

In Loving Memory Of Thomas Ochs

Born to Edward and Dorothy Ochs
September 28, 1948 ~ Fairview, Montana

Passed Away Peacefully
November 8, 2023 ~ Billings, Montana

Funeral Services
Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 1:00 pm
Community Presbyterian Church ~ Fairview, Montana

Officiating
Pastor Sam Samuelson

Final Resting Place
Fairview Cemetery ~ Fairview, North Dakota

Arrangements By
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home ~ Sidney, Montana

My flesh and
my heart fail; but
is the strength
of my *God*
heart
and my portion forever.

- Psalm 73:26



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September 28, 1948
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Thomas Michael Ochs peacefully passed away on November 8, 2023, at the age of 75 in Billings, MT. Despite having gone through several heart attacks and two strokes, he kept his will to live life to the fullest and his sense of humor up to his very last days.

Thomas was born on September 28, 1948, to Edward and Dorothy Ochs at the Broadhead home in Fairview, MT. His family initially lived in the Fairview hills and in 1952 moved to the valley at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. He attended elementary school in Dore and East Fairview and graduated from Fairview High School.

As an adult he spent a few years in the National Guards but returned home to pursue his passion, farming. He met his wife Susan when she was hired to drive trucks for beet harvest. They married on November 2, 1974, and later had two daughters, Katherine and Jennifer. He spent many years working in the oil and gas industry. In 2004, Thomas and his brother sold the land at the confluence, and it became Ochs Point. Tom and Susan moved to Williston, ND for about 10 years and then to Laurel, MT for another 10 years.

Thomas enjoyed restoring antique tractors and classic pickup trucks including a '58 Ford and a '67 Ford. He spent many winters with friends, ice fishing at the confluence, but those who knew him understood he was only there to play cribbage. Hunting was another favorite activity on the farm and hunters traveled long distances to hunt with Thomas. He was a talented, self-taught guitar player that played by ear and kept improving his abilities until the end of his life. He enjoyed making music with friends and played in a band when he lived in Williston, ND.

Surviving family members include his wife Susan (Hauso) Ochs of Laurel, MT, daughter Katherine (Ochs) Gowan of Billings, MT, daughter Jennifer Ochs and son-in-law Erjon Beqo of Pinole, CA, grandchildren Sofia and Lukas Beqo, brother Edward Ochs and sister-in-law Ann Ochs of Daytona Beach, FL. Thomas was blessed to have many cousins, nieces and nephews as well. He is preceded by his parents Edward and Dorothy (Huff) Ochs and sister Marie (Ochs) Finnicum.

Farewell My Friends

It was beautiful as long as it lasted, the journey of my life. I have no regrets whatsoever save the pain I'll leave behind.

Those dear hearts who love and care and the heavy-with-sleep ever-moist eyes, the smile in spite of a lump in the throat and the strings pulling at the heart and soul.

The strong arms that held me up when my own strength let me down, each morsel that I was fed with was full of love.

At every turning of my life I came across good friends, friends who stood by me even when the time raced me by.

Farewell, farewell, my friends, I smile and bid you goodbye. No, shed no tears for I need them not. All I need is your smile.

If you feel sad do think of me, for that's what I'll like. When you live in the hearts of those you love, remember then...

You Never Die.
- Gitanjali