

Grace Elaine (Douglass) White



Grace Elaine (Douglass) White, 86, of Grinnell, Iowa passed away peacefully on March 24, 2022 at Mayflower Healthcare Center.

The celebration of her life will be Tuesday, March 29 at 10:30 a.m. CT/ 9:30 a.m. MT at Smith Funeral Home. The Reverend Christine A. Tinker will be officiating with music by Dr. William D. Tinker. The service will be livestreamed on the Smith Funeral Home Facebook page starting 15 minutes before the service time.

In 1935, Elaine was born in Malcom, Iowa, to Odessa (Baltisberger) and John Douglass. Elaine attended a rural school and graduated from Montezuma High School. After graduation, she married Bob White. The couple lived in Utah for a short time and then settled in Santa Clarita, California, to raise their two sons, Stephen and Dennis. Elaine moved back to Iowa in 2015 to spend time with her family and friends.

Elaine had a 31-year career with the federal government. She started as a clerk typist in the Veteran's Administration and upon retirement, she was the VA Director's executive secretary. After retirement, she shared a passion for culture and learning through her work as a docent at the Japanese Gardens in Van Nuys.

Elaine found enjoyment in cooking and always trying new and unique foods. She was always entertaining and sharing these unique treats with family and friends. Elaine also liked to experience new things and travel. Decorating for Christmas was something Elaine looked forward to each year.

Elaine was a member of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARF), Marshalltown Chapter. She previously served as membership chair.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Odessa Douglass; spouse, Robert S. White; son, Stephen D. White; son, Dennis J. White; brother-in-law, Leonard L. Vanderveer; and brother-in-law, LaVern E. Rauch.

Elaine is survived by her sister, L. Charlene Vanderveer; sister, Irveen J. Rauch; brother, Gale R. Douglass (Carole); daughter-in-law, Anna Murphy (Joe); grandchildren, Anna Sheppard and Josh Murphy (Jaime); great-grandchildren, Chantell Sheppard, and Traecen, Daxxen, and Brayton Murphy; great-great grandchildren, Santana and Mira; and several nieces.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mayflower Community or the Japanese Gardens, 6100 Woolley Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406; www.thejapanesegardens.com

GHR 3-28-2022

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4-6-2022

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