

Barbara Jean Hansen was born on March 22, 1945 to Alvin and Jeannette (Ahrendt) Kasten in Sioux Falls, SD. Barb grew up in the Monroe, SD area and attended country school through 8th grade. On February 24, 1964, she married Kenneth Hansen, Sr. Together, they built a home near Franklin, SD where they raised their six children. Barbara also embraced her role as a step-mother to nine children, offering them love, guidance, and a nurturing heart, especially to the younger step-children. Her step-children include Claretta Cunningham, Bonnie Hooten, Robert Hansen, Kenny (Earline) Hansen, Joe Hansen, Bill (Lori) Hansen, Tony (Debi) Hansen, Jeanie Edwards, and Viola (Bill) Anderson.



Barb was known for her unwavering work ethic. After having children, she took her first job at the nursing home in Chester. She later worked at Westbrook Apartments for 22 years, contributed to the Madison Daily Leader, and cleaned houses part-time. No matter what she did, she gave it her all.

More than anything, Barbara will be remembered for her infectious laughter, quick wit, and warm heart. She had a way of delivering the perfect one-liner at just the right moment, keeping those around her smiling. She enjoyed a warm beer, a good chat, and her favorite video lottery machines, never missing a chance for a little fun.

Barbara had an incredible memory, never forgetting a birthday, a phone number, or an important occasion. She made everyone feel special, always taking time to celebrate and cherish the ones she loved.

On March 13, 2025, Barbara passed away at Bethel Lutheran Home in Madison, SD at the age of 79. She leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unforgettable moments.

She will be deeply missed but never forgotten. Survivors include her children and grandchildren: Kim (Lisa) Hansen, Chester, SD, and children, Wyatt Hansen, Clay Hansen, Garret Hansen, and Valerie Hansen; Skeeter (Angela) Hansen, Madison, SD, and children, Ian Alverson, Brandon Hansen, Brittney Swanson, and Haley Wilson; Betty (Rick) Rook, Madison, SD, and children, Ryan Rook and Raine Rook; Linnette Oolman, Sioux Falls, SD, and children, Natasha Hansen, Ellie Oolman, Ethan Oolman, and Rachel Oolman; Rhonda Wellman, Watertown, SD, and children, Meranda Reis, Dustin Wellman, Darin Wellman, Megan Converse, and Clay Wellman; and John (Marlena) Hansen, and children, Sophia Hansen, Kenslee Hansen, Paxton Hansen, Evan Hansen, Piper Nielsen, Peyton Nielsen; sister, Bonnie (Bill) Banks, and brothers, Larry (Teri) Kasten and Pat (Patsy) Weegar.

She was preceded in death by her parents; step-dad Keith Weegar; husband, Kenneth Hansen, Sr.; siblings, Dick Kasten, Joel Kasten, and Mike Weegar; step-children: Claretta Cunningham, Bonnie Hooten, Joe Hansen, Robert Hansen, and Jeanie Edwards; and grandchildren: Milo Hansen, Joel Hansen, Chris Hansen, and Mari Anderson.

In Memory Of **Barbara J. Hansen**

March 22, 1945 † March 13, 2025

Mass of Christian Burial

10:30 AM

Friday, March 21, 2025

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

Madison, South Dakota

Rev. Anthony Urban, Celebrant

Brenda Hanley, Organist

Aisha Talley, Cantor

Music

“Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him”

“Be Not Afraid”

“On Eagles Wings”

“Sing With All the Saints in Glory”

Honorary Pallbearers

Barb’s Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

Pallbearers

Wyatt Hansen

Ryan Rook

Dustin Wellman

Haley Wilson

Ellie “Ellie Mae” Oolman

Jeremy Barrick

Interment

Franklin Cemetery
Chester, South Dakota



One of Barb's favorite songs was *Whispering Pines* by Johnny Horton. The whispering pines symbolize a kind of quiet presence, comfort, and guidance — the idea that love and connection don't fade, but Barb's spirit will forever linger softly in the background, like the rustling of the wind through the trees.

*Whispering pines, whispering pines
Tell me, is it so?
Whispering pines, whispering pines
You're the one who knows
My darling is gone, oh she's gone
And I need your sympathy
Whispering pines, send my baby back to me*

The family of Barb Hansen thanks you for your presence and support. They invite you to refreshments and fellowship in the church school following the funeral mass.



A Life Remembered
Barbara J. Hansen
March 22, 1945 † March 13, 2025