



Elaine Ruth DeHarde

November 10, 1931 - March 20, 2026

Elaine Ruth DeHarde, 94, of Grand Island, entered eternal rest on Friday, March 20, 2026. Celebration of Life Service will be at 10:30am Saturday, May 2nd at St. Pauls Lutheran Church. The Reverend Bill Pavuk will officiate. Burial of ashes will be in the Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. All Faiths Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

Elaine was born on November 10, 1931, in Norfolk, Nebraska, to Carl and Elsie (Hoffman) Klentz. When she was nine years old, her family moved to a ranch in Wheeler County, where she was raised and educated. She graduated from Wheeler County High School in 1950, beginning a lifelong journey rooted in curiosity, education, and growth.

Elaine began her career as a one-room schoolteacher, an experience that set the foundation for her deep commitment to education and students of all ages. She was truly a lifelong learner and educator, teaching at every level throughout her career. After her first year of teaching in Amelia, Nebraska, Elaine transferred to Hall County Schools, where she taught for several years. She later served as Director of the Title I Program for Grand Island Public Schools before becoming principal at Lincoln Elementary, Dodge Elementary and Seedling Mile Elementary. Following those roles, Elaine taught at Hastings College for seven years, sharing her passion for learning until her retirement.

Beyond the classroom, Elaine embraced life with confidence, curiosity, and quiet independence. She forged her own path at a time when that was not

always customary, carrying herself with grace and self-assurance throughout her life. Elaine loved to dance and travel, always eager for new experiences and adventures. Elaine had a keen eye for detail, and her sense of style was a reflection of her creativity, confidence, and joy for life.

Elaine was first married to Bill Dallegge in 1952, and they shared ten years together until his passing in 1962. On February 20, 1971, she was united in marriage to Norman DeHarde, with whom she shared many cherished years. Those left to cherish her memory include her daughter, Renae (Thad) Haes; two grandchildren, Lilly (Gunnar) Vanek and Logan Haes; great-grandson Everett; nieces and nephews, Jean (Sargent) Kilcoin, Lenny Sargent, Roy Sargent; extended family and friends.

Elaine was preceded in death by her husbands, Norman DeHarde and Bill Dallegge; her parents; her brother, Donald Klentz; her sister, Ardith Sargent; and her nephew, Dennis Sargent and great-niece, Michelle Sargent.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Shriners Hospital for Children-Twin Cities.

Words of comfort and kindness may be left for the family at www.giallfaiths.com.

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Memorial Park

Grand Island, NE

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

MAY 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Pauls Lutheran Church
1515 South Harrison Street
Grand Island, NE 68801

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I knew Elaine quite well. I was a library-media specialist in the GI school system and I served at Dodge School when Elaine was principal there. On my first day at Dodge she greeted me with a warm welcome. She was a great administrator and a good friend as well. After we had both retired we spent time together in the Retired Teachers Association. I am so sorry for your loss. Sincerely,
Jean McMIndes

Jean McMIndes - May 03 at 03:58 PM

DF

“ Renae and family, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to care for Elaine. She was a very special lady, so sweet and all class. We're thinking of and praying for all of you. It was such an honor to get to know Elaine. Dr. Faimon and Hailey

Dr. Faimon - April 30 at 11:14 PM

BG

“ Mrs. DeHarde was my principal at Dodge Elementary for 1st through 6th grade. I had a hard time with a teacher, and can remember going to Mrs. DeHarde. She was kind, and helped me with figuring out the conflict I was having. I will always remember that, it meant alot to my 5th grade self, that she was there for me! It made me feel cared about, and that I will never forget. Prayers to all that knew and loved her. Beth (Nelson) Gentry

Beth Gentry - April 30 at 12:15 PM

MR

“ To a lady I admired and worked for. My 1st job after graduating in 74 I worked for Elaine DeHarde and Delilah Jenkins for title I reading. They both were my mentors I had such respect and learning my 1st real job under their knowledge and watched Elaine continue to become a principal. Reading teachers all people @ platte administration bldg was a great 1st job to have share and schools memories May Elaine rest in peace 🙏. Mary Redman

mary redman - April 30 at 10:52 AM

JM

“ I met Elaine through a mutual friend about 5 years ago and we had so much in common. We became fast friends and shared so many laughs. Elaine was truly one of a kind. Her compassion and generosity was endless. My memories of Elaine are treasured ones. She was such a wonderful person with a beautiful soul. Rest in peace, my friend. Mike and I will miss you so much. Jenny and Mike McDermott

Jennifer J McDermott - April 29 at 12:39 PM