

LAVERNE BAKER ELLIOTT

Born in the West Texas town of Stamford in 1924 and raised in nearby Abilene, Laverne was the youngest of seven children in the Gratz and Lorena Baker family.

Laverne married Lt. Albert Selden Elliott on July 24, 1943. After her husband returned from the Pacific Theater in 1945, they settled in a small Texas town where their son, Michael, was born. They moved to Sturgis in 1953.

Laverne graduated from Black Hills Teachers College to follow in the teaching footsteps of her four older sisters. She began her career teaching kindergarten at Deadwood Public Schools in 1959. On her first day, with 45 students she did not know, a forest fire surrounded Deadwood. The city had to be evacuated. She later said “There was nothing in my lesson plan for this insanity.”

A few years later, she accepted a job teaching first grade in Sturgis, first at Badger-Clark Elementary School and later at Sturgis Elementary. She retired in 1988, twenty-nine rewarding years as a teacher.

Teaching young children was her life’s work and passion. She believed it was her duty to ensure that every child who passed through her classroom would be able to read . . . and she believed that reading should be Fun! Fun! Fun! She strongly believed if children could not read at the end of first grade, their future was bleak.

A number of her students were inspired by her to become elementary teachers . . . and some of them still use her “Fun-Fun-Fun” tricks-of-the-trade.

She was publicly recognized for her work in the classroom when she was named South Dakota Teacher of the Year. She also served on the governor’s Education Task Force.

Throughout her life in Sturgis, Laverne was active in many local organizations, including the Sturgis Area Arts Council, Fort Meade History Museum, St. Thomas Church, Delta Kappa Gamma and PEO. She had an intense love of gardening and entertaining her many friends gave her great pleasure.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Al. Survivors include her son Michael (Kathy), many nieces and nephews, and her devoted companion Don Dubbe.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Sturgis Senior Center or Sturgis Area Arts Council.

In Loving Memory Of



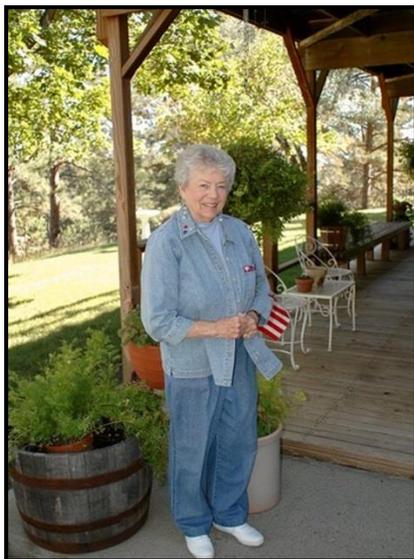
Laverne Elliott

1924 ~ 2018

The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and refreshments following the service in the church basement. We thank you for your presence and condolences.



*A Teacher holds
her Students
hands for
a while...
their
Hearts
forever*



*In Loving Memory Of
Laverne Elliott*

Born

February 24, 1924
Stamford, Texas

Died

March 20, 2018
Sturgis, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Monday, March 26, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Reverend Bunker Hill

Organist

Sarah Nelson

Musical Selections

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
“Amazing Grace” “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

Pallbearers

Kathy Behrens ~ Kathie Flagstad
Sandy McNenny ~ Harriet Quail
Mimi Shewey ~ Joan Soelzer

Interment

12:30 p.m.
Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota