



Elaine J. (Beach) White

September 11, 1921 - December 30, 2016

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Elaine June Johnson Beach White was born to Fred B. and Opal Mae Cecil Johnson, September 11, 1921, in Watertown, South Dakota. It was a difficult birth as she weighed just under ten pounds and took three days to arrive! She quickly became a favorite of the whole family and was nick-named "Wah-dow" by her childless aunts as they bought her whatever she pointed to and said, "want it down"! She and her brother, Benjamin Charles "Ben" Johnson -- 3 years younger -- did not much feel the sting of hard times or The Great Depression as their father was solidly-employed by the Standard Oil Co. They had fond memories of family togetherness, playing with friends, their dog "Pepper", wonderful food, and school. As a child she: got her tongue stuck on the flagpole, swallowed a fuzzy yellow caterpillar while hanging from her knees on a tree limb, ate so many figs in a tree in California she was sick for days, got covered with leeches in a Minnesota lake, and beat-up kids if they hurt an animal or her baby brother!

They moved to Rapid City, South Dakota, in the Black Hills in about 1934, and were able to witness some of the carving of Mt. Rushmore! Elaine had become a vegetarian at age 8 as she so loved animals. She finally relented

and ate meat as a teenager, being kidded about her "pickle burgers"; she later became vegetarian again from ages 65 to 95, saying she did not "eat dead animals"! As a teenager, she and some friends even climbed the fence and let all of the animals go at the dog pound (they did not get caught)! She was a singer, a great speaker, an actress, a wonderful dancer, a joke-teller, and true to her word. A good student, Elaine graduated cum laude from Rapid City High School in 1939, went on to business college, and became a legal secretary with expertise in shorthand, typing, and organizational skills. Elaine was quite beautiful with long Swedish Viking Queen arms and legs, blondish hair and blue-grey eyes. She was ready to try new things, and being active and athletic served her well for tree-climbing, long-distance swimming in lakes, leg-wrestling, and even climbing the 7,000+ feet of Harney Peak (now Black Elk Peak) at midnight to watch the sun come up!

Elaine married Marvin D. Beach on November 25, 1941 (12 days before Pearl Harbor), and they worked for the War Department in Washington, D.C. until Marvin became a B-17 pilot and had to go to the war in Europe. Before he left, he was able to know his little baby boy, David Marvin Beach, born August 2, 1943. After the war, their daughter, Julie Elaine Beach, was born on June 22, 1947.

After years of raising a family and running a business, Elaine and her first husband divorced in 1962. After some time, Elaine married Robert M. "Bob" White, and they both worked for the Boeing Co. in various locations until they retired in 1985 and moved to Florida.

Elaine was dynamic, fun-loving, confident, and made people happy wherever she went. She was extremely capable on the job, working as executive assistant for big bosses. She had a perfect driving record for 80 years -- no ticket or accident -- and, in retirement, she drove any car or truck through the line at the auto auction, wearing a cute hat and flirting with the dealers! As a

mother and grandmother, she was protective, positive, involved, caring, and loving. She is survived by her brother and his wife - Ben and Lynne Haley Johnson, nephew - Eric Johnson, niece - Sybil Johnson; two children - David Beach (Tanya) and Julie Beach-Mascia (Nick); five grandchildren - David Baxley (Jennene), Nissa Hopkins (Nalin), Stephanie Huss (Steve), Tracy Power (Randy), Wendy Feigenbaum (Bryan); ten great-grandchildren - David, Jacob and Sarah Huss, Kassidy Graber, Vivi, Jake, and Ginger Lily Feigenbaum, Liam Hopkins, Kara and Natalie Baxley. Other survivors are step-children William T. "Bill" (Kelly) White, Barbara White Carey, Patty White Smith, and step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren in America, Russia and Peru! She also has two cousins and their families, Dale (Kay) Mikkelson, and Leone (Stan) Zimmerman.

Elaine always put a smile on people's faces. She saved HUNDREDS of critters' lives doing animal rescue, and also saved the life of a homeless veteran, getting him to the veterans' hospital with plans to help him when he was better. He was lying on the ground by a grocery store where people stepped over him as he lay dying! She got him food, blankets, and a big stuffed bunny as a pillow while she called in reinforcements to aid and drive him to Tampa! She would stop traffic until a turtle either crossed the road safely or was lifted into her car to take to UCF or a veterinarian for repair. She would check for live babies in a dead mother raccoon's pouch. She would drag dead animals off the roadway to give them a "proper" burial, apologizing for their rude demise and "sending them to Heaven".

In lieu of flowers or as a gesture of remembrance and honor, donations may be made in her name (Elaine J. White) for animals needing funds for special care to: Underhill Animal Hospital, 4900 Lake Underhill Dr., Orlando, FL 32807.

Tribute Wall

DM

“ I was one of the lucky ones, I knew Elaine and for some reason she called me "Cuz", actually she was my mothers cousin but I relished that name. Once she invited my mother to Florida for a stay. They swam, sunned, shopped and I don't know what all for her stay. When I called mother to ask about he trip, just after her return, all she could say was "she wore me out". A few days later she had recouped some and detailed a lovely stay with Elaine.

I hate hearing the same joke again and again but not so when Elaine told the same joke. She was always so up, happy and joyous it didn't matter that it was an old joke. It was an Elaine happy time and I laughed as hard at this telling as I had the first time she told the joke!

Dear Julie and David, I am so sorry for your loss, your Mom was one of a kind>

Dale and Kay Mikkelson (your cousin)

Dale Mikkison - January 17, 2017 at 01:55 PM

JM

Dear Dale! Thank-you for your kind words and for those lovely memories! She and your Mother (Esther) had a great time in Florida! Mother thought you, Leone and your Families were wonderful! You would be surprised to know that for some reason, the last few weeks of her life, she was fixated on telling about when we had the family reunion in Watertown when I was a very tiny girl, maybe 4, and had the biggest crush on YOU, my handsome big cousin! She laughed and said people would say, "Where's Julie?", and sure enough, if they just found YOU, there I would be, tagging along! You were kind and patient to put up with me because you had to be -- I don't know -- 17, or so? Anyway, in her inimitable fashion, she told that story in great detail and said she wanted to talk with you. I should have taken the time for her to call you! I am sending packets with pictures, the Memorial Service, etc. to you and Kay and Leone and Stan. She was such a loving person with a big personality. It has only been about 3 weeks since she passed, but things are surely not the same for David and me. We keep wanting to call or be with her. It is hard to realize that is not possible, but we remember that she is now an angel near us..

Julie Mascia - January 22, 2017 at 10:46 AM

BD

“ I met Elaine White (and her husband, Bob) on Sunday, Sep 11, 1966. I cannot remember where I put my car keys; so how I know that exact date some 50 years later is a testament to the impression she and her wonderful family made on me - that, and the fact that I had been invited to their home that afternoon to go water skiing and enjoy some grilled steaks. Oh yeah, and their daughter Julie, who I'd known for less than a week, was running around in a bikini. How can a memory like that ever escape a boy just a month shy of his 19th birthday? Elaine was infamously known for her absolutely astounding inventory of corny jokes - seriously corny! Also, she had a black belt 7th degree with the grammar police. So, if I WERE to describe her in a few phrases, they would include Warm Hearted, Loving, Funny, Loving, Informed, Loving, Full of Song, Loving, and Full of Life. Julie, myself and another boy named Andy were in the process of forming a musical trio. Andy joined the event that evening to practice some new songs. But things evolved into a family songfest - with Elaine and Bob singing along and showing off some older “fun” songs. We all harmonized to such oldies as “Show Me The Way Home”. Well, she has gone home now - but she most certainly Showed Us The Way.

Bill DuBois

Bill DuBois - January 14, 2017 at 07:37 PM

JM

Dear Bill: what you have written is absolutely wonderful! Thank-you, so much! We will treasure happy memories! You nailed the description of my mother! 🙏🏻🌈😊

Julie Beach Mascia - January 16, 2017 at 11:36 AM

JW

“*Hugh and I had such fun with all our Amway friends - but mostly because of Bob and Elaine White. They were always great friends and kept everyone joyful and laughing. Whenever we felt down they were the "cheer-up" squad. Elaine never lost that happy smile and the encouraging word for us all. We loved her dearly - this old world has lost a dear one and we will miss her.*

Joanna Adicks Wallace - January 12, 2017 at 10:35 PM

JM

Thank-you, so much, Joanna! They had fun during those "Amway years", and who would have thought that you and I would meet on a professional level in music at St. Luke's year later, and also become dear friends!

Julie Mascia - January 13, 2017 at 01:31 PM

KM

“*My sincere condolences go out to the family of Ms. White. I had so much love and admiration for her and her never ending love for all animals. I always think of her when I see a box of Whitman's chocolates. She always brought me a box at Christmas time.*
R.I.P Ms. White
Kathy Murphy

Kathy Murphy - January 11, 2017 at 06:06 PM

JM

Oh, Kathy! I am so sorry we missed getting the Whitman's chocolates to you and other folks at Underhill this year! That was always a Johor mission for her, even though we now have lived farther away. She loved Dr. Hill and all of the staff there where she entrusted the care of hundreds of animals. And DO think of Mother when you have a chocolate! She would like that! 🙏👍🌈😊

Julie Beach Mascia - January 11, 2017 at 07:17 PM

JM

Sorry, Kathy! I can't find an edit button to fix that strange word I typed above "Johor". I think you got my meaning!

Julie Mascia - January 13, 2017 at 01:32 PM

LB

“ *I met Elaine, her husband Bob and Julie my first day of college. Elaine was friendly, bubbly and welcoming. They invited me to dinner the same day, which was so appreciated for a somewhat "lost" freshman. For the last 50 years I have had the pleasure of enjoying Elaine's friendship and her unique sense of humor. She always had an entertaining story or joke at the ready that made us laugh. I feel so fortunate to have known Elaine and cherish the memories we've had together. Goodbye for now sweet lady! I look forward to our meeting again. May God bless and keep you until then. Laura Butler*

Laura Butler - January 11, 2017 at 09:42 AM

JM

That is very sweet and heart-felt, Laura. We certainly do have many memories of our moms, children, and times together! Julie Beach-Mascia

Julie Beach Mascia - January 11, 2017 at 01:19 PM

 Bill
White

“ *In 1966, Elaine bet me five dollars that i would no longer be listening to Bob dylan in five years. I never collected on that bet, but i should have raised her on it, betting her that I would still be listening to him in 50 years, and at that time he would be siging songs Frank Sinatra made famous.*

Bill White - January 10, 2017 at 02:39 PM

JM

They couldn't open their ears to him since they were accustomed to hearing such beautiful voices! And lyrics wee for love, sentiment or fun -- usually not for political purpose or deep thought. Your dad paid a lot more attention to lyrics and nuances than she did. They didn't like what my group sang either, but years later and Mother listened again, she loved it and thought we were really good! They just didn't want things to change from their comfort zone, but they surely did and have! BTW, Bill, she would gladly pay you! 🤔

Julie Beach Mascia - January 10, 2017 at 05:55 PM