



Eleanor Esther Sortor

November 25, 1923 - June 25, 2025

A Life Well Lived: Remembering Eleanor E. Sortor

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Eleanor Esther Sortor passed away peacefully on June 25, 2025, at the age of 101. Born in Ridgefield, Washington, and raised in Woodland, Eleanor lived a long, full life rooted in family, faith, hard work, and joy.

She was the daughter of Andrew and Katherine (Thoeni) Weissenfluh and the youngest of four children, joining her beloved brothers Bert, Ernie, and Walter. Eleanor graduated from Woodland High School in 1941 and married the love of her life, Norman L. Sortor, in 1946. Together they raised two daughters, Shirley and Cathy Jo, and built a life filled with laughter, adventure, and love. Eleanor was a lifelong member of the V.F.W., the American Legion Auxiliary, and proudly served as Past President of the Ladies of Elks. Her community involvement reflected her deep sense of service and dedication to those around her.

But perhaps what defined Eleanor most was her legendary work ethic. Her first job was helping a neighbor with laundry, earning 5 cents an hour—something she loved to tell people, with a sparkle in her eye. From waitressing and baking pies to housing schoolteachers while raising her family, Eleanor never shied away from a challenge. She even sold cemetery plots door-to-door, which she proudly declared was her favorite job—because, as she said, "I was good at it!"

She would go on to own Basin Cemetery Marker Service for over 53 years,

finally retiring at the age of 87. She also owned and managed A-1 Mini Storage and Broadway Rentals-a true businesswoman with grit and grace. Eleanor loved to cook (and was very good at it), but her passions extended far beyond the kitchen. She lived to dance, enjoy a good glass of wine, play pinochle, and-most of all-spend time with her family. Her travels took her across the Caribbean-St. Thomas, Aruba, Jamaica, and more and many times to Maui with her daughter Shirley. A true highlight was a month- long tour through Europe, where she visited Hasliberg, Switzerland-the birthplace of her parents-and met cousins she never knew she had.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband Norman, her parents Andrew and Katherine, her brothers Bert, Ernie, and Walter, and her beloved daughter Cathy Jo Glaesemann.

She is survived by her daughter Shirley Wheeler, grandchildren Scott (Jennifer) Wheeler and their children Jordan and Luke, Nate Wheeler, and Amanda (Andrew) Ogilve. She was also deeply loved and cared for by her grandchildren Shane Glaesemann and his daughter Samantha, Kelsey Bradshaw and her daughters Alexys (Devon) Hartman, Morgan, Cadence, and Piper, along with her great-great-grandchildren Sydney, Josie, Elsie, Oakley, and Porter.

Eleanor adored her family and cherished every moment with them-right up to her very last days. She was always put together, always classy, and never short on sass. Her quick wit and "you never know what she's going to say next" humor made her the life of every room she entered. Weekly card games were a staple-she always won, or so she insisted. Whether she did or not didn't matter; if she wasn't winning most of the time, she'd make sure the next game went her way. Her playful snicker when she was crowned the winner will never be forgotten.

She often said, with a wink and a grin, "Guess what? I won!" And when you replied, she'd flash that smile and say, "What's new?"

With Gratitude

Our family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the incredible caregivers and professionals who helped Eleanor live her best life until the very end:

To Monroe House, thank you for loving her like family, for tucking her in each night, and for welcoming all of us over the years with open arms.

To Aida and the staff at Golden Years Home Care, thank you for your tireless care during her final weeks-you brought peace, comfort, and dignity during a sacred time. To Dr. Pimentel Jahns, thank you for 11 years of compassionate care. She always looked forward to her appointments just to see you.

And to Hospice, thank you for your gentle support, communication, and the comfort you gave not only to her-but to all of us.

A Legacy of Love

Eleanor was a once-in-a-lifetime woman-fierce, funny, wise, and warm. She organized everything, beat everyone at cards, and loved deeply. She taught us how to work hard, laugh often, and live fully.

She will be laid to rest next to her husband and parents at Lincoln Memorial Mausoleum in Portland, Oregon.

We will carry her sass, her stories, and her strength with us always.

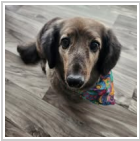
Tribute Wall

LS

“ *Liza Springer lit a candle in memory of Eleanor Sortor*



Liza Springer - July 03, 2025 at 12:18 AM



“ *So very sorry to hear of your loss. My favorite memory of Eleanor was one year at Christmas, Don and Cathy and Shane and Kelsey and Eleanor and my Mom and I were riding around looking at Christmas lights. My Mom needed to sit down so she walked to the table and sat down and Eleanor did the same but she was much taller than my Mom and she bonked her head on the bed above the table. Just added more merriment to our seasonal outing! RIP Eleanor, Keep winning those card games!! Leanne Bunn*

Leanne Bunn - July 02, 2025 at 10:00 PM

TB

“ *Kelsey, sorry you lost your Grandmother. She was quite a woman.*

Trask Bob - July 02, 2025 at 11:30 AM



I first met Eleanor when I bought my brother in laws headstone. She was so kind she told me she would be there when they placed it cuz they needed supervised.. later I met her thru the Eagleslodge and she was still as sassy. I loved how she planned her birthday party every year” do it would be done right” if anyone complained about the band she would tell them “ when it’s your birthday you can hire and pay for your choice of music” she was truly one of s kind

Donna Anderson - July 03, 2025 at 11:35 PM

DH

“ *Denise Hancock lit a candle in memory of Eleanor Sortor* ”



Denise Hancock - July 01, 2025 at 04:06 PM