



Margaret Grotberg

February 16, 1926 - January 26, 2015

Margaret E. Grotberg died at Sanford Health in Fargo, ND on January 26, 2015. She was born Margaret Elizabeth Thiel on February 16, 1926 in Valley City, ND to William and Elizabeth (Uloth) Thiel. She was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church, Valley City.

Most of her life was spent living in Valley City. She did however spend a year in Seattle, WA during WWII. While living there she went to high school. She worked at Sears Roebuck. Saturday nights were spent at the Palatium Ballroom dancing to the "big bands" with friends. Margaret loved to dance. In 1944, she graduated from College High School in Valley City. On November 23, 1945, she married Perry Grotberg at Trinity Lutheran Church. Following their marriage, they moved to Boulder City, NV, where Perry had a job with the Bureau of Reclamation on Boulder Dam and Margaret worked at Stauffer Chemical Plant. In the spring of 1947, they moved back to Valley City and have lived there since.

Over the years, Margaret was an active and involved member of Trinity Lutheran Church and sang in the choir for 50 years. Perry and she were instrumental in developing the local and state ARCs (Association for Retarded Children). They helped start the ARC Thrift Store and develop the Open Door Center in Valley City. Margaret and two other parents began the Camping Program for the mentally retarded and she was active in that for over 60 years. She was instrumental in getting a mill levy passed to fund special education in Barnes County schools and served on that board for 8 years. The

Grotbergs, along with other parents, worked with legislators to pass laws to include the education of the handicapped in the public schools in North Dakota.

Margaret is survived by her husband, Perry of Valley City; daughters, Amy (Bruce) Anderson and Carol Grotberg both of Valley City and Donna (Don) Gutierrez of Chagrin Falls, OH; grandchildren, Tracey (Chad) Zaun, Jason and Aaron Anderson all of Valley City and Alyssa and Grace Gutierrez of Ohio; 6 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and three sisters, Ardelle (Leonard) Meyer, Harriet (Thoralf) Pederson and Frances (LeRoy) Bauer. The funeral service for Margaret Grotberg, 88, Valley City, ND will be held at 2:00 PM, Friday, January 30, 2015 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Valley City. Burial will be later in the spring at Memory Gardens near Valley City.

Visitation will be held at the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City on Thursday from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM and will continue an hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Funeral arrangements for Margaret have been entrusted to Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel. Please visit www.oliver-nathanchapel.com to sign the online guestbook and leave a message for the family.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
499 - 4th Ave. NW
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *My condolences to the Grotberg family. We may find that our hearts are weighted down when we lose a loved one. May it help you and your family to know that Ecclesiastes 9:11 say: Because unexpected events overtake them all. Yet because of God's love for us he will bring our loved ones back to life and health in the near future. I hope this bring you some comfort in your time of need.*

mary miller - February 06, 2015 at 09:21 PM

TG

“ *Dear Family*

You have my sympathy on the passing of Margaret. She was a nice person and very civic minded.

Tom Goven

Tom Goven - January 29, 2015 at 04:10 PM

BB

“ *I will miss Aunt Butch deeply, she was a very special lady. She was my Mother's (Ardelle) youngest sister and my last living Aunt. I have many fond memories of her, she was always so caring and showed an interest in what I was doing. It's because of the work her & Perry did for the developmentally disabled that I became interested in the career I chose. I always enjoyed staying at their house with my 3 younger cousins when her and Perry would be out of town overnight. I will cherish all the memories I have of her. My sincere sympathy goes to Perry, Carol, Amy & Donna and their families.*

Barbara (Pottorff) Bosanco

Barbara Bosanco - January 29, 2015 at 03:41 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Margaret Grotberg.*



January 29, 2015 at 11:20 AM



“ *Perry,
I am so sorry to have read of your partner's passing. I remember both of you as being very gracious and supportive community members. Many good times at Valley City Town and Country Club, especially at special dinners and events. She will be missed by all who knew her, she was very special.
Jim Hochhalter*

Jim Hochhalter - January 29, 2015 at 10:53 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to Uncle Perry and Cousins Amy, Donna, and Carol. My memories of Aunt Margeret, “Butch”, are very clear and very warm. She was able to read people into their souls, and then provide personally tailored nourishment and challenges for them to take the next step forward in their lives. Her gift of insight, love, and the ability to touch someone's future she shared with everyone, from her devoted family to the community at large. All people were both special and equal to her. The breadth of her impact on God's children, from the most vulnerable to the most accomplished, is truly an inspirational legacy. This is such a profound loss, comforted in part by the enduring fruits of her many labors of love. Blessings to all.
Jim, Karen, John, and Anna Grotberg*

Jim Grotberg - January 29, 2015 at 10:11 AM

DJ

“ Our deepest sympathy to the whole Grotberg family. The love of a mother and grandmother is precious, the memory of that love a treasure. May God bless you all in this time of sadness. Dale & Cindy Johnson.

Dale & Cindy Johnson - January 28, 2015 at 08:55 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Margaret Grotberg.



January 28, 2015 at 11:09 AM

JW

“ Rest in Peace, Aunt Butch. You made all of the family reunions so much fun for us younger kids (and, as I recall, the older ones, too!) Valley City won't be the same without you. Lots of love to all of the Andersons and Grotbergs and Guttierrezes.
Joe Weinberg (John Grotberg's Grandson)

joe weinberg - January 28, 2015 at 10:32 AM

LS

“ Margaret and Perry were pillars of Trinity Lutheran. I would like to express my sympathies to the whole family. God be with you all.
LuAnn Holden Siekas

LuAnn Holden Siekas - January 27, 2015 at 09:48 PM

GP

“ A little more than one year following the passing of my Mom, I wish to express my sincere and heartfelt condolences to Perry, Donna, Carol and Amy, and the entire Grotberg family. Margaret was such a force - passionately promoting important causes - and she was always so kind to me. Rest in peace, dear Margaret, and thank you for all the good you achieved while on this earth.

Glenn Pomeroy - January 27, 2015 at 07:39 PM

JH

“ My fondest memory of Aunt "Butch" was driving all over the countryside tracking down family history. She took me everywhere, we found the old family church out in the country which had been relocated to a farm and if memory serves me right it had hay stored in it. She took me out to the one room school house my dad had attended, family cemetery and more. We toured the town. I loved her photography as well and got copies of sunflower pictures from her. I had hoped to get out and visit again soon. Carol and I share a birthday, July 21st. I am so sorry for your loss, I know the pain it causes. Jode Hanson (Don Pottorff's daughter)



Jode Hanson - January 27, 2015 at 03:47 PM

JH

This obituary is a wonderful tribute to her.

Jode Hanson - January 27, 2015 at 03:48 PM

EP

I feel so fortunate to have been Margaret's friend back to my days as a high school volunteer for ARC. Margaret and Perry have meant so much to so many, certainly including me. I will never forget the laughs we shared on the campaign trail 35 years ago and ever since. She was a truly remarkable person who always focused on helping others.

Earl Pomeroy - January 27, 2015 at 04:27 PM

JO

Margaret was the most thoughtful and helpful person I knew. She and Perry worked so much for the ARC of North Dakota.

Jody(Bitz)Birlik - January 27, 2015 at 05:37 PM

JP

Aunt "Butch" was my mothers sister. I remember her as a very classy lady, always happy and friendly. In my teenage days (50+ yrs ago) She and Perry would have me do odd jobs for them. I remember painting old wood buildings north of VC one summer. Butch would always bring me lunch at noon and check to see how I was doing.

Jack Pottorff - January 27, 2015 at 06:27 PM

DM

I am the son (Darryll) of Harriet Pederson who was Margaret's sister. From something like 7th grade on I worked for Perry and Margaret on their farm and later in their electrical firm. Many of these summers I lived with them. I learned much during these times and have many memories. One time when it was too wet to harvest Margaret had me bring in one of the grain trucks and park it in their yard so I could paint the box rather than have a day off. She was always a wonderful cook and one summer I gained over 15 pounds and grew a number of inches in height. My mother thought I ate too much that summer, but I was very slim and the weight went on well. While harvesting Margaret would bring a noon lunch out to the field. One summer when Perry rented another combine, he drove one, I drove the second one, and Jack Pottorff drove the two grain trucks. Because it was a bumper crop we kept the combines going all day. Margaret would hop on the combine as we drove past and give us our lunch. She would even take the steering wheel for a few minutes while we organized our lunch on the combine. The memory that really portrays Margaret was at the retarded children's camp she set up. Margaret arranged for their boat to be brought to the camp on Bald Hill Creek, a tributary to Lake Ashtabula. Margaret "arranged, volunteered me" to be the camp program director. One day the boat motor was acting up so Margaret and I were trying to find out why. The boat was pulled partially out of the water and I was leaning way over the back of the boat to check some connections. She decided to also get in on the connection check. She lost her balance and took both of us into the water. Margaret was a doer and had a heart of gold. She contributed much to everyone and will be greatly missed.

Darryll Pederson, Nephew of Margaret - January 28, 2015 at 11:06 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Margaret Grotberg.*



January 27, 2015 at 03:09 PM



“ *Margaret's tireless work on behalf of North Dakota's developmentally disabled sets a very high bar for the meaning of community service. My family personally experienced her unwavering support for the mission of the ARC ,especially in times when many services did not exist for the developmentally disabled population in North Dakota. Margaret always stepped up to support, defend and inform the efforts toward educational services, recreational services, family support, legislation , funding, and community involvement for the developmentally disabled. She spoke for many who could not speak for themselves. Thank you to her family for supporting her sharing of time and talent with all of us who benefited from her life of service.*

Nancy Lindsey - January 27, 2015 at 08:43 AM