



Elizabeth "Liz" Baxter

February 24, 1941 - April 30, 2020

The world lost one of its warmest, most giving souls on Thursday, April 30, 2020, with the passing of Elizabeth Lee (Harwager) Baxter, age 79, in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Liz was the first child and only daughter born to parents Earl Elmer Harwager and Helen Genevra (Hale) Harwager on February 24, 1941 in Delta, Colorado. They moved to Nebraska shortly after, where the family grew with the addition of three sons. She attended school in Grand Island, graduating from G.I. Senior High School in 1959. She never missed a Senior High reunion, always anxious to catch up with friends.

Elizabeth married Thomas S. Baxter on November 6, 1959, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Grand Island. The couple built their home west of town, near the cattle and farming business Tom was working with his father. In the early 1970s, they built a house one mile north, eventually adding a winter home in Rancho Santa Fe, California. Liz and Tom truly adored each other, and were one another's best friend and confidante.

Christ, family, and friends were the cornerstones of Liz's life, as demonstrated through her actions. She was a faithful, active member of St. Stephen's, where she served on numerous boards and committees. During her years as a member of the P.E.O. sisterhood, Chapter CK, she served in several

capacities, including President. As a sixth-generation descendant of Revolutionary War patriot, Edward G. Hale, Liz was recently accepted as a member of the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution). Among other pleasures were Book Club, Bridge Club, AOK Ladies, needlepoint, reading, and participation in community fundraisers. Travel held a special place in her heart, including childhood dreams of walking the avenues of Paris and Italy, which she accomplished as an adult.

Never one to blow her own horn, Liz reveled in celebrating the joys of others. “Once a friend, always a friend” summed up countless relationships beyond family; those deep-rooted connections reached far and wide, covering both time and distance. A glass of wine on the patio with friends meant more than an elaborate dinner or adventurous outing.

Among her most treasured moments were those spent with family. She brought a quiet elegance to the process of raising three children with Tom. Her love of classical music, art, and travel were gently infused into all their lives; one of her favorite delights was hearing the children play piano simultaneously—one in the living room, one in the basement—knowing her passion for music was shared. Whether a high school musical, 4-H meeting, calf sale, or softball game, Liz was always present. Her children feel her absence profoundly, aware they were blessed with one of the most loving, engaged mothers on earth.

Grandchildren were always met with quick smiles and huge hugs. Ice cream before dinner? Sure. Long talks and special secrets? Of course. Grandma was the “go to” person for that, and much more. As young adults, their accomplishments—large and small—brought her extraordinary pride. In October, she and Tom watched the first of their five grandchildren marry.

Above all, Tom was the center of her universe, and the love of her life. She

happily shared stories of how they met and dated, all the while, Tom knowing she was “the one” before convincing her of the same. From that moment forward, they were two people, with one unified heart. They embraced life with enthusiasm, from romantic trips through California wine country to long drives on Sunday afternoons. A hand squeeze and quick kiss were frequent; their trust and partnership were inspirational to all.

Preceding Elizabeth in death were parents Earl and Helen, and brothers Richard Harwager and Douglas Harwager. Left to mourn her loss are husband, Tom; daughter Cinda Baxter of Minneapolis, MN; daughter and son-in-law, Gian Baxter-Collins (Michael) of Grand Island; son and daughter-in-law Greg Baxter (Adriene) also of Grand Island; and brother Lynn Harwager of Katy, TX. Grandchildren include Miranda Baxter of Washington, D.C.; Alec Baxter (wife, Emmaline) of Lincoln; Taylor Roberts of Grand Island; Kelsey Roberts of Lincoln; and Madison Roberts of Grand Island; step-granddaughters are Ashley Collins of Grand Island, and Shayla Collins of Cairo.

Public visitation will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday at All Faith’s Funeral Home in Grand Island, without the family present. If friends would like their names entered into the guest book, please contact the funeral home during business hours.

A private family service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, May 7; it will be live streamed on All Faiths Funeral Home–Grand Island’s Facebook page (found here: bit.ly/lizmemorial).

Private burial will follow in the Grand Island Cemetery. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date, when friends and family can safely come together to share warm memories, laughter, love, and fellowship.

Funeral Service may be viewed at

<https://www.facebook.com/All-Faiths-Funeral-Home-782773488502978/>

Cemetery Details

Grand Island City Cemetery

Grand Island, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 6. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Private Family Service

MAY 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ Elizabeth "Liz" Baxter

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ Greg, so sorry to see your mom passed, especially during this time when it is so hard for others to share their sympathy. What a beautiful obituary though. My prayers are with you and your family!
Bobbie (Schwieger) Feldhaus

Bobbie Feldhaus - May 19, 2020 at 09:45 AM



“ Funeral Service Link Below:

<https://www.facebook.com/All-Faiths-Funeral-Home-782773488502978/>

Kaytlyn Henson - May 07, 2020 at 12:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Liz" Baxter.



May 06, 2020 at 06:19 PM

PS

“ We send our deepest sympathy and our love to the family of Liz Baxter. Liz was a gracious woman who wore a beautiful smile, spoke kind words, and who cared deeply about her community. We will miss her. Pam and Marc Snow, Marcus and John Snow and families.

Pamela Hilton Snow - May 06, 2020 at 10:47 AM

MW

“ My deepest sympathy for the loss of a beloved and revered wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to so many. Liz was a most admired woman as she was next to perfect in so many ways. "You can't be a beacon if your light don't shine" was an understatement of Liz. Her beacon shone brightly upon everyone's life that she passed through. Families are forever and she will be brightly and patiently waiting for the time when all can be together again.

Michalynn Warner - May 06, 2020 at 02:10 AM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Liz" Baxter.



May 05, 2020 at 09:28 AM

PH

“ We were so blessed when Gian joined our family when she married our nephew Mike. Little did we know how lucky we would be to be invited into hers. What a wonderful family they are. Liz was an amazing person and always made us feel truly loved and welcome. Deryl and I feel truly blessed to have been able to call her our friend.

Deryl and Pati Hilligas

Pati Hilligas - May 04, 2020 at 07:46 PM

DM

For Tom, Cindy, Gian, Greg and their families; also for Lynn - our love and prayers are with you today and always. Liz will be forever in our hearts.

Dee and Mike Mozzochi

Dee Mozzochi - May 07, 2020 at 12:54 PM