



Vlasta Jana Marie "Pat" Baskin-Goad

January 20, 1929 - September 7, 2016

Vlasta Jana Marie "Pat" Baskin-Goad was born Jan.20, 1929 in Klatovy, Czechoslovakia to Josef and Marie Kolena. God took her home on Sept. 7, 2016. She is survived by sons Wade Baskin, his wife Patty, and children Summer Wozniak, Whit Baskin, Brady Baskin, and Season Baskin; Dan Baskin, his wife Ann, and children Crystal Morgan and Rachel Moore; Mike Baskin, and wife Eve, and children Landon Baskin, Lauren Scott, Lacey Baskin, Stephanie Garrett, and Steve Arnold; and 12 great-grandchildren. Pat was preceded in death by her husband Dr. Wade Baskin, and later by her second husband Dewey Goad, and her sister Irene Cizek.

Vlasta was well acquainted with hardship and struggles, which punctuated her life from an early age. The German army invaded her city in 1938, evicting her family from their house for use by the older officers. In 1944, fierce fighting between allied forces and the Nazis broke out in her hometown. Allied bombs claimed the lives of her aunt and two cousins. Vlasta's parents convinced a co-worker who lived in the country to take Vlasta and her sister Irene into their home where they would be safe from the bombing. After their father Josef put them on a train, the sisters walked through the fields to their new home. Two planes swooped down and flew by so closely that the girls could see the pilots' faces. The planes flew off without firing at them as they jumped in a ditch looking up at the planes. As the war drew to a close, Vlasta moved back to her parents' home. She then met her future husband Wade, who was a medic and an interpreter in the 8th Armored Division. Vlasta recalled it was

love at first sight, but Wade was transferred to Germany before he could say goodbye. He wrote her on Red Cross stationery, even writing her father to ask his permission to marry Vlasta. Wade never heard back from Vlasta, but continued to write every day. Vlasta's mother had hidden his letters as soon as they arrived. Vlasta found the letters one day when her parents were out and started writing Wade back. Upon Wade's discharge from the army, he tried to obtain a visa to return to Czechoslovakia but the Russians- who now controlled the country- denied it. The couple was married by proxy but Vlasta was not granted a passport. To further complicate matters, she was no longer considered a Czech citizen since she was now married to an American. Wade and Vlasta decided the only solution would be for her to escape to West Germany, the border being only a few miles from her home. Vlasta and three of her friends hatched a plan to escape but were reported to the Russians when after stopping at a farmhouse to ask directions. A Russian patrol quickly caught up with them just as they were crossing the marker stones into West Germany. One of the groups was shot dead and she and the rest of her group were attacked by the Russians' dogs. The subdued escapees were then chained to the Russians motorcycles and forced to run for several kilometers to a train station where they were sent back to town. After being interrogated most of the day, they were thrown in prison. Vlasta was in a cell with two other women for four months, but was sent to solitary confinement after she was caught trying to pass a note to her mother on a rare visit. After five months of solitary confinement in a cell with only a bucket and a blanket, her parents found a lawyer who secured her release. Upon her release in November 1948 she weighed 65 pounds. While recuperating at home, she found that she could not enter the United States after December 31 of that year. With only a little over a month left, Wade got her a ticket on a ship but later found that the ship would not arrive in New York City before December 31. Meanwhile, Vlasta's father bribed a man in the passport office to give her a passport. After many frantic days of travel, re-routing and delays due to storms, Vlasta arrived at La Guardia airport at 11:40 pm, December 31, 1948, 20 minutes before the

last immigrant was allowed into the USA. Vlasta then travelled to Arkansas where she was reunited with Wade for a short time. Wade then left to work on his doctorate at Columbia University and Vlasta remained in Arkansas where she worked in a chicken processing plant and as a nurse's aid in the local hospital. When she was delivering her first son, the doctor asked her if she wanted her baby buried in Arkansas or in Czechoslovakia, since he was expected to be a complicated breach-birth; however, the delivery was successful.

After receiving his PhD, Wade moved his family to New York City, where he started the Academy of Applied Linguistics. Later, due to concerns over his parents' health the family moved back to Arkansas and later to Durant, where Vlasta joined Wade in the Modern Language Department. She was a German and Russian instructor at SOSU and was fluent in five languages. While at SOSU, she translated the book "Hysteria, Reflex, and Instinct". She assisted her husband Wade in many of his books. Vlasta was the recipient of many professional awards. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Durant, where services will be conducted by Brown's Funeral Service at 2 pm on Monday, Sept. 12. Rev. Dave Smith and Rev. Ross Kirven will officiate. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.brownfuneralservice.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
501 15th Avenue
Durant, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Vlasta Jana Marie "Pat" Baskin-Goad*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *M.D. and Terri Gentry purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Vlasta Jana Marie "Pat" Baskin-Goad.*



M.D. and Terri Gentry - September 10, 2016 at 11:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Vlasta Jana Marie "Pat" Baskin-Goad.*



September 09, 2016 at 02:58 PM

DS

“ As a faculty member at Southeastern Oklahoma State University I learned Russian Language from Vlasta, accumulating what amounted to a minor. She was very special to me, and she had lived the kind of epic that best-selling books are written about. Her students learned the structure of the Russian language and acquired a basic vocabulary (best done by reading Russian novels in the native language), but there was much more. Her accounts of what it was actually like to live in a communist regime were gripping and at times either heart-rending or actually terrifying. Those who think communistic or even progressive/socialist governments are some kind of utopia ought to hear her story before venturing any further into such concepts. I am saddened by her passing, and I offer my sincere sympathy to her surviving family, some of whom were my own students.

Rick Wright (retired Southeastern chemistry faculty)

Dr. John R. Wright, Emeritus, SOSU - September 09, 2016 at 04:24 AM

KA

“ I had the privilege of learning German from Mrs Baskin while attending SOSU. She was a wonderful, loving, caring woman who enchanted those in her classroom with fascinating stories from her life experiences. I have such fond memories of her & she will be missed. Loving thoughts & prayers to her family!

Kris Ashton-Kimbark

Kris Ashton - September 08, 2016 at 09:48 PM

JB

“ Mrs. Baskin lived a block from my family. She taught me both Russian and German. She invited me into her home over a summer and taught me two years of German before I went to Austria in 1988 to sing. She was so caring and supportive and self-less. She took us to a village in Oklahoma for an authentic Russian meal and celebration at a truly old Russian Orthodox Church. She told me of her amazing life and was such a marvelous person. The world is a sadder place without her but a better one because she lived. - John Bostic

John Bostic - September 08, 2016 at 09:06 PM

NJ

“ I am so sad to hear of this incredible ladie's passing. I knew her as "Frau Baskin" back in my college days. German was my minor and I had the pleasure of being in all of her German classes at SOSU. In class, We loved more than anything hearing her tell about her life and the many hardships as well as triumphs that she experienced. Her life story should be made into a movie!! What an overcomer she was! And she had such a positive impact on so many people!! My prayers are with her sweet family 🙏

Natalie Alexander Johnson - September 08, 2016 at 06:58 PM

DG

“ I had a German Class where she was the instructor. I just loved her, and the class. So sorry for your loss.

Dena Grinslade - September 08, 2016 at 06:24 PM

RV

“ Wade, Patty and Family, so sorry to hear about the loss of your mom and grandmother. I only new Mrs. Baskin Goad for a short while as her neighbor. She was a nice and wonderful person to know.

Ray Veazie - September 08, 2016 at 05:10 PM

ZP

“ Pat was very welcoming to me 20 years ago when I arrived from the Czech Republic. Her kindness was very much appreciated. I am sad to find out of her passing. I wish I stayed more in touch. What an amazing lady, my condolences to her family.

Zuzana Palmer - September 08, 2016 at 04:20 PM

 Steve Rigazzi

“ So sorry for your loss. What an amazing life.
Steve Rigazzi

Steve Rigazzi - September 08, 2016 at 02:14 PM

DM

“ Thoughts and prayers to the Baskin family at this time. So sorry for your loss.
Always enjoyed talking to Mrs. Baskin- such a sweet lady! She will be missed.
James and Denise Mitchell

Denise Mitchell - September 08, 2016 at 01:40 PM

BS

“ *My thoughts and prayers to the Baskin families. Your mother and grandmother holds a very special place in my heart. I took German from her privately for a couple of years. Always had a great time with her in our lessons and learned so much from her. She loved you all very much!!*



Bennie Speaks-Tanner - September 08, 2016 at 09:44 AM

DG

“ *To Pat's family:*

So sorry to hear of the passing of Pat earlier today. I got acquainted with her when she first came to Calera Manor and had a room next door to my sister, Emma. Pat was a sweet lady who was always friendly around Emma and myself and I would almost always see her when I visited the nursing home which was most every day. Prayers to all of you at this difficult time and know that she is at rest now and not in any pain.

Don Garrison

Don Garrison - September 07, 2016 at 04:56 PM