

Elsje Booms Groos

November 4, 1933 ~ January 26, 2021

Elsje Booms Groos passed away at age 87 on January 26, 2021, after 3 courageous battles with cancer, at home surrounded by her family. She was born on Nov. 4, 1933 to Thomas Booms and Aletta Stam Booms in Haarlem, Netherlands. She immigrated in 1951 to the U.S. with her parents, brothers Bill, Tom and Eddy, and sister Audrey. She was proud to be an American citizen. She always laughed that her first job in the U.S. was in a pickle factory because it made her smell like pickles. But always a lady, she changed her clothes before she took the bus home from work so others wouldn't smell it on her. She met her husband Adriaan when he came to their house looking for her brother Bill. They married on Sept. 21, 1951 in the Salt Lake Temple. They were married 68 wonderful years. They built their dream home on Hyland Lake in 1960 where they raised their 4 kids. She was well known for her huge yard parties and Christmas dinners. She was a fabulous cook and always invited everyone. She was a wonderful mother teaching her kids how to work but also how to have fun. She loved to swim. Even at 80 years old she would go every day at 6 am swimming with her daughter. She made many happy memories for her family.

In 1975 she supported her husband's dream of starting The Old Dutch Store. It quickly became her dream also and they worked very hard to make it a success. She was a marketing genius. She instinctively knew exactly what the customers liked, how to market it and how to price it. This was a huge contributing factor to their success. They welcomed everyone and customers became life-long friends.

She spent her whole life caring for others, especially her husband as he aged. She was well known for her generosity and charity work. She was generous to her family, friends and even strangers. She loved Christmas and always filled huge bags with Dutch goodies, stolen bread and gifts for her family. She contributed large boxes of food to the local food pantry and people in need. Her charity projects knew no bounds. She volunteered for many years for PJ's Forgotten Children filling, at her own cost, over a 1,000 overflowing gift bags. She assembled hundreds of blankets for Uganda and many other projects. She also contributed generously to many local charities. She was an example to all who knew her.

Elsje is survived by her son Adrian Jr. (Cathy), daughters Margie Smithey, Carola Groos and Lillian (Rodney) Eaton, 8 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. She was very close to her granddaughter Heather and her sister Audrey, both of whom she loved dearly. Preceded in death by her husband, parents and brothers. The family expresses our deepest appreciation to Quality Hospice for their extraordinary care.

A viewing will be held from 9 to 10 am on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East Dimple

Dell Road (10600 South), Sandy, followed by a graveside service for family only. In lieu of flowers, she believed in feeding the hungry. Please contribute in her name to your local food bank or children’s food pantry.