



Sandi Blair

October 6, 1954 - July 22, 2012

Sandi Blair, 57, passed away peacefully on July 22, 2012, at home after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Memorial services will be held at 2:00 pm, Friday, July 27, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, corner of Divide Ave and Washington St., with Pastor Cathy Bliss officiating. A celebration of Sandi's life will take place Thursday, July 26, at First Presbyterian Church, 214 East Thayer Avenue, Bismarck, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Cremation has taken place. Sandi was born to Gerald and Beverly Halmrast O'Brien on October 6, 1954, in San Antonio, Texas, where Gerald was stationed at the air force. Later, the family moved to Valley City and then to Bismarck where Sandi attended Grimsrud and Northridge elementary schools, Hughes Junior High School, and Bismarck High School, graduating in 1972. While in high school, Sandi was involved in music, the school newspaper, was a wrestling cheerleader, and a lifeguard at the Elks pool. Sandi attended Bismarck Junior College where she earned an Associate of Arts degree in art, an interest she pursued the rest of her life. After BJC, she worked for REC magazine. In 1975, Sandi married David Blair and from this union three children were born—Justin, Kaija, and Tanner. Sandi was very involved in her children's lives, becoming a hockey and soccer mom. She was their biggest supporter and a tremendous encourager. Later, Sandi started a day care in her home, a vocation that lasted over 30 years. During this time, she cared for dozens of children who remember and love her to this day. In addition to her day care, she also spent a few years with Enable, a position she held until her illness

forced her to stop. Sandi was born to be a caregiver who always thought of others before her own needs; even to the time of her death, she was concerned about her family and friends. She influenced hundreds of children and their parents which was evidenced in the outpouring of love at an April benefit for her, messages on her Caring Bridge site, and in many, many cards and letters she received. Sandi is survived by her husband, David; her daughter, Kaija; and her son, Tanner. She also leaves three sisters, Tami Halmrast-Sanchez of Alexandria, Virginia, Jill Monson Jim and Heidi Stein Monte of Bismarck; her mother Beverly Miller and step-father Ev Miller. She also leaves a daughter-in-law, Jodee Blair, of St. Cloud, Minnesota; two grandchildren, Jasper Kuleck of Bismarck and Vaughn Blair of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Sandi is also survived by several loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father Gerald Halmrast; her son Justin; and by her father-in-law and mother-in-law Jim and Blanche Blair. Memorials should be directed to the Benefit Account for Sandi Blair.

Tribute Wall

BB

“ So Sorry for you loss David. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. As I remember Sandy being so beautiful and such a sweet lady. Love Brenda

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

GS

“ Dear David, I am at a loss for words to express my heart felt sympathy. Be strong for your family and we will talk again soon. My thoughts are with you, Gene

Gene Schenk - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ Dear Dave and family, Life is so precious and no more so than we are grieving the loss of someone so loved as Sandi. Please accept my sincere and heartfelt condolences. I know that your faith, your memories and your love for one another and for life will give you comfort. God Bless you with peace, Tracy Johnk

Tracy Johnk - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Tanner and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Keep up your great attitude and know she is no longer in pain.

Karen Blumhardt - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ Dave and Family We remember the all the times Sandi was with us, they were great times. She will be missed by all. May she rest in peace with our thoughts and prayers. The Barth's Woody Carmell Rachel

Woody Barth - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Dave & Family: We are so saddened by your loss. We remember fondly working with Dave and Sandi in the concession stands for hockey games. Sandi was the Queen of concessions. I think she would have worked every game if someone asked her. I remember Dave and I sneaking off to watch the games, while Sandi and Marcy were left to cover until the breaks. Sometimes, we didn't even get back for the breaks. Sandi never complained and still always told me how much fun it was to work with us? We will keep you all in our prayers.

Marv & Marcy Heinert - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Dave and Family, I am so saddened by yur loss. I remeber Sandis smiles at soccer and hockey and the caravan of kidsto the many games. She was one of my cherished hockey family. I was not able to go to the benefit but both Heidi and I wear the specially designed necklace to honor her. I submitted her name to the Pink Firetruck andhers was the third name written by me on the new truck, right by the drivers side door. would like to have been able to attend the funeral but we recently lost my sister in law last week. My heart has been with you all. Sincerely, Penny Wedin and the Wedin kids

Penny Wedin - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. We are thinking of you and our prayers go out to you.

Ron and Linda Kroshus - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Dave--my prayers are with you and your family. Steve

steve pfeiffer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ We feel very fortunate to have grown up with the Halmrast girls. Tami, Jill, and Heidi... Please know that we sincerely share in your sorrow... Sandy was a very cool big sister. -- the Perry girls Pam, Debbie, & Cindy

Deb Perry Gerhardt - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Dear Blair Family-- Tech High School sends you our condolences during this very sad time in your lives. Jodee has shared many times how Sandi has made a loving impact on thousands throughout her life. May the thoughts and prayers of all those Sandi touched give you some comfort now. Regards, Roger Ziemann
Principal

Roger - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ My deepest and heartfelt sympathy to you, Dave, and your family. Very few can truly understand your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Brian Brevig - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dave and family, so sorry for your loss. Sandi was such a warm, loving and kind person. She was such a positive person and touched so many lives. May God help you through this time. Love, AI, Charlotte, Kathy & Amanda Sather

Charlotte Sather - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ Dave and Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. Memories are forever...RIP Sandi. Blaine, Toni, Cody and Taylor Erhardt Just one of many hockey families that was lucky enough to know you.

Toni Erhardt - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Dave & Family, Our thoughts and prayers reach out to you. Sandi was such a wonderful lady, mom and wife plus friend to the community. Her energy and passion for life will always be remembered as she made Bismarck and Mandan a better place to live especially for children. Don & Phyllis Kerr

Don Kerr - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ Dave and family, Ev and Bev and Tami & family. On behalf of the BSC Alumni Association and also personally, I send my deepest sympathy to your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Rita Nodland BSC Alumni Association

Rita Nodland - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ So sorry for your loss. I got the wonderful honors in getting to know Sandi through working with her at South Washington. She was an amazing person, touching the hearts of those she came in contact with and she will never be forgotten.

Tammy Hoge - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Dave, my condolences to you and your family; what a huge loss - so sorry. I never knew Sandy, however, I knew who she was, through the Elks Pool and also you, because you were a classmate, and through your brother Brian who was a friend of my younger siblings. I remember Sandy with her radiant smile and glowing blonde hair - she was always very kind and radiated with joy!

Carolyn Okland Friesz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ We are so sorry to have heard of Sandi's passing. Her loving kindness was a sweet nectar to all who encountered her. Our prayers are with the family.

Pam Kostelecky - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this very difficult time..even knowing that she no longer is uncomfortable and that someday you will see her again it doesn't make it any easier. May our Lord and Savior bring you comfort and peace.I will always remember how when Sandi entered a room her smile was so bright and her eyes lit up the room and I think this is something we will always remember along with her great ability to care for others.

Julie Hoiby-Kuhn - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ We wish to extend all of our thoughts and prayers to Sandy's family. She will be missed greatly. And to her son Tanner, great job of keeping all updated to Sandy's progress, you should consider writing for a career. From Rick & Mari Wilder and Family.

Rick Wilder - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ I spent 3 summers at Sandi's when I was a kid, starting when I was 7, from 1996-1998. Of all the daycares I ever went to, her's was the best. She let us do what most daycares didn't, just be kids and have fun. Those were the best summers of my life growing up, going to the pool, playing outside, playing Nintendo... I always looked forward to going to her house. She was simply the best, and one of the kindest ladies I knew. She always gave me extra candy whenever I went trick-or-treating at her house too. I'm glad I was able to see her earlier this year at Blarney's. She will be missed. Condolences to the family, Dave, Kaija, Tanner, and Shelby, Taylor, and Jordan, who I also got to know during those years at her house, and everyone else who was close to her.

Eric Erickson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Tami my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this time of loss. May God bless you and your family.

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

TW

“ Dave and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you on the loss of Sandi. As both a special wife and mother she will be missed. Hopefully you stay strong and remember those special times with a very special lady. Tom and Mary Woodmansee

tom woodmansee - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dave and family, Sandi was a very beautiful and special lady. Our condolences. You are in our thoughts.

Sharon Eckert & Mark Foss - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Tanner & Family- So very sorry for your loss. Please know that many people are thinking of you and praying for you. Beth Thune

Beth Thune - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ Tanner & Family, I am very sorry for your loss. Your strength and positive attitude these last few months is nothing short of inspiring. Your mom was a beautiful woman on the inside and out. I'm praying you find peace and comfort from all those that loved her and in the memories you will always share.

Tanya Koch - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ The greatest lesson I learned from my dear friend Sandi is that there are angels here on earth.....teaching, protecting, encouraging and loving us no matter what.....Sandi was just that. When I reflect back on all the years of her helping me to raise my greatest gift to the future...my daughter Jill, I feel the wonderful handprint that she has placed on my heart for always. Many times I watch Jill with her own daughter Kyanna and I see so much of Sandi.....I will always be grateful for all of you who shared her with us.....I found a quote that so reminded me of her and how she lived...."Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened." Dr. Seuss I pray for strength and peace for all but am reminded that heaven just got a whole lot better...

Ann Andre - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ *What a beautiful picture. Sandi, you are in our hearts forever. Kathy and Don Hertz*

Kathy Hertz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Dave & family, Aunt Bev and Uncle Ev, We were saddened to read of Sandy's passing, I know she fought so hard to stay with her family, but thank God, she is now at peace. Sandy will never be forgotten, she was a wonderful person and will live in the hearts of all who knew her. God be with all of you in the difficult days ahead. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace, Sandy.*

Carolyn&Dean Miller - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AI

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We loved Sandi and Sidney thought the world of her. We are so thankful for the love and kindness that she showed. She will be greatly missed. Love; Amy, Chad and Sidney Ihla*

Amy Ihla - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ *So sorry to hear about Sandi's passing. Your family has been through so much. You continue to be in my prayers. Thank God for your faith! May God surround you with His peace and the love of family and friends. Sincerely, Grace Adams friend of Jennifer Goos*

Grace Adams - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Dave & Family, I am sorry to hear about the passing of your beloved wife and mother. Your family is in our prayers. Jill Frohlich*

Jill Frohlich - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ *Sandi is one of the most beautiful women I have known. Her smile and kind heart will live on for a 100 years through the lives she has touched. May you all find peace in the memories she created and the joy she brought to life. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. God Bless.*

tammy ibach - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *I was saddened to hear the message from my Mom - Betty Martin Ohm - about Sandi's passing. Such a young, vibrant soul faced with the unbearable knowledge of knowing she would have to leave those she loved. Sandi and I spent many days together in those years long ago at the Elks swimming pool. The blond beauty with the brilliant smile. To Sandi's family, my heart aches for you and I do pray you find comfort in your memories and know she is in the loving and comforting hands of the angels after such a struggle here on earth. May God bless you and bring you comfort and peace in the days to come.*

Kathy Martin Ward - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM