



Waita Karcher

November 5, 1955 - October 28, 2013

Waita Karcher, daughter of Hez and Ormagene (Barbee) Salsbury, was born November 5, 1955 in Pueblo, Colorado. She passed away Monday, October 28, 2013 in the Lake Regional Hospital of Osage Beach, Missouri after a long and brave battle against cancer.

Waita grew up in Pueblo and graduated from South High School in 1974. Shortly after graduation, she began attending the University of Southern Colorado. While a student at Southern Colorado, Waita met the love of her life during a shooting rifle competition. His name was Donald John Karcher, an infantry officer in the United States Army. They were married on May 15, 1976 in Fort Carson and enjoyed their honeymoon in Ft. Benning, Georgia where Don was serving. They were blessed with two children: John and Robyn.

Waita, Don and their family moved several times with the military. They were stationed at Ft. Dix, Ft. Carson, Ft. Benning, Netherlands and Germany before being transferred to Fort Leonard Wood in 1992 where they decided to stay after Don's retirement from the military.

Waita was a hardworking woman. While stationed at Ft. Dix, she was the thrift store manager, a sewing machine representative for Pfaff Sewing Machine in the Netherlands, the Chief of Girl Scout Volunteers in Europe and then was employed by the University of Missouri.

Waita's 20 year career with the University of Missouri Extension as a 4H Youth Program Assistant touched many youth and volunteers in the community. Waita earned many accolades including the Army Generals Coin for her work with military families and 4H YPA of the year for her contributions to 4H. Waita presented programs at several National Conferences for the 4H Army Program and the 4H Camping Program. She loved 4H camping, working with the camp counselors, singing songs with the campers and ooey gooey science programs. Most of all she loved the kids she worked with and always created positive youth development experiences so that they could learn life skills to help them succeed in the real world. Waita created 4-H days at Fort Leonard Wood that educates military kids about FLW youth services and 4H programs. This annual program has been going strong for over 10 years touching over 2500 military kids with educational hands-on programs.

In her spare time, Waita enjoyed shooting, cooking and volunteering. Even when her health began to decline, she still did as much as she could to help with the different organizations that she was involved in. Most importantly, she loved her family and cherished all those times they spent together.

Waita was a wonderful wife, mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend. She will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved her. She leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Donald Karcher of the home; parents: Hez and Ormagene Salsbury of Pueblo, CO; two children: John Karcher and wife Simone and Robyn Batross and husband Chris; one sister: Crystal Aurand; one brother: Hezzie Salsbury; three grandchildren: Sebastian and Ariana Conrad and Isaac Batross; two aunts: Sandy Koehn and Rita Barbee; one uncle: John Koehn; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, November 1, 2013 in the Memorial

Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert with family friend Pete Scheffer officiating. The songs "Brown Eyed Girl", "Laura's Theme", "I Dreamed a Dream" and "You Haven't Seen the Last of Me" were played. Serving as escorts were John Karcher, Hez Salsbury, Sr., Hez Salsbury, Jr., Joe Aurand, Alex Aurand and Hank Aurand. Serving as honorary escorts were Phillip Stone, Blake Allen, Doug Renno and Chris Batross. Burial followed in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery – Fort Leonard Wood.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO 65583

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert
202 Historic 66 W.
Waynesville, MO 65583
(573) 774-6111
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

Service

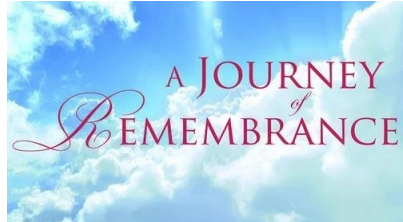
NOV 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert
202 Historic 66 W.
Waynesville, MO 65583
(573) 774-6111
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Waita Karcher*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - October 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



Vaclava
Zajickova

“ *I will never forget her laugh, her positive attitude and friendship! I miss you much Waita!!*
Wendy

Vaclava Zajickova - November 05, 2013 at 10:47 AM

CH

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Waita a few times but remember every time and how she impressed me with her kindness and compassion for everyone . Truly there is another angel in heaven now .Although distant I will miss her as family RIP and thank-you for being a part of my family's life*

Chris Hammer

Chris - November 01, 2013 at 02:07 PM

JK

“ *My mother was wonderful, as proven by all of the amazing people that cared about her. She would want to thank everyone for all their support*

John Karcher - November 01, 2013 at 08:56 AM

SD

“ *Sandy Dorsey-Sternberger lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



Sandy Dorsey-Sternberger - November 01, 2013 at 02:27 AM

JH

“ *I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Waita in the extension office for four years. I would just like to say Waita was a beautiful person. I learned so much from her doing programs with the kids, she was so passionate about it. She will truly be missed--*
Joyce Harris.



Joyce Harris - October 31, 2013 at 04:25 PM

TB

“ *I was blessed to work with Waita through MU Extension and 4H. She spent many wonderful years working with so many youth, helping others. She will be missed. I was blessed to know Ms. Waita. May God bless and comfort her family.*

Teresa Bell - October 31, 2013 at 03:23 PM

DS

“ Don And Sondra Storrer lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher



Don and Sondra Storrer - October 31, 2013 at 10:50 AM

DS

“ Don and I met Waita through her parents, our friends Hez and OrmaJean. They raised her and all her siblings to be thoughtful, and caring. Waita fought the battle of her disease longer than anyone I have ever known with that dreadful disease. Our hearts are breaking for all of you and pray that time will heal and bring forth wonderful memories that you all have of each other as evidenced by the pictures we have looked through. Don and Sondra Storrer, El Dorado, Ks

Don and Sondra Storrer - October 31, 2013 at 10:49 AM

RM

“ I have had such a blessing in my life from knowing Waita. I met her while working for mu Extension, and my fellow FNPs and myself had a chance to team up (4-H & FNP) to do some programming with some of the Pulaski County youth--we always had such a good time programming together. Waita was such a wonderful lady--and fought so hard against cancer. Again--such a blessing to have known her these past seven plus years. She will be so missed--my prayers and thoughts are with her family. Becky--Laclede County, MO

Rebecca Morgan - October 30, 2013 at 03:23 PM

SJ

“ *SARA JONES sent a virtual gift in memory of
Waita Karcher*



SARA JONES - October 30, 2013 at 03:11 PM

“My niece/sister Waita was the most inspiring and courageous woman I have ever known. She fought the battle and won for longer than I ever could have.

We fought like sisters but loved each other fiercely. Being an Auntie to someone only 6 years younger than you is hard – you are more like sisters than Aunt and Niece.

When we were really young I remember a time when I was enough older than her that I did not want her to come into my room. Either my mom or her mom put chairs in front of the door for a barricade so that the door would be open. We were both crying from our sides of the barricade. Then I was in college and she was in high school. I had yellow fish net hose and yellow shoes. She had a beautiful black skirt and white blouse that she wore when she played in Youth Symphony. I wanted the black skirt and white blouse and she wanted the fish net hose and shoes. The problem was, we were such different sizes we could not wear each other's clothes. That never did change. We always wanted to share clothes, and we always wore different sizes.

When Don was stationed at Ft Carson we got ahold of a bunch of plums and were making jelly. We realized we did not have cheese cloth to strain the juice. Into Don's closet she went and came out with a white tee shirt. I wonder if Don still has the tee shirt with the big purple stain on the front.

When John was born they were stationed at Ft Carson. I was afraid of holding a baby. I remember going to see them when they got home from the hospital I rang the doorbell. She came to the door opened it and handed Johnny to me. I was totally stunned and thought “Oh crap, what do I do now”... But she needed sleep. So there I was with this tiny baby. I guess I figured it out. She slept for a little while and I took care of John and Robyn. She somehow knew that I was afraid and she was out to change that. I felt that always gave me a special bond with John.

Waita was such an inspiration to everyone. She could fight fiercely for what she thought was right, then walk into a room full of kids and be as gentle as anyone I have ever known.

Waita had the awesome ability to be able to talk to anyone on their

level whether it be a 5 Star General or a three year old. She never felt she was better than anyone else, but she sure let people know that they were not better than her.

Waita was the best of the best. We loved each other and fought each other with equal amounts ferocity. Her passing has left a crater in my heart the size of the Grand Canyon and will miss her and love her forever and always.

Auntie Sissy

Crystal Aurand - October 30, 2013 at 10:55 AM

 Robyn
Batross

“ 27 files added to the tribute wall



Robyn Batross - October 30, 2013 at 10:39 AM

 Robyn
Batross

“ 74 files added to the album *Tribute Wall*



Robyn Batross - October 30, 2013 at 09:38 AM

SH

“ You gave nothing but good things to everyone while on this earth. Rest in peace my friend, it is well deserved!

Hugs to the family

Chuck, Shelley, Amber and Erica Adkins

Kentucky

shelley - October 29, 2013 at 08:24 PM



JG

“ I am one of the many 4H kids whose life was truly touched by this woman. I could always count on her smiling face and encouraging words. The way she cared for all of us was truly an inspiration and I am glad to say that I knew her.

Jessica Gifford - October 29, 2013 at 08:22 PM



LA

“ Waita--we shared time together as teenagers -- and at the end of this much to short of time- - still we shared. God blessed me in knowing you. I will not forget.



Leo Anzick - October 29, 2013 at 07:13 PM

LG

“ She inspired countless young people to do their best on 4H projects and helped them prepare for bright futures. She will be seriously missed.

Linda Gifford - October 29, 2013 at 06:36 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



Crystal Aurand - October 29, 2013 at 06:13 PM

CH

“ Carol Hall lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher



Carol Hall - October 29, 2013 at 05:39 PM

CH

Our hearts ache at the passing of this wonderful and courageous woman, wife, mother, grandmother and dear friend. Waita will be missed very much...God bless her family in the days ahead...

Carol Hall - October 29, 2013 at 05:42 PM

MG

*“ My sympathy to Don and Family in the loss of the center of your lives. Waita was a wonderful friend to me and I loved her
Marty Gann*



Marty Gann - October 29, 2013 at 05:13 PM

MJ

“ In our hearts she will stay forever, this angel who took flight, but her kindness, love and caring will never be forgot she truly left footprints on my heart. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and loved her 4-H family. She was the driving force behind 4-H not only in the community but also for Child, Youth and School Services, Fort Leonard Wood. She will be missed by all. Don, I send my prayers and God's peace to you and the family during this difficult time.



Sincerely Millie Justus

Millie Justus - October 29, 2013 at 04:38 PM

JP

“ *My prayers are with Don in his time of grief as Waita has moved on to a better place.*



Jon Pool - October 29, 2013 at 03:26 PM

MS

“ *Marge Scott lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



Marge Scott - October 29, 2013 at 03:21 PM

MS

To the family of Waita Karcher, she will certainly be missed by so many and I know she did a kindness to helping the Historical Society when I was President and also for the PCM. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers and our Dear Lord will comfort you during this difficult times.
Marge Scott

Marge Scott - October 29, 2013 at 03:28 PM

GD

“ *My condolences to the family, may God bless and prepare you for the road ahead; stay strong in the Lord and keep your hand in his hand. The community has lost a precious jewel that will be greatly missed. God Bless!*

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Greg Dunmore - October 29, 2013 at 02:24 PM



 Diane Cutforth-Temmen

“ *A classy lady that always had a smile on her face. She will be dearly missed in the 4-H community!*

Diane Temmen

Diane Cutforth-Temmen - October 29, 2013 at 02:15 PM



PH

“ *Patty Hudnut lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*

Patty Hudnut - October 29, 2013 at 02:12 PM



LS

“ *Linda Schonbok lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



linda schonbok - October 29, 2013 at 12:19 PM

MS

“ *MARLIN STEVENS sent a virtual gift in memory of Waita Karcher*



MARLIN STEVENS - October 29, 2013 at 12:14 PM

GB

“ *Waita was a wonderful person. The world has lost a very good person. It is so hard to see good people leave this world. God bless Waita and her family.*

Glenda Blanchard

Glenda Blanchard - October 29, 2013 at 11:39 AM

WH

“ *Whitney lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



Whitney - October 29, 2013 at 10:31 AM

LW

“ *Lorna West lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



Lorna West - October 29, 2013 at 10:29 AM

RB

“ *Rachelle Beasley lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



Rachelle Beasley - October 29, 2013 at 10:17 AM

SL

“ *Sephanie Leuthen lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



Sephanie Leuthen - October 29, 2013 at 09:20 AM

JZ

“ *Joan Zeller lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



Joan Zeller - October 29, 2013 at 09:14 AM

L(

“ *A wonderful woman has left our world. Waita will be dearly missed by so many. Pulaski County lost a treasure yesterday morning. Deepest condolences to all of her family, friends, & loved ones.*

Laura Huffman (Abernathy) - October 29, 2013 at 08:22 AM

EL

“ *Eva Lewis lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



Eva Lewis - October 29, 2013 at 08:10 AM

JW

“ *There aren't enough words to express my appreciation for Waita and all she did to bless the military families in our area. She went out of her way to do all she could, even though Springfield wasn't convenient to her. I know she loved to come this way to visit her daughter anytime she could, however. Warrior Wives will miss her and be praying for your family during this difficult time.*



Julie Martin

Julie Martin_Warrior Wives - October 29, 2013 at 07:54 AM

SW

“ *Sandra Wolfe lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



Sandra Wolfe - October 28, 2013 at 09:45 PM

TH

“ *The Hutchinsons lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



The Hutchinsons - October 28, 2013 at 08:12 PM

NS

“ *Don and family; I was so sorry to hear of Waita's passing. She was a true inspiration to the children and youth of the CYS Services Family on Fort Leonard Wood. Waita had a genuine gift of caring deeply for everyone around her and touched so many lives with her love and passion for 4H. It was because of Waita that Fort Leonard Wood has the BEST 4H program in the Army. My heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. I will always have fond memories of her. Nancy Starnes*



Nancy Starnes - October 28, 2013 at 07:57 PM

SJ

“ *SARA JONES lit a candle in memory of Waita Karcher*



SARA JONES - October 28, 2013 at 06:52 PM