

Elaine T. Smith

August 12, 1951 ~ February 12, 2024

Elaine T. Smith, our beloved wife, mother, grandma, great-grandma, sister, and friend, passed away in her home in Newport Beach on February 12, 2024. She was exactly 72½ years old.

Elaine, our Greek goddess, was born on August 12, 1951, in Ogden, Utah. She was the third of five children born to Koula and Gus Toulatos. Her parents were both born in Greece, and she was so proud of her Greek heritage. Elaine grew up in Ogden and attended Ogden High School, where she was a Tigerette – something she shared proudly and frequently with her family, often performing routines and singing fight songs. After high school, Elaine attended Weber State where she founded the RGA (Rowdy Girls Association), a made-up organization in which she proudly served for the rest of her life!

Elaine met the love of her life, her husband Fred, while working together at Smith's Food and Drug on Harrison Boulevard in Ogden. Elaine and Fred married at the Ogden Country Club on January 30, 1976. Elaine gained two sons, Freddy and Zack, from Fred's previous marriage. They moved to Salt Lake where their first daughter, Staci Elaine, was born. They relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where their second daughter, Christi T, was born. Tragically, Christi was born without one of her heart valves and passed away in 1981 when she was just 3 years old after a courageous fight. Elaine and Fred moved their family to the Palm Springs area in 1986, where they raised Staci. The Smiths later lived in Las Vegas, Rancho Santa Fe, and eventually Newport Beach.

Elaine deeply loved Fred, her devoted husband of 48 years. Their love was a true love story. They went through so much together, and they always stood by one another through good times and bad. Fred was her biggest cheerleader, and his unconditional love pushed her through the darkest of times. Together they enjoyed traveling, golfing, eating butter cake at Mastro's, watching Fox News, laughing, spending time with family, and just being together.

Elaine's greatest joy was being a mother, and later a grandmother, and there was simply no one who did it better. She may have been small in stature, but she had a huge heart full of love. She was the most thoughtful, selfless, and caring person. She kept us laughing with her endless stories, Nammie News, and on our toes with her constant questions. She treasured being with her family. Some of her favorite times were spent shopping and laughing and traveling with Fred's mom and her best friend, Ida. Elaine also loved her 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, all of whom she spoiled any chance she got.

When she wasn't with her family, Elaine loved to golf and laugh with her friends. She was a real competitor who won many significant titles over the years, including the Cactus Flower and Tiger Tees. She also loved the slot machines and could be seen running up and down the rows of machines pulling the one-armed bandits always thinking she was going to hit megabucks.

Elaine lit up every room she walked into and filled it with love and energy. To know her was to love her. Once you met her, she was a part of your heart forever! She was funny, smart, and beautiful. She was also the toughest person we ever met, which she proved every day before and after her significant stroke in 2012. Every day she fought courageously for her health and will serve as an inspiration to us all now and forever. Elaine is our hero! We will miss her smile and light every day. We will also miss her singing happy birthday to us in Greek every year. She is reunited with her daughter and finally pain free, which gives us tremendous peace.

Elaine is survived by her husband Fred, her daughter Staci (Ben), her sons Fred (Mynda) and Zack (Sarah), her grandchildren Hayley, Zarya, Lexy, Savanna, Christi Elaine, Kenzy, Taylor, Lorenzo, Brian, and Eleanor, her great-granddaughter, Zayda, her sister Vangie, and her brothers Marino (Karen), Nick (Jan) and Deno (Peggy). She is preceded in death by her daughter, Christi.

A viewing will be held on Tuesday, February 20, from 6:00-8:00 PM at Larkin Mortuary, 260 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, February 21, at 10:00 AM at the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, 674 42nd Street, South Ogden, UT. Interment will take place at Larkin Sunset Lawn, 2350 E 1300 S, Salt Lake City, UT. A celebration of Elaine's life will take place on Wednesday at 1:00 PM at the Grand America Hotel, 555 Main Street, Salt Lake City, UT.

The service will be livestreamed via Zoom and can be accessed by clicking the "Watch Services" button above. Funeral arrangements provided by Larkin Mortuary, 260 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.