



Marena Steele

October 3, 1969 - August 13, 2009

Marena Steele, 39, of Bismarck, passed away August 13, 2009, at her home. Funeral services will be held on Monday at 11:00 AM at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Bismarck with Rev. Jeff Franko and Rev. Lisa Allness-Crane officiating. Visitation will be Sunday from 6:00 – 9:00 PM at Lord of Life Lutheran Church where a prayer service will be held at 7:00 PM. Visitation will continue on Monday one hour prior to the service at the church. Marena was born on October 3, 1969, to parents Darell & Kathy Hager at Bremerton Naval Hospital in Washington. She attended school in Conrad, MT, and graduated in 1988 from Conrad High School. She then attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA for one year and then transferred to the University of Montana in Missoula. Marena spent one year in Bethlehem, PA, as an associate youth director during her college years. She was so excited to be home that on her return trip she stopped and kissed the ground at the Montana border. Then she continued her education in Missoula where she graduated with honors with a Bachelors' of Arts degree, specializing in elementary education. Marena married Troy Steele on April 27, 1996. They lived in Montana and Oakes, ND, and later moved to Bismarck. She worked as a youth director at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Bismarck where she touched the hearts and lives of everyone. She recognized that her life works lay with children. Earlier she started her professional career in child care in Oakes with Beth Wolfe and continued in Bismarck starting Step by Step Daycare to spend more time with her children and to try to make a difference in the children that she learned to

love so dearly. Marena's most prized possessions were her husband, three children and all of her extended family. She is survived by her husband, Troy of Bismarck; her children, Arianna Lyn 9, Katrina Grace 6, and Jacob Alton 2, of Bismarck, her parents, Darell and Kathy Hager of Conrad, MT; her grandmother, LaVonne Hastings of Conrad, MT ; her aunts, Judy Rob Hastings-Goudette of Missoula, MT , Diana Cory Krumm of Billings, MT, Elizabeth Thomas Hashimoto of San Jose, CA, and Carol Sam McCormick of North Pole, Alaska; her uncles, Thomas Hastings of Conrad, MT, and Mark Peggy Hastings of Weatherford, TX ; her aunts and uncles, Margie and Bob Baker of Harlem, MT, and Trudy and Dick Lehrman of Wenatchee, WA; her mother-in-law, Joanne Kleese of Jamestown, ND; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Merlin and Sharon Steele of Jamestown ND; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Chad and Teresa Steele of Jamestown, ND; and her sister-in-law, Tammy Gasal of West Fargo, ND. Marena enjoyed spending time with her beloved nine nieces and nephews, Mackenzie, Talex and Blayke Gasal of West Fargo, ND, Brenden Pollert of Valley City, ND, Nicole Steele of Jamestown, ND, Alexius Anderson of Englevale, ND, KayLee and Brody Luck of Fargo, ND, and Jadyn Pollert of Fargo, ND; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Stacy Sue and Lynda Lynette Hager; and her grandparents, Art and Verna Hager and David Hastings.

Tribute Wall

TP

“ For two years Marena's two daughters attended the same daycare my two daughters did. She was always quick with a smile and always willing to help out. It was always fun to see her out and about with her kids and we will miss her, but we were blessed by knowing her and her family.

the Palmers - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Troy and family, My deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. You are in my families' thoughts and prayers. Ryan Riehl

Ryan Riehl - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ I am so sorry, I did not know Marena personally, but feel like I did by your sharing of her life and the lives of her husband and children. What a remarkable child she was and fun loving, I will hold her and all of you in my thoughts and prayers, and when I think of her I will think of the incredible and her beautiful spirit as she made halloween a special family affair. Love and Prayers, Cathy Jones

Cathy Jones - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ Kathy, Darell Lavonne, Tom So sorry to hear of your loss--my prayers are with you today and the difficult days to come. Know that if you need anything just call and we will take care of it for you. May God comfort you and wrap His caring arms around you . Love Mary

Mary Elkins - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Dear Darrell and Kathy, I am so saddened to hear of your loss. Words cannot express enough the sympathy I have for you now and in the days to come. I am so glad you had recently had the privilege to spend time with Marena and her family. Please let me know if I can do anything for you when you return home. Sincerely, Linda & Earl Duncan

Linda & Earl Duncan - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ What a special angel the Lord has summoned to his side... May she watch over us and continue to inspire us in our walk with the Lord.

Ron and Beth Wolff - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Troy and Family: Please know that we are sending our heartfelt sympathy and prayers at this difficult time for you and your family. Let us know if there is anything we can do. Jim and Jet

Jim Marti and Jet Collins - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ I met Marena in the hardest time of my life. She was my sense of stability in such a crazy place. When I couldn't make up from down, and wrong from right she was there mostly at TCBY help me through it. When we talked I never felt like some silly troubled kid talking to a mentor, she made me feel like an equal. No matter how hard things got Marena could make me smile and realize things would be better. When I questioned God and faith, she made me talk out everything and made me look at everything and explained things to me in a way that I could understand. She never gave up and never made anything seem stupid or minor. She always left you feeling a million times better than before she got there. She was a huge part of my life and because of her I have become who I am today. I love and miss her. I will never forget what she has done for me.

Kalle' Meza - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Troy, in carrying on Marena's spirit, Paul and planned a short trip with our kids. We miss her.

Brenda Kadrmas - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Troy, Darell and Kathy, and family, You all know how much I will miss Marena. She was one of those rare, best lifetime friends a person can find and I am so blessed that I got to have her in my life the way I did! Troy, I am so glad you liked camping in the MTNS of MT! That week in July will stay in my mind and heart forever! Troy, even though I live in MT, I am here to help you in any way! Call me! Darell and Kathy call me! I love you all so much! Give hugs and kisses to those sweet kids!

LeAnn Appley - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I have so many memories of Marena from our young days as lifeguards at Conrad Swimming Pool. We went through lifeguard training together and were the only two women in the class that year. We spent four summers at that pool teaching and watching children. We shared good and bad times and grew up together along the way. She was a great person and an excellent friend. Her smile and laugh were contagious. We also worked together at Flathead Lutheran Camp where we shared the responsibilities of water front director. She was an excellent leader with a great sense of humor and a quick wit. I remember her passionate debates when the counselors had religious discussions. I also remember the poses she would strike when a camera was out, and have many pictures to prove it. My husband Mike was in Marena's graduating class from Conrad High school and also has fond memories of her. We both are saddened by her death and feel the weight of losing her. Kathy and Darrel, we are thinking of you. Troy, we have never met you and the children but our hearts and prayers go out to you all. Jennifer and Mike Birnel

Jenn Simonson Birnel - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ We are so saddened to hear of your loss. We got to know Marena through girl scouts with Arianna. She was so much fun to be around and her energy and excitement with the kids was amazing. We are glad to have known her.

Linda, Jay and Paige Schlenker - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Troy and family, She is an AMAZING women. One of the reasons that we chose Lord of Life church was because of her. I was so awe struck at how well she worked with the children. I wanted her to be our children's youth director. I just got back from clinicals and read about Marena's funeral and am in shock. Please, if there is anything that we can do help with the kids, cook a meal, mow the grass...ANYTHING, just call. You and your family are in our prayers.

Denise and Craig Nelson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Dear Kathy and family, My deepest sympathy to you. I was shocked to read of Marena's passing. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Hugs to you. Barb

Barb Brown - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ From childhood through introducing Troy and Marena I thought Marena lived a Blessed life. I'm so sad for all of her friends and family. Most of all for her children, because there will be so many times in their lives that they will wish their mom was there experiencing life with them. And Troy....my heart feels for you. We lost track of each other over the years, but I've thought of the two of you often and knew you were happy. You will also have those experiences in which you wish she was there with you to experience. I'm so shocked, this family has had so much heart ache. I'm am thankful she had her Faith and her spirit will live on. I'm so so sorry for all of your broken hearts. Jamie

Jamie Carlbom - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Across the miles we send our deepest sympathy and love. We know that Marena was greatly loved and will surely be missed. All our love from Ohio Steele's Margaret, Richy, Randy

Margaret Randy Richy Steele - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Dear family of Marena Steele: My heart aches for all of you. You definitely are in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Betty McBratney

Betty McBratney - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Troy and family: Words do not begin to describe how deeply sorry we are for your loss. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers not only during this difficult time, but in the future. God Bless.

Lyle and Julie Kinnischtzke - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Me and my family are deeply sad of the news. We love you. And we will also miss a good part of the Steele family. Love Richy, Amber, Autumn and Cady.

Richy and Amber Steele family - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ We are so sorry and saddened to hear of the loss of Marena. Marena was the Youth Leader at Church when our son, Mike, was in junior high, she was a great inspiration to all of them. Our thoughts and prayers are with Troy and the kids! Darren, Stephanie, Michael, Katelyn & Zachary

Darren & Stephanie Ebach - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Our prayers go out to you Steele family. We are heartbroken over your loss. Marena was such a wonderful devoted mom & wife. She was so devoted to being there for her family. We really enjoyed being involved in Girl Scouts with Marena & the kids. Dear Lord please be with this family, watch over them & comfort them. Sincerely, Jody, Mark, Rachel & Jenna Goelzer

Jody & Jenna Goelzer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Marena was an amazing women. I can just remember all the things we did as youth at LOL. I had a close friendship with Marena and the famlily while youth at LOL, I did daycare all the time for the girls when they were just babies still. I moved way for a few years and recently came back and I can not belive how big the girls are and that they have a little brother now. I will miss you Marena but I will never forget all you did for me.

Megan AndersonRendell - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM