



## Elaine Gerace

July 30, 1936 - May 3, 2020

Elaine Gerace died peacefully on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at NHC in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Born in New York City on July 30, 1936, Elaine graduated from East Tennessee State University and earned a Master's Degree from Columbia University. Elaine had a long and distinguished career as a teacher, beginning at Northside School and St. Mary's Catholic School before spending 25+ years as a much loved and respected first grade teacher at ETSU's University School. While at University School she trained many aspiring student teachers, and, in many cases, taught three generations of first graders. She received the EXCEL recognition from ETSU and was named Tennessee Teacher of the Year.

Elaine participated in many volunteer organizations, including The Elizabethton Women's Club, Phi Mu Sorority, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Womens Auxillary and Tennessee Teachers Association. Elaine was a supporter of the One Acre Café in Johnson City and the Barter Theatre in Abington.

Elaine was a talented artist and excelled in pastel drawings. She loved to travel and travel she did. She took a trip around the world with her parents in 1971, lived for a summer in Paris where she attended lectures at the Sorbonne. Elaine traveled with Edwin and Jennie to Italy and Sicily, and from there to the Italian city of Polistena, where her parents were born. From Polistena they went to the town of Gerace, Italy, where the mayor told them they were the first Gerace family to visit his city of Gerace. Among other destinations, Elaine travelled to many countries in Eastern Europe, including Russia, to South Africa for a cousin's wedding, to Rio de Janeiro to visit family and made a special trip to Alaska with her sister Kathy. She loved her summers and spent most of them in Rockaway Beach, New York with her 14 first cousins, who were all very special to her.

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Lena Gerace. She is survived by her brother Edwin F. Gerace and his wife Jennie of Johnson City and sister Kathleen Gerace Charla of San Diego, CA, one niece Larisa Breton of Birmingham, MI and three nephews Edwin (Allyson) Gerace, Jr of Lexington, SC, Christopher (Carly) Charla of Seattle, WA and Benjamin (Megan) Gerace of Birmingham, AL, and seven grand-nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the charity of your choice, or to

Hospice, St. Mary's Catholic Church, One Acre Café or Barter Theatre.

A private entombment service will be conducted at Happy Valley Memorial Park with Father Collins officiating.

Memories and condolences may be shared at [www.tetrickfuneralhome.com](http://www.tetrickfuneralhome.com). Tetrick Funeral Services, 3001 Peoples St., Johnson City, TN 37601 is honored to serve the Gerace family.

# Cemetery

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## **Happy Valley Memorial Park-Mausoleum of Peace**

2708 Elizabethton Hwy

Johnson City, TN, 37601

# Comments

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“ Some of my fondest memories of my cousin Elaine are from our shared love of both the beach and ocean in Rockaway Beach, NYC; also our love for the Mountains of East Tennessee. I recall our many trips to Gatlinburg in The Great Smoky Mts., and especially our trips to Roan Mt. during the Rhododendrom Festivals. Elaine was my Confirmation sponsor. My Confirmation name is "Elaine". Rest in happiness and peace dear Number 1 of 17.

**Camille 10of17** - May 14, 2020 at 03:22 AM

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**Camille (cousin #10)** - May 14, 2020 at 12:39 AM

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“ Ms. Gerace was my 1st grade teacher at University School in 1968-69, and I absolutely loved her! My mom tells me that I came home from the first day of school saying that I had the most beautiful teacher ever, and it was true. I remember how she never stood over us, looking down, but would kneel down when talking to us so that she could look us in the eyes. Because of her, I developed a lifelong love of reading. My favorite part of the day was when she would gather us in a circle around her and read aloud to us. Whatever she was reading came alive, and we were transported into the story. Whenever I think of her, I smile, and I know she will be missed. May God's peace and presence be very real to all of you, and may your many happy memories provide comfort. Carol (Price) Gilbert

**Carol Gilbert** - May 12, 2020 at 07:53 PM



“ Thank you so much for the beautiful tribute to my dear sister Elaine. She was a wonderful, kind and gentle soul and we all miss her.

**Kathy Charla** - June 11, 2020 at 11:29 PM

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“ We were grateful to have known Elaine as a friend One Acre Cafe. She was such a kind woman that always wore a smile when she came for lunch or attended our events. Her presence here will be missed.

**Michelle** - May 11, 2020 at 09:42 AM



“ Thank you so very much for your kind remembrance.

**Kathy** - May 11, 2020 at 02:24 PM

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“ The Gerace family was our next door neighbors for many years in Elizabethton. I had a chance to see Elaine at the Colonial Hill retirement home several months ago when she lived there. I just want to send my condolences to her family and especially to Kathy who was my friend. May God hold you in his arms and may your good memories sustain you.

Helen Luther Taibi Ottinger



**HELEN L OTTINGER** - May 08, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ To Dear Helen, How wonderful to read your posting on Elaine's tribute wall. I remember you and your family. I do hope you are well. If you are so inclined you can send me an email at [kciab@outlook.com](mailto:kciab@outlook.com). Very best wishes, Kathy

**Kathy** - May 11, 2020 at 02:23 PM

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“ Ms. Gerace was one of the kindest people I knew. She was my first grade teacher, and I loved her dearly. I don't think I ever heard her raise her voice. I remember her reading Stories from Japan and bringing in a real kimono. She taught us to be good readers and math and showed us so much love.

**Lisa Blankenship** - May 07, 2020 at 10:34 AM



“ Thank you for sharing a beautiful tribute to our sister Elaine.

**Kathy** - May 11, 2020 at 02:25 PM

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“ Ms Gerace was my first grade teacher in 1967 at University School in Johnson City. I will always remember her for fostering my artwork! She kept one of my drawings from first grade and gave it back to me when I graduated from University High School. I am and continue to be a full time freelance artist. I would like to celebrate Ms Gerace for a life well lived and thank her for being such a positive influence and role model for the thousands of lives she touched. Mark Anderson, Tampa, FL

**Mark Anderson** - May 07, 2020 at 08:19 AM



“ Thank you for sharing your most wonderful memories and tribute to our dear sister Elaine.

**Kathy** - May 11, 2020 at 02:26 PM

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“ Ms Gerace was my first grade teacher in 1990 at University School. I have very fond memories of her class. I especially loved when she read to us. I feel very fortunate year she was one of the earliest influences of my education. She was a wonderful lady.

**Cora** - May 06, 2020 at 08:53 PM



“ Thank you for sharing your memories of our dear sister Elaine. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

**Kathy** - May 11, 2020 at 02:27 PM

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**Cora** - May 06, 2020 at 08:52 PM

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“ Ms. Gerace was one of the first teachers to befriend me when I started working at UH. She was sweet and kind, and her friendship was a treasure to me while I was there.

**John Greer**

**John Greer** - May 06, 2020 at 08:07 PM



“ Thank you so much for sharing your beautiful thoughts of our sister Elaine.

**Kathy** - May 11, 2020 at 02:28 PM

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“ Mrs Gerace was by far one of my top favorite teachers. I remember her well as my 1st grade teacher. She was always excited for a new day of class and was always encouraging of all her students. I know she touched many students lives and will be missed by so many.

**Sarah McKinstry Keenen** - May 06, 2020 at 07:32 PM

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“ My first grade was the class Ms. Gerace began with when she started at University School. She was an awesome teacher, and I loved her from the first day. She radiated kindness and knew exactly what to say to fix ANYTHING. What a blessing she was! Prayers for her family and all those saddened. Our loss, but heaven's gain.

**Karen Harrell** - May 06, 2020 at 07:06 PM



“ Thank you so much for the beautiful tribute to our sister Elaine and for your prayers. Much appreciated.

**Kathy** - May 11, 2020 at 02:30 PM