



Elna Mae VanHouten

October 3, 1931 - June 21, 2020

Elna Mae VanHouten, age 88, of DeTour Village, Michigan, died on June 21, 2020. She was born October 3, 1931 in Mt. Morris, Michigan, to parents Thore and Vera (Banks) Brimmer.

Elna grew up in Clio, Michigan, where she attended school and met and married her first husband. She had two children, Kris and Valerie. In 1973, she moved to DeTour Village, with the love of her life Ernest VanHouten. She lived the rest of her life by the water; quilting and enjoying life with their shih tzus.

Elna was a member of the Stalwart Community Church, Detour Homemakers, and the Red Hat Society.

She loved painting, quilting, sewing, homemaking, and nostalgia.

Elna is survived by her son, Kristopher (Milisa) Bechtel of Birch Run, Michigan; daughter, Valerie (Terry Hanshaw) Michalski of Copemish, Michigan; grandchildren, Clifford Bechtel, Kris (Tiffany) Bechtel II, Renee (Jeff) Horton, Skylar (Shanna) Olmstead, Austin (Angela) Olmstead, Valanie Michalski, Jennifer (Bryan) Murphy, Scott (Patricia) Michalski, Emily (Kevin) Sharp, Nikki Romeri, Michelle Dikos; thirty-three great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Elna was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest Van Houten; daughter, Vicki Bechtel; granddaughter; Valeena Michalski; son-in-law; David Michalski; grandson-in-law, Maxwell Romeri; stepchildren, Judy Dikos and Jack Van Houten; sisters; Faith McGeathey (Bob) and Thora (Johnny) West; and brother; Glenn (Donna) Brimmer.

Elna was buried at Maple Grove Cemetery on June 23, 2020.

R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Michigan is serving the family.
Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Maple Grove Cemetery

E. South Caribou Lake Road
DeTour, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Elna Mae VanHouten*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Elna Mae VanHouten*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Elna Mae VanHouten*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Elna was friends with my grandmother, Ruth. Ruth died young and I always felt like Elna was a great connection to her. She was so loving and gracious and feisty and brave. I'm so glad to have know her. I spent the week telling my daughter about her. -Erin, daughter of Sharon and granddaughter of Ruth*

Erin Perry - July 06, 2020 at 03:34 PM



“ *Darlene Lee Goldacker lit a candle in memory of Elna Mae VanHouten*



Darlene Lee Goldacker - June 25, 2020 at 04:19 PM



We have one of Elna's paintings we were gifted at our fire shower. Cherished forever, sorry to her loved ones. She was a sweet, sweet lady.

Darlene Lee Goldacker - June 25, 2020 at 04:23 PM

CB

“ *Our sincere condolences to Valerie & Family. Elna was a good neighbor & friend to our Mom. May she rest in peace.*

~Cheryl & Dennis



C. Bernard - June 25, 2020 at 02:54 PM

KW

“ *I remember when we were camping and elna decided she wanted lemon meringue pie and we traveled the whole of Chippewa county and came up empty. What a. trip.*

Karen White - June 25, 2020 at 09:55 AM