



Elaine L. McDonnell

June 4, 1919 - February 4, 2008

Elaine L. McDonnell, 88, Topeka, passed away Monday, February 4, 2008. She was born June 4, 1919 in Irene, South Dakota, the daughter of James and Olive Buckstead. Elaine earned her Bachelors of Science degree in 1941 from Central Missouri State Teachers College and a Masters of Science degree from Emporia State Teachers College in 1965. Elaine started her teaching career at Wanamaker Grade School. In 1956 she began teaching in USD 501 at Topeka High, Holiday Jr. High, East Topeka Jr. High, Topeka West High and Robinson Middle School. She retired in 1982. Elaine loved to travel, having visited over 40 countries, square dance and spend time with family and friends. Survivors include her son, John McDonnell (Dianna) Tecumseh; granddaughter, Shannon McDonnell, Topeka; grandson, Brad McDonnell (Ashlea Nafziger) No. Glenn CO; great-grandson, Skyler McDonnell, Topeka; sisters, Annabelle Foreman, No. Babylon NY and Jean Platt, KCMO. Elaine was preceded in death by her son, Michael "Mac" McDonnell in 1990. Family will greet friends from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614, where a rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m. Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday at Mater Dei Holy Name Church. Burial will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Mater Dei Holy Name Church sent in care of the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ Elaine L. McDonnell

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ To the family of Elaine McDonnell:

My deepest sympathies to all of you. I knew Elaine from about 1966 to 1975 while I was teaching in the division of business and business education (now the School of Business) at Emporia State University. We were both members of Delta Pi Epsilon business education fraternity, Kansas Business Education Association, Mountain-Plains Business Education Association, and the National Business Education Association. I attended a number of meetings and conferences Elaine also attended and got to know her well. She was a professional teacher in every sense of the word and a good friend.

Because I've been in the moving business for 29 years and no longer teach, I haven't seen Elaine in recent years.

Interestingly, even though I live in Emporia, I was a member of Mater Dei Holy Name Church from 1937, when I was baptised there, until 1948, when I completed the fifth grade at Holy Name. My family and I then moved to Texas for 14 years. I remember that Elaine was a member of Holy Name.

Eternal rest grant unto Elaine. May she rest in peace.

Jim Kirby, Emporia

Jim Kirby - February 09, 2008 at 04:41 PM

MG

“ Elaine was the best teacher I ever had, and I'm sure one of the best THS ever had. She also became a good friend with whom I corresponded and visited on trips back to Topeka. She encouraged and inspired all of her students to aspire to become the very best employees they could be, and strive to get to the very top of their chosen profession. She was an excellent motivator and an inspiration to us all. She was a very special person and will be greatly missed, but never forgotten. Marilyn Hunsicker Goldsleger, THS Class of '61.

Marilyn Hunsicker Goldsleger - February 07, 2008 at 10:20 AM

JG

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I was just thinking about Elaine last week. Elaine was my typing and bookkeeping teacher in 1956 through 1958 at Topeka High School. She had a huge impact on my life. She was an exceptional teacher and one of my favorites. I called her a few years ago just to let her know that she was appreciated. She will always be remembered and hold that special place in my heart. My prayers go out to her family and friends.
Jacque

Jacque Christopher Grzesk - February 06, 2008 at 12:58 AM

SA

“ Our deepest sympathy to the McDonnell family. I had Mac as a teacher @ Wanamaker Grade School, loved her, she was one of my most memorable teachers - I have often wondered about her, since moving back to this area. I know you will miss her greatly. I remember her terrific smile, and beautiful red hair, she had a great sense of humor.

Sue (Miller) Atherton

Suzy Atherton - February 05, 2008 at 03:42 PM

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Sue (Miller) Atherton

Suzy Atherton - February 05, 2008 at 03:41 PM

VC

“ John and family. I am so sorry to hear about your mothers passing. Please know that you are all in my thoughts.

Vickie Colvin - February 05, 2008 at 01:35 PM

TC

“ Elaine was my shorthand and typing teacher at Topeka High School in 1964 and 1965. Her excellent teaching benefited my life in so many ways. She was so full of life, enthusiasm and joy. She will always be remembered and loved.

Twyla (Hunsicker) Cunningham - February 05, 2008 at 11:04 AM

TM

“ Shannon,
You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. If you need anything I am here for you.

Tina Miller - February 05, 2008 at 10:51 AM