017 at 09:40 PM



“ *Tommy, Terri, Tracy and Tammy, I am so sorry to hear about your wonderful Mom passing. I loved and admired her very much. Please know my prayers and thoughts are with all of you and your families. Much love, Joan DesRosier DeYoung*

Joan DesRosier DeYoung - November 27, 2017 at 09:25 PM