



## Foot- prints in the sand

One night I had a dream. I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the skies flashed scenes from my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One was mine, and one was the Lord's. When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and, to my surprise, I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. And I noticed that it was at the lowest and saddest times in my life. I asked the Lord about it:

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I notice that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why you left my side when I needed you most. The Lord said: "My precious child, I never left you during your time of trial. Where you see only one set of footprints, I was carrying you."



Gettysburg, South Dakota  
www.familyfuneralhome.net

# *In Loving Memory of* **Elaine M. Richards**

December 7, 1922  
Agar, South Dakota

April 20, 2014  
Pierre, South Dakota

### **PRAYER SERVICE:**

7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 24, 2014  
Luce Funeral Home  
Gettysburg, South Dakota

### **FUNERAL SERVICE:**

10:00 a.m., Friday, April 25, 2014  
United Methodist Church  
Agar, South Dakota

### **OFFICIATING:**

Pastor Jeff Adel

### **CASKETBEARERS:**

Ted Asmussen	Erin Asmussen
Zack Collins	Chad Falkenhagen
Arlo Wagner	Walt Schreiber

### **USHERS:**

Gary Archer, Monte Archer and Dean Frederick

### **ORGANIST:**

Pauline Brehe

### **MUSIC:**

"Go Rest High on That Mountain"  
"When I Get Where I'm Going" "Amazing Grace"

### **INTERMENT:**

Onida Cemetery ~ Onida, South Dakota  
With Military Honors

*Elaine Asmussen Richards* was born in Agar, SD to William J. and Lula E. Asmussen on December 7, 1922. Elaine attended Agar High School through her junior year. The family moved to Martin, SD because of difficult times. There she graduated from high school. She then attended and graduated from Business College in Grand Island, NE.

Elaine worked in Brookings, SD, as a distribution clerk issuing rationing cards for the war effort. She then moved to Washington D.C. where she worked for the Department of the Navy. She decided she also would become a part of the war effort and joined the U.S. Army since all her brothers had enlisted in the military.

Having been honorably discharged in 1946 she met and married Roy John Richards who had served in the U.S. Navy. Shortly after being married they both attended and graduated from detective school together on the G.I. Bill. To this union two sons were born, Barry and Jerry. They moved to Elkton, SD, and farmed for a period of time, then moved to Oklahoma City, OK. There Johnny (Roy John) went to work for the Civil Service in the post office and Elaine worked as a court stenographer.

During the years that followed Elaine graduated from Beauty College. She worked in and owned several beauty salons over a period of years in Oklahoma City. When her mother became ill, she traveled back and forth to South Dakota to care for her. Later she moved to Arizona to care for her brother, Pete, and then they both moved to California. After Pete's death she made her home in Desert Hot Springs, where she met and made many friends that she enjoyed very much.

Her hobbies in later years were making many unique items. She tried her hand at painting, but her passion was making small cabins and special small churches which were very detailed. She freely gave many of these away to her friends over the years. From a comment made in years past "money does not grow on trees" she started making money trees. All these items were handmade out of putty and required countless hours of time. She continued to make her churches until a few days before her passing. A very special great niece, Erin Asmussen, spent countless hours enjoying her company, learning how to build Elaine's money trees both in California and South Dakota.

A love of horse racing throughout her life came from her family's involvement and success in the horse racing business. This enjoyment followed throughout her lifetime.

Through the years she wrote every U.S. Senator and Congressman to draw attention to the needs of Veterans'. She was a very strong and active voice for the rights, care, and attention to all Vets. She continued that until the end. She also was a member of the American Legion for over 60 years.

Elaine was a cancer survivor many times over. In 2011 she moved to Parkwood Apartments in Pierre, SD, because of her failing health, again making new friends. In 2013, due to declining health, she moved into the Maryhouse Nursing Home in Pierre where she made yet another group of new friends.

With all her health issues, she knew love was the best thing she could give and she did so freely. All of Elaine's nieces and nephews were her favorites, whether it was Ted Asmussen in Agar, Keith Asmussen in Laredo, TX, or Tom Asmussen in Pierre, who visited her regularly both in California and Pierre or Stana (Zack) Collins of KS and Jo (Dave) Jordan of Scottsdale, AZ who always called and visited her. They, and all of her family, were very special to her. She loved being a grandmother, with much love for her grandson Austin, granddaughter Danielle, and great granddaughter Kelsey. Being close to Pierre, Austin and Kelsey had enjoyed many visits with their grandmother. She loved both her sons as they loved her, and they were both at her side at her passing.

Elaine is survived by her sons: Barry (Jennie) of Calhan, CO and Jerry (Connie) of Agar, SD; grandson, Austin Richards and fiancée Michelle Kerzman of Agar, SD; granddaughter, Danielle Elaine Richards of Roanoke, VA; great granddaughter, Kelsey of Sioux Falls, SD; and all her nephews, nieces and many dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers: Stanley, Irving, and Peter Asmussen; stepbrothers: Billy and Kenny; and stepsister, Theola.



*In Loving Memory*