



Barbara "Elaine" Gilliland

September 8, 1949 - October 17, 2022

Barbara "Elaine" Gilliland, 73, of Bowring, was reunited in heaven with her beloved husband, Dwane, on Monday, October 17, 2022.

Elaine was born September 8, 1949, in Durango, Colorado, to Hugo "Pat" LaRoy and Katherine (Slade) Willis. She was raised in Silverton, Colorado, and graduated high school there in 1967. After high school, she attended Ft. Lewis College in Durango to obtain a degree in nursing. She had not yet finished her degree when she met the love of her life Dwane at the pharmacy where she worked in 1968.

The couple married on Nov. 12, 1969, putting a pause on her nursing degree and a start to a fulfilling life as a stay-at-home mom to Carol, Rachel, Dwane Jr., and Tom.

The family moved to Bowring in 1971, where Elaine's husband, Dwane, pastored the Bowring Baptist Church. The couple were members of the church for 45 years. During that time, Elaine was a very active member organizing the yearly conference the church hosted.

When Elaine left nursing school and moved to Oklahoma, she made a promise to her mom she would complete her degree. With that goal in mind, she started back to school in the late 1980s to finish her licensure in Practical

Nursing at the Tri County Technology Center in Bartlesville and later her Registered Nursing degree at Labette Community College.

Elaine began her nursing career at Jane Phillips Medical Center in the Psychiatric Unit. She loved being a nurse and met some of her best friends at the hospital. She held many nursing positions that included being a hospice nurse, a floor nurse, and eventually retired as a case manager.

Elaine will always be remembered for her huge heart, her giving spirit and her ability to make everyone feel loved and a part of her family. Her door was never locked and was open to anyone that visited whether it was a neighbor stopping by to say hello or her children's friends showing up to hang out. She was happy to provide meals, advice, guidance or just a sweet smile and a lot of laughs. She did not know a stranger and her zest for life and positive attitude were contagious. She enjoyed staying home while her children were young, hosting numerous home-parties from tupperware to makeup to painting with acrylics.

Elaine was a natural born caregiver, a voracious reader, she loved to travel and loved hosting Thanksgiving dinner for her family. Her kids remember cooking for days to prepare her annual Thanksgiving meal, no invitation needed, everyone just knew dinner was at 6:00!

Elaine was an avid traveler taking yearly family vacations to Silverton. She also enjoyed her "Sistah" trips to various places, including Las Vegas; cruises; Hilton Head Island; Washington, D.C.; Nashville; Philadelphia; New York; Virginia Beach; Tri Cities, Tennessee; Jonesboro; Denver; and Waco.

Elaine is survived by her four children, Carol Kelley and her husband Brett and their daughters, Brittany Knapp, husband Dan and their children; Presli, Audri, Daxon, Daisi and Dekker, Courtney Roberson and husband Will and

their children Amelia and Emmitt. Rachel Mallinger and her husband Dean, Dwane Gilliland Jr., and Tom Gilliland, his wife Elizabeth and her precious grandson James Dwane who she was determined to meet in spite of the progression of her illness. She is survived by seven siblings, Patricia Stevens, Donna Tookey, Larry Willis, Robert Willis, Vicki Morris and her husband Jim, Lynne Peck and her husband Willie, and Jean Willis-Brown and her husband Clay; and numerous nieces and nephews and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dwane, her parents, and a sister, Shirley Carter.

Cemetery Details

El Cado Cemetery

Peru, KS 67360

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT 21. 10:00 AM (CT)

El Cado Cemetery
Peru, KS 67360

Tribute Wall

NW

“ Elaine was a wonderful friend and co worker. We enjoyed many laughs and shared some tears. She will be greatly missed. Prayers of comfort for her family. May your memories keep her close. Until we meet again, Rest In Peace.

Nancy Wake - October 22, 2022 at 01:07 AM

MC

“ A beautiful one of a kind lady. Always ready with a smile and a kind word. She was always concerned about everyone else and never herself. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her! Prayers of healing to all the kids.

Myron Cloke - October 21, 2022 at 08:33 PM

MS

“ I always enjoyed working with Elaine in our little Bowring School & our great big community. She was a great friend. We miss her already.

My heart goes out to her family.

If there is anything we can do, we would be honored.

Macy & John Strom

Macy Strom - October 20, 2022 at 09:06 PM

BH

“ Love you the mostest sweet cousin. I'm happy you are celebrating with your sweetheart and family that past before you. Give all a hug from me please. See you soon.

becky slade helquist - October 20, 2022 at 08:18 PM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara "Elaine" Gilliland.*



October 20, 2022 at 03:35 PM



“ *What a wonderful legacy Elaine has left behind throughout her life, family & children. Her character, love, sass, and contributions to others throughout her career is only a small testament to all that she was. I will forever be impacted by Elaine and her family and all that she/they have been for myself and mine. You will be missed greatly, and will also be remembered through generations and others that you have imprinted with your love! Mrs. Gilliland, I would love to make you feel beautiful and see your head shimmy one more time. May peace finally comfort you my precious friend!*

Nicole Braucher - October 19, 2022 at 11:43 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara "Elaine" Gilliland.*



October 19, 2022 at 10:03 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara "Elaine" Gilliland.



October 19, 2022 at 07:44 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara "Elaine" Gilliland.



October 19, 2022 at 05:38 PM



“ Patty purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Barbara "Elaine" Gilliland.



Patty - October 19, 2022 at 04:34 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara "Elaine" Gilliland.



October 19, 2022 at 03:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barbara "Elaine" Gilliland.*



October 19, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Absolutely loved Elaine, worked with her for years on the Psych Unit. We never had a dull moment, we were the BEST!!! Fly high my friend, until we meet again...*



Debbie Folk - October 18, 2022 at 11:43 PM