



Ruth Iola Elie

May 18, 1926 - September 1, 2022

Ruth Iola(née Lee) Elie of Champlin died, age 96, on September 1, 2022.

Preceded in death by her husband Allard Norell Elie, Son Tedd Elie, Parents Mano & Olive (Peterson) Lee of Alexandria, and 5 siblings: Norman, Marvin, Wayne, Delores & Arlane.

She is survived by her son Tom Elie, daughters Barbara Elie & Beth Hammer, DIL Victoria Wolden Elie, and SIL Kevin Hammer. She leaves 4 adoring Elie grandsons: Troy, Ryan, Jonathan & Darren, and 4 devoted Hammer grandchildren: Robert, Jeremy, Kathryn & Rachel. She loved her 8 grandchildren dearly. Ruthie has 12 Elie great-grandchildren and a myriad of nieces and nephews whom she loved and loved her dearly.

Ruthie Iola Lee was raised on her parents farm in Alexandria, Minnesota.

During her formative years she was educated in a one-room schoolhouse not far from the lilac-lined road to their family farm - where she learned not only the 3 "R"'s but a lifelong sense of community and service.

She was friends with her school teacher. Their family farm was a friendly gathering place. The family worked hard; harvesting their crops, canning fruits and vegetables from their bountiful gardens, storing for the winter in their below ground cellar. During the Great Depression on the farm, there was always food on the table and her parents shared that bounty with those less fortunate.

Over the years the family's early transport included a horse & buggy, cutter, and a car with a rumble seat, and later the joys of the combustible engine

replacing horses and donkeys for harvesting with tractors and combines. Her Dad's pride and joy, a modern boat sized Oldsmobile - always polished.

At 14, she and her sister Dolores followed the exciting tradition of rural families, by sending their teenagers to "town" to live all week long in the the boarding houses above the local shops on Main Street. The two sisters had a birds eye view of their high school football field! Ruthie graduated from the downtown Central High School in Alexandria

After graduation at 18 she hugged her parents and eagerly took the train to "The Cities" of Minneapolis-St.Paul where she shared a house with several other girls. She was keen on city life, jumping on the streetcar to her job at Sears Roebuck & Co where she had scored a position as an Assistant Buyer in Housewares, which was perfect for her strong aesthetic sensibilities.

This young woman adventurer had the life she wanted, (away from a hard farm life) with one exception: she wanted to be a MRS.!

She knew she must find a good man, who mirrored the Christian values her parents had taught her, someone kind, like her father. She dated several men from her church, The Minneapolis Gospel Tabernacle, and there he was, the president of the church youth group, "Christ's Ambassadors", Al Elie of St Louis Park, MN. Tall & handsome, patient and kindhearted, they married in May 1946, a week before her 20th birthday! They decided not to have children for 5 years, enjoying those years as a couple, so that when their son Thomas Gregory arrived they were ready.

They settled in Bloomington, then Burnsville, raising their 4 children, and back to Bloomington where they built their dream house. They were founding members of Bloomington Assembly of God, later Cedar Valley Church where they had many longtime friends.

Ruthie enjoyed her life; her husband, her children and her many friends were important to her. She was capable, confident, beautiful and very social, always observant. She was generous and compassionate.

In later life she would ask, "Where is my beautiful husband"?

Her love for God caused her to embrace Christian values which were

exemplified in her life. At 96, she was looking forward to her eternal home, and now she is where she belongs, together again with her beautiful husband.

Memorial service Sept. 11:00pm, Washburn-McReavy 5000 West 50th & Highway 100, Edina, MN 55436, Memorials to Oasis World Ministries
Oasisworldministries.org

Cemetery Details

Fort Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 5. 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Chapel Service

SEP 5. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Chapel Service for Ruth Iola Elie in memory of Ruth Iola Elie



Washburn-McReavy - September 03, 2022 at 03:51 PM

ND

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a wonderful woman. She gave me the best advice 38 years ago - she was transparent , sharing her own similar struggle- I have passed on her wisdom to several others over the years. I remember when Mark was a baby, was mal-absorbing, with explosive diarrhea. It happened at church- all over me and the front step of the church. Your mom, dressed in the elegant, classy way she always looked, helped me clean up- and she cleaned the step /. She may have looked elegant and one who wouldn’t touch the dirt- but she had a heart of gold. That day I saw inside this incredible woman! Compassionate and wise. She will always have a special place in my heart. I know the last few years she’s been slipping away- so for her sake, I’m happy she is with her Savior. Hugs to you and your family. We will try to make the celebration of her life. ❤️ Nancy Djerf

Nancy Djerf - September 03, 2022 at 12:52 PM

BA

Thank you Nancy, for sharing how our Mom touched your life. It was good to see you.

We were delighted and appreciative of the turnout of nearly 100 guests at Ruth's memorial service. It was good to see our many cousins, friends and dear neighbors, who knew our parents in various seasons of their lives.

A special thanks to Lisa, her longtime "gem" of a Caregiver who brightened her life in her later years.

Thank you to all who were there, and to those who drove long distances to join our final farewell to our dear Mother. She would have surely enjoyed the party!

Barbara...Beth and Tom.

Barbara - September 07, 2022 at 10:15 AM