



Reita Basterfield

DEC 13, 1920 - SEP 29, 2012



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Reita Basterfield

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Reita Mary O'Neil Basterfield, age 91, of Elyria passed away Saturday, September 29, 2012 at EMH Healthcare in Elyria after a short illness.

She was born on December 13, 1920 in Sheffield, Ohio to Robert and Bertha (nee Mischler) O'Neil. She was a graduate of Brookside High School. Reita earned her Master's Degree in Education and Social Work.

Reita had an amazing career. She worked as "Rosie the Riveter" at the tank plant in Cleveland, OH at the beginning of WW II. It was at that time that she obtained her pilots license, and married her husband, Russell in 1945 while he was home on leave from the Navy. While living in California she taught school. Upon her return to Ohio she worked for Murray Ridge Preschool conducting home evaluations. She and Her husband, Russell also owned and operated the Evans Grill.

She was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church, in Elyria, Elyria Parks and Recreation Active People Golf League, Brunswick Zone Bowling League, Public Employees Retiree Inc. Member, American League Auxiliary, Audubon Society, Lorain County Metro Parks Volunteer, Elyria Senior Women's Fellowship, and the Mountain Mommas (A wilderness hiking and camping group) the ladies would tie their food in the trees and would wear bells on their shoes to scare the bears.

Reita was known the "Hat Lady" for her colorful hats and matching outfits. She made jewelry, enjoyed hiking, swimming, county line dancing, reading, soaring on gliders, senior citizen bus trips, archery, shooting guns, photography, birds, butterflies, horseback riding, bowling, golf, boating and fishing. She truly was an amazing person.

She is survived by her daughter, Melanie Little, of Fredericksburg, TX; grandsons, Mike Vasi, Russell, Garrett, and Robert Little; granddaughters, Savannah Little, Theresa Westover, and Patricia Sinley; 9 great-grandchildren; sister-in-laws, Phyllis Boden, of Lagrange and June O'Neil, of Oberlin.



Obituary

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She was preceded in death by her husband Russell; son, Clay; brother, Elmer; and her parents, Robert and Bertha O'Neil.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Monday, October 29, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 611 Lake Ave. Elyria, Ohio . Private family inurnment will take place at Resthaven Memory Gardens, Avon.

The family suggest contributions be made in her memory to the Lorain County Metro Parks, Elyria Library or a charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be left for the Basterfield family at

www.dovinreberjones.com





Events

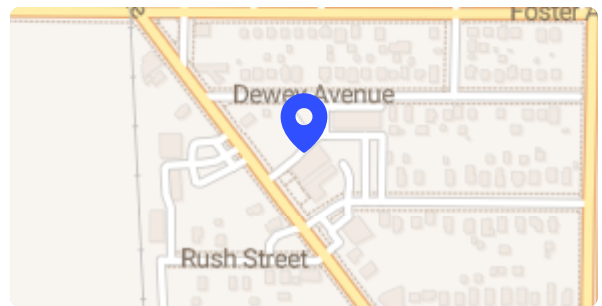
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Funeral Mass

 **Monday**, October 29, 2012

 11:00 AM ET

 **St. Agnes Catholic Church**
611 Lake Ave., Elyria





Tribute Wall

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Janie - Oh posted:

i did not know Reita personally, but reading her obituary and looking at her picture made me feel like she is someone i WISH i knew, someone i WISH my children knew. She seems like a wonderful woman who has accomplished so many things and was loved by many! God bless you Reita, God bless your family .

October 27 at 8:00 PM



Steve Basterfield - Stourbridge, England, Oh posted:

I never met Reita but she sounds just like the sort of person I would have loved to have known. So sorry to read of her passing.

October 2 at 8:00 PM



Sheri Serrau - Elyria, Oh - Godchild posted:

i will truly miss momshe was always so happy and full of excitement....she made me tired just hearing all the activities she had done....i will miss seeing her every year at the fair watching the horse races.....but she will always be in my thoughts and in my heart.....

October 1 at 8:00 PM



Barbara Kaminski - Elyria, Oh - Friend posted:

Dear Family, Reita went on alot of Mom's trips...My Mother, Florence Kaminski had many many wonderfultrips for everyone.....she was St. Mary's Travelers...I met Reita through the many great trips that she was on....Reita and her friend, were some of the first to stop byand make and confirm the next trip. I also recognize the name, Phyllis Boden from the trips reservations.Mom had a lovely group of travelers that always enjoyedgetting out and about. We lost Mom three years ago, andmany are still missing the trips, as we are missing Mom.My sympathies to all the family. Reita was a classy lady andcould be noticed by her always, colorful attire.Rest in Peace Reita God Bless.....Love & Prayers, - Barbara Kaminski -=====

October 1 at 8:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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Meg Stevanus - Elyria, Oh - Oberlin Senior Center posted:

Reita traveled with the Oberlin Senior Center on many occasions, always making sure she dressed for that "special trip"...be it a baseball game, concert, nature adventure or picnic. The bus crowd would wait with anticipation for her arrival. Her smile and her laughter were infectious. Your family must feel so priveledged to have had her for so long and we "Thank you" for sharing her with our Senior Center.

October 1 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Reita by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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