

Remembering Elma

Elma DuChateau, age 90, peacefully passed away surrounded by her family on June 30, 2024, at her home in Custer, South Dakota (SD).

Elma was born in Hot Springs, SD, on June 6, 1934, to Lawrence and Ebelina (Raske) Hiller. In 1935, Elma and her family moved to a farm near Custer where she attended country school as a child. Except for a handful of years in other Black Hills communities, Custer remained her home.

Elma met Eugene (Gene) Hammer in 1948 at Custer High School (CHS) and they quickly became high school sweethearts. After high school graduation Gene enlisted in the National Guard and was soon called to active duty. Unsure where the Army might send him, Gene and Elma were married June 27, 1951, after Elma's junior year at Custer high school. Gene was soon sent to Alaska, while Elma stayed in Custer. Thanks to the persistence of her mother and the Governor of South Dakota, Elma was able to remain in high school as a married woman and graduate with her class in 1952. These actions resulted in changes to previous South Dakota policies concerning women remaining in high school after marriage.

Elma and Gene made their home in Custer after his return. Elma spent most of her time as a homemaker and mother while her children were young. As the children grew older, Elma and Gene became small business owners in Custer, where Elma kept the books and did anything needed to support the businesses. Elma loved to sew, crochet, embroider, and no one made better cookies, homemade ice cream, or Tom and Jerry's. There was always time for square dancing, picnicking, and having friends and family over for Saturday night or Sunday afternoon gab sessions.

Elma was a lifelong member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (ORLC). She was confirmed and married in ORLC, and dedicated many years of service to ORLC, especially through the ORLC Guild and Dorcas Society.

Survivors include two daughters: Kathy Homer (David) of Custer, and Stilwell, Kansas; Sherry Bauer of Custer; one son: Scott (Traci) Hammer of Elgin, MN; special stepson Bud Hendrickson of Washougal, WA; eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, husbands Gene Hammer in 1982, Everett Hendrickson in 1985, and George DuChateau in 2010.

*Arrangements have been placed in the care of
Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home
Custer, South Dakota*

*In Loving
Memory*



Elma M. DuChateau
1934-2024

IN LOVING MEMORY

Elma M. DuChateau

June 6, 1934—June 30, 2024
Hot Springs, South Dakota Custer, South Dakota

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid you see.
I took his hand when I heard His call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found the peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joys-
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine for tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief-
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts, and peace to thee-
God wanted me now, He set me free.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

10:00 a.m., Friday, June 12, 2024
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Custer, South Dakota

OFFICIANT

Rev. David Warner

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"Nearer My God To Thee"
"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"
"Blessed Be The Tie That Binds"

PIANIST

Liz Anderson

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Elma's Family and Friends

LUNCHEON

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

MEMORIALS

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
or the Lutheran Hour Ministries
www.LHM.org

COMMITTAL SERVICES

3:00 p.m., Friday, July 12, 2024
Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota