



Elaine Schulstad

April 20, 1930 - September 6, 2025

Elaine Mary Jane (Leegard) Schulstad
(April 20, 1930 – September 6, 2025)

Elaine Mary Jane (Leegard) Schulstad of Mesa, AZ, formerly of Wadena, MN died September 6, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family and under the care of Hospice of the Valley.

Elaine was born April 20, 1930, to Ole and Julia (Hanson) Leegard in Detroit Lakes, MN. As a child, Elaine lived and worked on the family farm near Callaway, MN. She attended school in Detroit Lakes, graduating in 1948. Shortly after graduation, she met Alden E. (Pomp) Schulstad at the Erie 34 in Detroit Lakes, MN. They married in 1950 at Richwood Lutheran Church near Callaway, MN. Elaine and Pomp lived for a short time in Detroit Lakes, MN and Bemidji, MN before settling in Wadena, MN to raise their family. They were blessed with six children. While in Wadena, they were active members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). After raising her family and the passing of Pomp in 1978, Elaine worked at Zosel's Our Own Hardware store (now Weber's) in Wadena. Elaine was never a fan of Minnesota's cold weather so in 1987 she made the big move to Mesa, AZ. While in AZ, she worked at several stores but loved her job at Cloth World.

Elaine was a devoted Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother to her

family, especially her grandchildren. She was a wonderful cook and always had sweets in the house, particularly chocolate. Norwegian delicacies were Elaine's specialties: meatballs, lefse, krumkake, rommegrot, etc. Elaine loved to sew, making quilts and pajamas for the whole family. She donated her skills to do charity sewing of quilts, pillows, shirts and pajamas for the needy. Elaine was proud of her Norwegian heritage. She kept detailed genealogy records, and her house was decorated in many Norwegian items including rosemaling, pewter, and trolls. She was a member of Nordmanns Forbundet, Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA), Sigdalslag and Hallinglag.

Elaine is survived by one daughter, Verna (Steve) Uselman of Fort Peck, MT and Wadena, MN, three sons: Robert (Renee) Schulstad of DePere, WI, Ross (Darcy Johnson) Schulstad of Mesa, AZ and David (Lori) Schulstad of St, Francis, MN; five grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son Carl, a baby boy; four brothers: Julian, Lester, Odell and Ira; six sisters: Cora, O'lidia, Hazel, Sadie, Ortie and Joan.

As requested, no formal services at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials or donations can be made to Richwood Lutheran Church, Callaway, MN 56521, Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower St., Phoenix, AZ 85014 Tax ID #86-0338886 or any dementia and pancreatic cancer research.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

DG

“ Donna Grendahl lit a candle in memory of Elaine Schulstad



Donna Grendahl - October 04, 2025 at 01:15 AM

PH

“ Elaine was the last of my 13 aunts; she was indeed “ salt of the earth”. Aunt Elaine did more on accident in her long life than I have done on purpose in mine 😊 She taught me much about the Schulstad family; our roots in Norway, the foods & traditions. Aunt Elaine actually brought along her home - made krumkake when Ross and Darcy drove her to CA to celebrate my eldest daughter’s wedding 😊

Joining us and my mom at the Skandifest in Central CA was among another highlight of my times with our beloved Aunt Elaine. How many house guests ask you as you’re retiring for bed what you’d like for supper tomorrow? My husband, John, was incredulous 😊 She was one of the driving forces of me eventually learning how to actually make Lefse ❤️ She became almost like a second mom to me. Along with sewing my daughter, Colleen, American Girl outfits she even made my daughters matching pajamas one year for Christmas! When I retired and was visiting in AZ she bought me a set of knitting needles & yarn as I was finally going to learn to knit. My brother, Shelby, once coined her with the moniker “ National Treasure” 💖

I want to thank my dear cousins; Verna, Robert, David & Ross for sharing her with my family and me for all these years.

With love & gratitude,
Paula Rooney Handley

Paula Handley - September 21, 2025 at 04:22 PM

BI

“ I loved Aunt Elaine's positive attitude and her infectious smile. We shared letters for several years. She is missed.

Beverly Imhoff - September 19, 2025 at 09:58 AM

JB

“ Joyce Boyne lit a candle in memory of Elaine Schulstad



Joyce Boyne - September 18, 2025 at 12:22 PM

EL

“ What I remember most about Aunt Elaine was her bubbly sense of humor with a beautiful smile to match. A wonderful lady! Eddy Larson

Ed Larson - September 18, 2025 at 11:51 AM

GP

“ Gail Pierson lit a candle in memory of Elaine Schulstad



Gail Pierson - September 17, 2025 at 05:40 PM