

Elaine Delores Thomas born to Charles and Helen (Fillipp) Kula at Spencer Maternity Home, Gettysburg, SD on April 25, 1930. She was the youngest of three children.

Elaine was raised on the family ranch along the Missouri River. She spent her young years around the Forrest City store which her parents ran for a few years.

She loved riding horses as a young child.



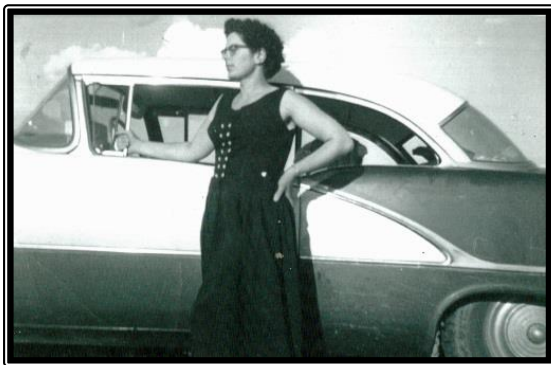
While attending East Catron Country School, one of Elaine's duties was hauling buckets of water.

While attending high school,

Elaine worked at the soda fountain of the local drug store and this is where she met the love of her life, James Thomas. On December 4, 1946, they were married in Rapid City, SD. They bought a farm in Potter County and since jobs were scarce, they spent several winters traveling to California to supplement the family income before

deciding to become full-time South Dakota residents.

Their first child



born was a daughter, Linda Elaine, followed by son Daniel James, daughter Sandra Mary, son Robert Allen and daughter Rhonda Jean.



Elaine was involved in the family farm/ranch operation. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, and working in her

yard. She also enjoyed attending her local ladies' social clubs and square dancing. Elaine was a life member of both the American Legion and the VFW Auxiliaries. She was also a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.



Family was very important to Elaine. She attended many activities with her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed numerous activities with them such as; hunting, fishing, water skiing, snow skiing and trail rides. Along with this she still had time to spend a dollar in the casinos.



Elaine and James were snow-birds for many years and enjoyed traveling throughout the US, Mexico, Canada and Fiji.

In October, 2014, Elaine and James moved into the Gettysburg Oahe Villa. Elaine then moved to the Gettysburg Oahe Manor in June, 2017.

Elaine's life will be cherished by her children: Linda Vail, Gettysburg, Daniel (Bev) Thomas, Gettysburg, Sandra (Jay) Hagen, Rapid City, Robert (Carmen) Thomas, Gettysburg, and Rhonda (Dale) Schmautz, Belle Fourche; eleven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; brother, Chuck Kula; sister-in-law, Shirley (David) Hill; brothers-in-law: Joe Thomas and James Crandall.

Elaine was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, James; parents: Charlie and Helen Kula; her

sister, Phyllis Brown; son-in-law, Dana Vail; sister-in-law, Inez Kula; and brother-in-law, Wayne Brown.



In Loving Memory

Elaine Delores Thomas

April 25, 1930
Gettysburg, SD

October 17, 2018
Gettysburg, SD

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:

10:30 a.m., Monday, October 22, 2018
Sacred Heart Catholic Church ~ Gettysburg, SD

OFFICIATING:

Fr. Jerry Kopel

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER and LECTOR:

Mike Bohnenkamp

PLACING OF THE PALL: "Children"

Linda Vail, Daniel Thomas, Sandra Hagen,
Robert Thomas, Rhonda Schmautz

GIFT BEARERS: "Granddaughters"

Lisa Stanley, Leah Vail Lowinske, Jordynn Schmautz

CASKETBEARERS: "Grandsons"

Ryan Thomas, Jason Hagen, Jared Hagen,
Casey Thomas, Bryant Schmautz, James Thomas

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS: "Granddaughters"

Lisa Stanley, Leah Vail Lowinske, Jordynn Schmautz
All of Elaine's Great Grandchildren

MUSICIANS:

Sarah Larson
Collen Simon

HYMNS:

"Amazing Grace" "Be Not Afraid"
"How Great Thou Art" "Ava Maria"
"Song of Farewell" "On Eagle's Wings"

INTERMENT: Gettysburg Cemetery
Gettysburg, SD

*God saw she was getting tired
And a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around her
And whispered "Come with me."*

*With tearful eyes
We watched her suffer
And saw her fade away
Although we loved her dearly,
We would not make her stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.*



Gettysburg, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

*A Celebration of Life.....
A Life Remembered*



Elaine Delores Thomas