

Born on January 19, 1946, Elaine lived a full and remarkable life defined by curiosity, kindness, dedication, and a love for family, friends, and adventure.

A lifelong learner and high achiever, Elaine graduated with honors from Williston High School in 1964. During her school years, she enthusiastically participated in numerous clubs and church youth organizations and played bassoon in the school band. She also developed a lifelong appreciation for music through years of classical piano lessons, a passion she later rekindled after moving to Wahpeton.

Elaine attended Minot State University, graduating summa cum laude in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology. Her career took her across the country, with positions in Boulder, Colorado; Manassas, Virginia; Oceanside, California; and Fall River, Massachusetts, before she ultimately made her professional home at St. Francis Hospital in Breckenridge, Minnesota, where she dedicated more than 30 years of service.

Elaine was deeply passionate about laboratory science and advancing medical technology. She took tremendous pride in her profession and was an active participant in medical organizations at the state, regional, and national levels. Her intelligence, professionalism, and commitment to excellence earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues throughout her career.

No matter where life took her, Elaine cultivated beauty around her. She had a special love for flowers and gardening, often transplanting favorite plants from one home to the next. In her Wahpeton garden, asters from her childhood home in Williston, North Dakota, continue to bloom as a living reminder of her roots and her enduring connection to family.

Elaine embraced life with enthusiasm and a sense of adventure. She adored her beloved West Highland Terriers and shared countless adventures with five faithful Westies who accompanied her on airplane trips, road trips, boating excursions, and fishing outings.

Fishing was one of Elaine's greatest joys, especially when shared with her husband, Al. Together they explored rivers and lakes throughout the region, creating treasured memories at their beloved Lake of the Woods home.

Of all her accomplishments and experiences, nothing brought Elaine greater happiness than being a grandmother. Ella and Reed held a special place in her heart. She found opportunities to support them, attending sporting events, celebrating milestones such as homecoming and prom, and creating lasting memories. One of her most treasured experiences was taking her granddaughter on a special birthday trip to the coastal islands of Georgia.

Elaine valued friendship and community and was actively involved in numerous organizations, including Bridge Club, Craft Club, Birthday Gals, Garden Club, Mahjong Gals, and Sons of Norway. She formed lifelong friendships wherever she lived and was known for her warmth, generosity, quick wit, and welcoming spirit. An avid sports fan and participant, Elaine enjoyed downhill skiing, volleyball, tennis, and cheering on her favorite teams. She was always willing to try something new, embrace a challenge, or join in an adventure.

Travel was another lifelong passion. Whether by car, boat, airplane, or simply exploring a new place with friends, Elaine was happiest experiencing new destinations and creating memories with those she loved. She especially treasured her Class of '64 girls' trips, visits to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, travels throughout many countries, and the accomplishment of visiting all 50 states.

Elaine will be remembered for her adventurous spirit, sharp intellect, generous heart, unwavering devotion to family and friends, and her ability to find joy in every stage of life. She lived fully, loved deeply, and left behind countless cherished memories that will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Elaine is lovingly remembered by her stepsons, Erick Sommers (Misa Shioda), and Anthony (Andria) Sommers; her cherished grandchildren, Ella and Reed; her nieces and nephew, Tammy (Alex) Gonzalez, Kari Nelson (Tom Wilson), and Todd (Tammi) Nelson; and brother-in-law, David (Linda) Sommers.

She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Allan Walter Sommers; her parents, Arne and Ruth Nelson; siblings, Larry Nelson and Arne Nelson; sister-in-laws Jan Nelson and Mary Spratt; and niece Christie LaDestro.

Her legacy lives on in the family she adored, the friendships she cultivated, the gardens she nurtured, and the many lives she touched throughout her extraordinary journey. In lieu of memorials, please donate to a charity that aligns with your interests.

In Loving Memory



Elaine Kay Sommers
1946 – 2026

*I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun
even more. I wish you enough happiness
to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.*

*I wish you enough pain so that even the
smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.*

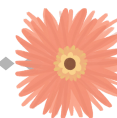
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

*I wish you enough loss to appreciate
all that you possess. I wish you enough hellos
to get you through the final good-bye.*



Vertin-Munson Funeral Home | Wahpeton, ND

Elaine Kay Sommers



Born

January 19, 1946 | Williston, North Dakota

Passed Away

August 18, 2026 | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Age

80Years | 6 Months | 30 Days

Memorial Service

11:00 AM | Monday, August 31, 2026

Bethel Lutheran Church | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Amy Eisenmann

Organist

Mary Jane Pauly

Congregational Hymns

“In The Garden” | “Borning Cry”

“You Have Come Down To The Lake Shore”

Interment at a Later Date

Groveland Cemetery | Dundas, Minnesota