



## Betty D. Pickard

January 2, 1935 - November 12, 2018

Betty (Garton) Pickard, an exceptional mother, (great) grandmother, and friend, passed away at home, surrounded by family, on November 12. She was born on a homestead outside Hereford, Colorado, near Wyoming, January 2, 1935. Her mother, Anna Mae (Kopsa) Garton, died four days later from blood poisoning that came from a burn on her arm, emptying ashes from the fire on Christmas Eve. Betty had pneumonia and the doctors gave her little chance of survival. She was taken in by her aunt and uncle, Wesley Ernest and Blanche (Kopsa) Duncan in Cheyenne. Non-drinking Ernest fed her whiskey, which she credited for saving her life and also became the excuse for an occasional margarita in her later years. The Duncan's raised her as one of their own. She had 3 older siblings here in Cheyenne, Don, Melvin, and Louise (Duncan) Oster, as well as an older brother, Eugene Garton, who had stayed with her birth father, Harold Garton, and moved to California after their mother died. She met up with Gene when she was a teen and they became very close over the years. All of her siblings are deceased.

She graduated from Cheyenne High School in 1953 and married her sweetheart, Clinton Pickard, who was in the US Air Force, in 1955. They had 3 kids: Ann, David, and Ellen (Alles). They lived in many places, including Hawaii as it became a state, Cape Canaveral when the early space flights were taking place, Japan when no one spoke English and the kids' blond and red hair attracted great interest, and Edwards AFB when "The Right Stuff" was happening. Cheyenne was still home, so when Clinton retired from the Air Force, they returned in 1972. She worked awhile at Unicover until Clinton retired again. They bought a RV to escape the Wyoming winters and enjoyed their snow bird trips.

That time ended too soon when Clinton died suddenly in 2001. Her heart broke, and she soon had the first of two open heart surgeries. Her resilience remained, and she soon was traveling the world again with friends or to see her beloved grand kids, and eventually great grand kids. No matter where Ann went, Betty was up for a trip. She followed Ann (or more likely, the grand kids) to Europe, South America, Australia, and even Africa, where she rode her first helicopter into the Delta of Nigeria. She loved trips to Puerto Vallarta with friends, and especially enjoyed a recent Mexican cruise with Ann and Ellen so she

could show off her favorite places. Her refrigerator is covered with magnets she collected wherever she went.

Betty unconditionally loved her grandchildren and they all reciprocated. Grandsons Daniel (Megan) and Derek live in Wenatchee, Washington, along with her only great grandchildren, Layla and Sawyer. Son, David, lives there too, with wife Doris, but we all know who she really went to visit! Grandsons Joel, Kevin, and Nicholas all reside in Colorado, as do daughter Ellen and Paul (Alles). She was a frequent driver on I-25 to see their school events as they grew up. She loved making crooked pancakes for them, decorating Easter eggs, and frosting dozens of Christmas cookies with them. After traveling the world, youngest grandson, Nathan Smith, and her only granddaughter, Rebecca Smith, settled in Coronado, California, with Ann and S-I-L (son in law) Dan (Smith). They loved to hear their G'ma play the piano. Rebecca says she's the most beautiful G'ma in the world. Betty's room in California overlooked the ocean; she enjoyed her winter escapes there.

But home was always Wyoming. Every time she returned to Cheyenne, she would be singing "Shy-Ann, Shy-Ann, hop on my pony....". She attended First Baptist Church her entire life; she and Clinton were married there, and she enjoyed singing in the choir. She loved camping and hiking, Vedauwoo, the Tetons, Devils Tower, Wyoming football, the wildflowers, especially Indian Paintbrush, the fall colors, and just about everything else, except the wind. Frontier Days would see her on the parade route (her Daddy played the banjo/fiddle on Daisy Bristol's float), watching the Thunderbirds, enjoying the pancake breakfasts and everything else. She faithfully volunteered at the elections. Her favorite activity, when weather permitted, was to sit on the back porch, eating lunch, doing crossword puzzles, while soaking up the sun.

Her 80th birthday was held at The Plains Hotel and attended by friends from as far away as Brasil and The Netherlands and lots of relatives. She kept a scrupulous record of birthdays and always sent birthday cards. She even got on Facebook so she could keep up with family. She had wonderful neighbors, who helped keep an eye on her, enabling her to stay in her house until she passed. Synergy and Davis Hospice helped at the end.

Her broken heart is repaired as she is reunited in heaven with the love of her life, as well as the mother she never knew, the parents who raised her and her brothers and sister. She will be remembered for her kindness, her Christian faith and deep love for her family, and especially, her chocolate chip cookies.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the First Baptist Church or a charity of

their choice.

Services will be at First Baptist Church on Monday November 19th at 10AM (reception following) with burial at Cheyenne Memorial Gardens. Online tributes can be sent to [www.wrcfuneral.com](http://www.wrcfuneral.com).

# Cemetery

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## **Cheyenne Memorial Gardens**

4701 Christensen Road  
Cheyenne, WY, 82009

# Events

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**NOV 19 Service 10:00AM - 11:00AM**

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First Baptist Church  
1800 East Pershing Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY, US,  
82001

# Comments

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“ We remember so well Betty visiting Ann, Dan, Nathan and Becca in Den Haag more than 10 years ago. Betty was such a curious woman, interested in the stories of everyone she met. And of course she was adventurous too, not just willing but enthusiastic about seeing new places. I never knew that she didn't know her birth mother and hope Ann, her sister and brother and the extended family take some comfort they are reunited now. Betty lived a meaningful life and must have been so proud of her family. Sincerely, David, Cath, Mickie & Harper, Melbourne, Australia.

**catherine** - January 09, 2019 at 10:52 PM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. God Bless you and may your mom rest in peace.

**Susan DeHerrera** - November 19, 2018 at 06:13 PM

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“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty D. Pickard.



November 18, 2018 at 11:02 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Betty D. Pickard.



November 18, 2018 at 07:55 PM

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“ Aunt Betty was always special to me. She was sweet, kind, thoughtful and a lot of fun. I remember my visits with her and Uncle Clinton in their little apartment in Grandma Duncan's basement. They always had vanilla ice cream with pineapple sundae sauce. When I was about 10 years old I traveled to Utah on the train with

Grandma Duncan to stay with them at Hill AFB. What a wonderful time we had! I will remember her smile and the way her eyes lit up when she saw me. She always called me "Donna Gene".

I'll miss her birthday cards. I always believed I was special to get a birthday card from her because I was her first niece, but I know she remembered everyone. I'll miss her Christmas letter that kept me updated on her family and read like a travel log! She will be missed by everyone whose lives she touched, but especially her family. I'm relieved that her suffering is over and she's happily reuniting with the family and friends who went before her. I love you, Aunt Betty

**Donna Acker** - November 18, 2018 at 05:59 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Betty D. Pickard.



November 18, 2018 at 11:26 AM

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“ Ann: Sorry to hear about your mother. May God be with her and with the family. See you soon...

Greg Hill

**Greg Hill** - November 16, 2018 at 09:50 PM

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“ Dear Ann,  
Sincere condolences to you and family, at this sad time of the passing of your Mother.  
Kind regards, Gene

**Gene Tilbrook** - November 16, 2018 at 05:28 PM

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“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty D. Pickard.



November 16, 2018 at 02:11 AM

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“ Ann, I am very sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. I never met her but she sounds like an amazing person and now I wish I had met her (and tasted the chocolate chip cookies). I am sure that she felt the love and support from her family as she moved on from this world. My deepest condolences, Sarah (Ryan).

**Sarah Ryan** - November 15, 2018 at 05:03 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with her family at this sad time. Betty was a wonderful person and a beautiful soul. She will be missed by all who new her.

Ken & Brenda De Jersey

**Ken De Jersey** - November 15, 2018 at 02:21 PM

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“ Betty was a wonderful co-worker at Unicover. Before I left for a trip, she surprised me with a bottle of perfume!



**Helen Boyd** - November 15, 2018 at 07:32 AM

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“ Dear Ann  
our deepest condolences  
Mira &Umberto della Sala



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Betty D. Pickard.



November 15, 2018 at 05:38 AM

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“ We love Betty Pickard, she is a wonderful, kind and a gentle woman. She would cut the baseball articles, out of the paper when she saw something about our boys wins, hits, stolen bases, etc. She would then write a personal note congratulating them on their efforts. Such a special woman to take time for our boys and they appreciated the kind messages from grandma Pickard as they use-to call her. She will always have a place in our hearts and may Our Lord hold her in his loving arms and give the family peace.

Rick, Janine, Reed, Trey & Brett Thompson

janine - November 14, 2018 at 11:53 PM

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“ Dear Ann, Dan and family,  
Kate and I would like to pass on our sincere condolences to you all at the passing of Betty.

I remember meeting Betty at your place when were both visiting Perth at the same time. She quickly left an indelible and positive impression on me. I remember that evening at your place to this day.

A 'tough old boot' in the most positive sense.

We wish you, Dan and the family all strength at this difficult time. Rejoice in the memories of the good times with your Mom. That's my interpretation of immortality.

Love,

Chris and Kate

Chris Haynes - November 14, 2018 at 11:12 PM

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“ I'll always remember going out to Cheyenne starting when I was just a small kid .  
Betty had great love for her church, traveling, & her family. She will be missed.

sharon Dunbar - November 14, 2018 at 11:06 PM



“ Dear Ann, Dan and family, Karen and I would like to pass on our sincere condolences to you all at the passing of Betty.

While we did not have the pleasure of meeting her, for her to have raised a daughter as capable and compassionate as Ann tells us that she was very special.

I hope you all gain strength from your good memories of her in this difficult time.

Love

Ian and Karen Macfarlane

**Ian Macfarlane** - November 14, 2018 at 07:32 PM

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“ To Ann and family - while we never had the pleasure of meeting your mom, her strength and adventurous spirit live on in you Ann. We celebrate a life well led, and honor Betty's service to our Nation as an Air Force family member. Thank for sharing her story...what an amazing person she will always be. Heart hugs, Tom and Wendy Masiello

**Wendy Masiello** - November 14, 2018 at 05:48 PM

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“ Many fond memories of traveling the country to visit Uncle Clinton and Aunt Betty over the years. Cape Canaveral, Ellsworth AFB, and FE Warren AFB were all destinations on our summer calendars. I still have the Unicover 1st Day of Issue collection Aunt Betty started for me one birthday. In Cheyenne, I loved the bike rides to Dairy Queen and the day trips to Vedauwoo. Mom considered Betty one of her dearest friends and I trust they are partying like there's no tomorrow now. For them there is not but for us left behind, we take one day at a time, always remembering the love, the laughter and the good times and give thanks for great Moms and loving Aunts. Who knew that one day, I would also get stationed at FE Warren and drive the roads through N Colorado so near to Betty's birthplace? Who knew some guys in my crew would overhear me say one day how cool the phone sign was on the crossroads near there and somehow find a way to present it to me upon my retirement from active duty? Aunt Betty took me to task more than once over the years but I never once doubted her love or her kindness. Love ya Aunt Betty.



