



## Elaine Heiden

September 22, 1950 - July 4, 2020

Elaine Calhoun Heiden, age 69, passed away on July 4, 2020 in Buckeye, Arizona surrounded by loving family members. Born in Phoenix, Arizona on September 22, 1950, she is the daughter of John and Norma Calhoun. They preceded her in death along with her brother Johnny.

She is survived by her children Michelle Kelley and Todd Jaeger, son-in-law Evans Kelley, daughter-in-law Michele Phillips, grandchildren Lindsay, Hali and Ryan, great grandchildren Tyler, Carson and Ryder and siblings Phyllis Hayden, Denise Toombs, Gordon Calhoun and Loren Calhoun.

Her family moved from Phoenix to Buckeye when Elaine was a small child and where she attended Buckeye Elementary School. After finishing her freshman year at Buckeye Union High School, her family moved to Tucson where she completed her education at Rincon High School. She later moved back to Buckeye with her children.

From an early age Elaine was an accomplished seamstress. She also enjoyed knitting and would fearlessly tackle any house project which included painting.

As a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, she had a great rapport teaching the youth and they all adored her.

Elaine had a long career as a bank teller, starting with Valley National Bank which became Bank One, then Chase Bank. There, she was legendary for her friendliness. She had a great interest and love for all people, never one to stand in judgment. If you knew her, she was your friend.

After retirement, she enjoyed restoring and selling American Girl dolls and accessories. She had fun traveling with her family, playing games, attending the LDS temple, family tostada nights and spending time with her family.

In spite of many physical limitations, Elaine was always there to lend a helping hand to family and friends. She was an example of fortitude and positive attitude in the midst of her health struggles.

Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are the jewels in her crown of life. She doted on them and they doted on her. Elaine is loved by many and she will be sorely missed.

There will be a private family service at the City of Mesa Cemetery where she will be laid to rest with her parents.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Diabetes Association.

# Comments

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“ Elaine was my life long friend. She will be missed greatly. Love you Elaine.



**Karen Goins** - July 16 at 11:22 PM

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“ Elaine was a dear friend from high school days until her passing. Through the years I treasured seeing her because she was always so fun. She loved life and cherished her family. Even when she was not feeling well she always put on a smile. She was a very brave lady. A year ago last March Elaine was in the hospital with pneumonia. My husband was on the same floor with complications from congestive heart failure. Elaine had her sister Phyllis, who is our sister-in-law, wheel her in her wheelchair to come see my husband and me. She was obviously very ill, but she still made a valiant effort to cheer my husband. We were so touched. Elaine was very special to us and will be missed, but because of Jesus we know we will be reunited with her again. Our love and prayers are with her family.

**Karen Hayden** - July 13 at 02:46 AM

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“ Our sincere sympathy and condolences to Elaine's family and loved ones. We are very sorry for your loss. RIP Elaine. Our blessings. The Grandy and Towner Families

**Kathleen Towner** - July 12 at 03:06 PM

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“ There were times when she would come to our church ward with her sister Phyllis. That is how I got to know her. She always had a kind word and would always asked how I was doing. I loved how she would always have a funny remark to make us grin or giggle. She had a beautiful smile that welcome you as you would go to say hi. I will miss that sweet smile the always had for others.  
Tonya Messerschmidt



Tonya Messerschmidt - July 12 at 02:39 AM

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“ I can't remember a time when I uttered the name Elaine without Phyllis being shortly behind. My two older cousins who I admire. As my sisters and I had our "sisterly" moments growing up, my mom would say, "Why can't you be like Phyllis and Elaine." You are the gold standard for how to love one another. I remember as a child having a Christmas where my family was struggling. Under the tree that year were beautiful nightgowns hand made for each of us. The thoughtfulness of that gift from two caring cousins has remained with me throughout my life. The world has lost a bright star, but the rejoicing from above by family gone before lightens my sadness. I wish I could give you each a hug, Phyllis and Michelle. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Lisa Fyan - July 11 at 02:01 PM

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“ Elaine was my first sister (in law) so many years ago. My thoughts, prayers and sympathy to the family. Rest in peace, Elaine.

Cynthia Earl - July 10 at 10:43 AM

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“ We lost a very special person a couple of days ago, my cousin Elaine Calhoun the daughter of Johnny and Norma Calhoun. She always had a smile on her face and saw the good in everyone. Her laughter was contagious! She did not have an easy life - years ago she had a kidney and pancreas transplant which thankfully gave us so much more time with her. She still struggled with health issues, but never once did I hear her complain.

My beautiful cousin you will be truly missed, but I know you were welcomed with open arms by your parents, my mom and dad, your brother - Little Johnny, your Uncle Gary, your nephew and your niece and so many others. I love you dearly, you will not be forgotten!



**Vicki Lescoe** - July 10 at 05:16 AM

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“ There was the time Elaine and I were riding with Phyllis to see the Christmas lights and we saw a Rockinghorse in the lawn that we loved. I don't remember which brave soul went up and knocked on the door to find out where they bought it. Or when we would watch dancing with the stars and we certainly could critique them and pick out our favorites. Then there were Elaine's ballet moves when I was trying to get orange juice into her when she had her blood sugar lows. I have 35 years of treasured memories with my dear to the heart friend Elaine. I will miss her.

**Cindy Lindsay** - July 10 at 01:44 AM

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“ My heart goes out to her family and all who knew Elaine. This woman exemplified what it meant to be Christ-like. She taught me so much about our Savior in my youth. When I look back on my life, she was one of the key people who left an imprint on my heart which lead me to find my own testimony. Her kind, meek, sweet soul has forever made a lasting impression on mine. I can say without a doubt, I would not be the man I am today if I had not known this beautiful sweet woman. She will forever live on in my heart and will be missed dearly. Until we meet again Sis. Elaine Heiden

**Brandon Tyson** - July 10 at 01:00 AM

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“ I want to share two memories of my cousin, Elaine. Memories that will be with me the rest of my life. First one, when I was real young, I must have been 5 or 6 years old, we were at a celebration at Elaine’s family’s house. Uncle Johnny wanted to show us how to ride a horse. I got on the horse and it started bucking. I got down right away even though Uncle Johnny and others were giving me a hard time like I was afraid. Uncle Johnny said, “Hey, Elaine! Show these guys how to ride a horse” referring to me, my brother and dad. So Elaine got on the horse, and it took about 5 steps, and it threw her flying through the air. I know it’s not funny but every time I saw her, I thought about that time.

Now, for the last ten years, memories are a lot different. Memories that I want to share with others. Memories that are more of a gift. Elaine's acts of kindness and caring for others, even though she was experiencing hardships of her own she would still think of others. That’s a gift and a blessing that Elaine gave to those that knew her.

Every time I would visit my parents they would tell me how you would call them to make sure they were doing good. They so loved you, how you were always there for them. Thank you, Elaine for all the love and kindness you have given to our family, especially my parents. Always there for them.

Alden

**Alden Carbine** - July 10 at 12:14 AM

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“ I’m so sorry to here this... I always enjoyed seeing her at the bank and Laplacita.. What a sweet precious Lady she was...She will be missed.. Hugs to her family.....Richard and Susan Youngker...

**Richard and Susan Youngker** - July 09 at 10:23 PM

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“ My heart goes out to all her family. She was the best neighbor and friend. I remember many conversations , her smile and positive attitude were an inspiration.....

**Rhoda Sylvester** - July 09 at 10:01 PM

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“ Elaine’s laugh was contagious. She was always happy despite her physical limitations. She was a great example to all of us. Phyllis and Elaine were quite the example of fun and a zest for life



**Karen van der Werf** - July 09 at 09:23 PM

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“ I enjoyed the times we went to lunch together. Even though you’ve been so sick for so long, you always had a beautiful smile on your face and a wonderful attitude about life. I feel very blessed to have known you. RIP beautiful lady. I love you. Linda Brewer

**Linda Brewer** - July 09 at 09:19 PM

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“ I was friends with Elaine at a very young age-- probably age 7 to 14. I rarely saw her after age 14 because we both had moved from Buckeye. But we contacted each other on a handful of occasions and that kept our friendship alive. Obviously, she made a huge impression on me just in that short, young time of life, because now that she has returned to her heavenly home, my heart misses her. Love ya Elaine! Godspeed.

Rhonda Shumway Sarager

Rhonda Sarager - July 09 at 06:58 PM



“ I am sad to hear about Elaine. Elaine has such a sweet spirit. I was blessed to know her. Prayers to her family.

Lois Grandy - July 09 at 07:22 PM



“ Dear Elaine. We miss you already! Going forward we will miss your happy giggles and your bright smile. We will miss your true friendship—the friendship that only comes from someone who really cares about her friends, who has no pretenses and the knowledge that once a friend always a friend! We will miss your words of wisdom “it’s going to be okay, you’ll make it through this”. We will miss admiring you making your life with some lemons and turning them into lemonade. We will miss loving you and knowing you love us. But on the flip side we are happy for you to be able to return to your family. We are happy to know that you are happy where you are—no pain! We’re happy that you are in the arms of our Savior, feeling his love for you. We will be looking for you when it is our turn to cross the veil—seeing your smile and feeling your love. So until then, our friend, know we love you. Hugs from the Stanley John family

Ann John - July 09 at 08:17 PM



“ Elaine was such a special person and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to have her friendship. I admired her courage and her faith as she endured her many trials but always had a smile. She has a special place assigned to her in Heaven, she truly was an angel. I send my love and prayers to her family and also to her dear sister Phyllis who was always there to care for her and help her find joy in her journey. Love and Sympathy, Deanna Thompson

Deanna R Thompson - July 09 at 08:18 PM

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“ Best sister anyone could ever have. I love my sister!!!  
Lala

**Phyllis J Hayden** - July 09 at 05:02 PM



“ I'm so sorry Phylis I loved her. She was so kind and loved you so much

**Rachel Barker** - July 09 at 07:27 PM



“ Loved her, too Phyllis. Fun times as far back as grade school, & even several times after y'all moved to Tucson. I'll be missing her for long time to come, and share your pain but feel she has a better comfort ongoing. Thank you for sharing, love ya -- Leslie (Butler) Krumtinger

**Leslie Butler Krumtinger** - July 10 at 01:29 PM