



## Elaine Marie Wilcke

September 28, 1929 - May 23, 2024

“Bless the Lord oh my soul and all that is within me, Bless His Holy name.”

Psalm 103

We mourn the passing of Elaine Marie Wilcke, 94, at Accura Healthcare of Spirit Lake, on Thursday, May 23, 2024. Elaine was born at Grinnell, Iowa on September 28, 1929, daughter of Elmer and Tena Pals Hillmann. On August 15, 1951, she married Ernest W. Wilcke, son of Detlef and Lulu Clausen Wilcke. To this union, one son, Victor Wendell Wilcke, was born.

Elaine was a favorite soloist in the churches, organizations and schools of the Grinnell community from age 3 to her graduation from Grinnell High School in 1947. Quote from her high school annual – “Honesty and sincerity are her first principles.” She went on to Wartburg College where she gained one of two positions in the concert choir as a treble high soprano. She was privileged to sing with the choir on its 10,000-mile concert tour to the West Coast. Highlight of the tour was to record their repertoire in the RCA Victor studio in Hollywood. In 1948, Elaine entered nurse’s training at Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines, graduating the month after her wedding. Nursing experience included General Duty, Head Nurse in Obstetrics, school nurse, Case Finding Chairman for Tuberculosis, volunteer for testing clinics, Red Cross nurse for volunteer Home & Blood Mobile and volunteer school nurse.

Volunteer service was also given with the Pegasus program, VAC, DCMH Auxiliary, CASA, PLUS, Dickinson County Home, Election Judge, church activities including Sunday School, catechism, Bible School Teacher, circle

chairman, choir, librarian, Lutheran World Relief, and Quilting chairman – 10 years; Spirit Lake Library as Treasurer for Friends – 15 years, a term as Library Trustee and 15 years as a volunteer at St. Luke's Lutheran Home in Spencer. She also earned President Bush's pin for 4000 plus hours of volunteer work.

Elaine loved to embroidery, crocheting, knitting, quilting, and especially making baby sweaters for Lutheran World Relief. She also loved gardening, flowers, games, and art. Elaine and Ernie did not know the word: RETIRE. They took one vacation between 1964 and Ernie's death – a convention in Toronto!

Left to mourn is her brother, Dr. Daniel J. Hillmann of Baton Rouge, LA; goddaughter, Brenda Mikel Hicks of New York and her husband Joe; cousins, nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and nephews.

Deceased are husband, Ernest; son Victor; parents, brother, Elmer C. Hillmann, brother-in-law Wilford Mikel of Grinnell, Iowa and her sister, Agnes Mikel of Grinnell, Iowa.

Please remember Doctor's Without Borders, Lutheran World Relief, The Southern Poverty Law Center, and the International Justice Mission on memorials. These were Elaine's charity priorities.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date at Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake. Burial will be in Clinton Lawn Cemetery beside Ernest and near his parents and their son. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake, IA. Online condolences may be left at [www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com](http://www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com)

"Commit your way unto the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act." Prov. 37:5

# Cemetery Details

## **Clinton Lawn Cemetery**

2610 Manufacturing Dr.  
Clinton, IA 52732

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ I had the privilege of growing up and knowing Elaine at Grace Lutheran Church. And being a Friend, and being her friend Was a Privilege She Leaves an Incredible Legacy for her family to be Very proud of! God Bless The memory of Elaine Wilcke 🙏



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**Ruth and Pete Albrant** - May 29, 2024 at 07:37 PM

JM

“ Elaine was such a kind, Loving lady who was such a joy to work with!! We shared many happy moments, laughter, the love of cats, music & love for God. She was also such a giving person . . .to so many people/organizations in so many ways! I never did win a game of Chinese Checkers when we played!!! She will be missed!!

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**Jeanette Meyer** - May 27, 2024 at 09:42 PM

RC

“ Elaine's story of life was well written. Her kindness and love is a good testament to follow. She was a special lady and will be missed by all. She had many good friends in the Spirit Lake area. May God be with you in this time of loss. With Sympathy, Randy and Lois Creese, Panora, Iowa

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**Randy and Lois Creese** - May 24, 2024 at 09:38 PM

BA

“ Beverly Atwell lit a candle in memory of Elaine Marie Wilcke



Beverly Atwell - May 24, 2024 at 09:04 PM

DP

“ Dan Nancy Hillmann M Parker & Pam Parker purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Elaine Marie Wilcke.



Dan Nancy Hillmann M Parker & Pam Parker - May 24, 2024 at 04:02 PM

RM

“ Reba And Alan Munson lit a candle in memory of Elaine Marie Wilcke



Reba and Alan Munson - May 23, 2024 at 11:56 PM

PR

“ Peggy Rick lit a candle in memory of Elaine Marie Wilcke



Peggy Rick - May 23, 2024 at 10:57 PM

LC

“ *Linda Christoffer lit a candle in memory of Elaine Marie Wilcke*



Linda Christoffer - May 23, 2024 at 09:44 PM

LC

*Elaine was my Sunday School and Confirmation Teacher..she was Wonderful..I still have a book she gave me as our Birthdays were so close to the same day... God Bless Her..🙏🙏💕*

Linda Christoffer - May 23, 2024 at 09:47 PM

KW

“ *You hung in there for a long time, Elaine! Gods Blessings to Brenda and all of your family.*

KAY L WILSON - May 23, 2024 at 06:30 PM



“ *Mary Ellen Inbody lit a candle in memory of Elaine Marie Wilcke*



Mary Ellen Inbody - May 23, 2024 at 05:03 PM



*So sorry to hear of her passing! She was so good to send cards!🙏🙏*

Mary Ellen Inbody - May 23, 2024 at 05:11 PM

DB

“ *I'm so sorry to hear this. She was a great lady..  
My sympathy to her family.*

*Dayle Broocks*



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**Dayle Broocks** - May 23, 2024 at 04:30 PM



“ *Sorry to hear of your loss, she was such a sweet lady. She shared one of her favorite Thanksgiving recipes of a cranberry fluff salad with me. I will think of her every Thanksgiving when we make it.  
~Dr. Cornwall*

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**Stacie Cornwall** - May 23, 2024 at 03:22 PM