



## Elaine Humphrey Petersen

October 2, 1922 - July 20, 2024

As the sun rose in the early hours of July 20, 2024, Elaine Wanda Humphrey Petersen was welcomed into the arms of her loved ones in Heaven. Having reached the age of 101 years and 202 days, she took her last breath with her daughters beside her. Elaine was born in Purcellville, Virginia on October 2, 1922 to Harry and Lake Price Humphrey, and was the second oldest of six children.

A member of the greatest generation, she persevered through the Great Depression and World War II and witnessed countless world events and advancements. Elaine met her husband Louis Petersen (Pearl Harbor Survivor, Naval Aviator, and Silver Eagle) through her college roommate. Thus began a life full of adventures as a Navy wife.

She was a farm girl, sports lover, world traveler, news junkie, hat lover, fashionista, and a friend to all she encountered. Elaine never met a stranger. A proud Virginian who loved history, Elaine lived in a house built on land once occupied by George Washington's pig farm at Mount Vernon. Elaine was a lifelong Lutheran whose faith sustained her through many hardships and losses.

She helped in the founding of two organizations: the Fellowship Square, an affordable senior living community for vulnerable seniors in Woodbridge,

Virginia and the Navy Arlington Ladies at the Arlington National Cemetery. She was most proud of being a plank owner (co-founder) of the Navy Arlington Ladies where she spent countless hours honoring those who served our country.

Her most important roles were wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Elaine left an indelible mark on her family, friends, church, and community.

Proceeding her in death, Louis Petersen (husband), Louis M. Petersen (son), and wife Shelia Sabo Petersen; sisters Jeanette H. Yarus, Catherine Price Humphrey, and Sabra H. Rupe; brother Harry Byrd Humphrey; brothers-in-law Howard Yarus, Theron Rupe, Jack Peterson, Herbert Peterson; sister-in-law Delores Peterson; niece Susan Peterson; nephew Harvey Yarus; and countless friends.

Elaine will be missed by the children of Lou (deceased son) and Shelia (deceased daughter-in-law) Petersen; grandson Brent Petersen (Elizabeth); great grandsons Hart and Laine; granddaughter Brittany Petersen, grandson Scott Petersen (Min), and great grandson Louie.

Her daughter Elaine (Chipper) Petersen Whalan (John); granddaughter Bridget Whalan Higgins (Chris) and great granddaughter Kathleen and great grandson Alexander; granddaughter Lorena Whalan Williams (Josh); great granddaughter Brooklyn, and great grandsons Herschel and Logan.

Her daughter Wanda Petersen Higgins (Frank), and his sons Jeffrey (Michelle), granddaughter Sharon (great grandsons Austin and Jackson) and grandson Eric; Chris (Bridget) granddaughter Kathleen and grandson Alexander.

Elaine is survived by her sister Louise Humphrey Deml, brother-in-law John Deml, sister-in-law Frances Peterson, and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Services will be held on Friday, September 13, 2024. Visitation 9:00 a.m. Service 10:00 a.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 15695 Blackburn Road Woodbridge, Virginia. The burial will be at 1:00 p.m. at Arlington

National Cemetery, followed by a luncheon at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers consider a contribution to:

Fellowship Square Foundation Reston, VA, <https://www.fellowshipsquare.org/>.

Epiphany Lutheran Church, 5521 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309,

Our Saviors Lutheran Church (Cemetery Fund) 7479 Richmond Road,  
Williamsburg, VA, 23188

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 15695 Blackburn Road, Woodbridge, VA,  
22191.

Navy Arlington Ladies c/o Beci Brenton 715 East Custis Ave. Alexandria, VA,  
22301.

For more information on the service, burial, and reception visit Pierce Funeral Home at <https://www.piercefh.com>.

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# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Ave  
Arlington, VA 22211  
(877) 907-8585

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

SEP 13. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery  
1 Memorial Ave  
Arlington, VA 22211  
(877) 907-8585

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ *Elaine had "retired" from the Arlington Ladies when I met her in 2011 but I always enjoyed sharing her company at the social events she attended. She truly was a wonderful human and I am better for knowing her.*

*Kristin Driscoll, Navy Arlington Lady*

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**Kristin Driscoll** - September 12, 2024 at 11:30 AM

MG

“ *Lou Jr. and I were friends. Elaine was a fine, gracious, southern woman who I was honored to have known. So beautiful in the Soul and in femininity.*

*Marsha Guerrein, MD  
(Marce Guerrein's daughter)*



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**Marsha Guerrein** - August 31, 2024 at 09:33 PM

TG

“ Ahhh how the world will miss the likes of Elaine Petersen! A phenomenal woman, wife, mother, friend, sister, grandmother, volunteer, church member, neighbor, and more. We knew the Petersen's from Epiphany Lutheran Church where we both regular church members. Marceline Guerrein, our mother, and Elaine were BFF's. They would have a coffee meetup once a week at Elaine's home and talk about their lives, the news of the day, the church, their kids, everything. Louis was also a good family friend and we got a chance to help him with his wonderful garden of vegetables and fruit. He would do the tilling and planting, watering and he would have us come to help pick the produce as many hands make light work. We enjoyed the fresh vegetables he gave us in return. My sisters and I were of the same age as their children and we all went to FHHS and were friends. It is always hard to lose a parent, and especially one as beautiful as Elaine. She lived a good life to the end, and may God Bless her and her family always. Marceline will be welcoming Elaine in the skies of Heaven, perhaps with a cup of coffee.

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**The Guerreins** - August 31, 2024 at 12:44 PM

TG

“ *The Guerreins lit a candle in memory of Elaine Humphrey Petersen*



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**The Guerreins** - August 31, 2024 at 12:33 PM