



Elsie Louise Thayer Bodling

October 10, 1923 - September 7, 2018

Elsie Louise Thayer Bodling passed away on Friday September 7, 2018 at Capital Caring Hospice in Arlington VA after a brief illness.

She was born October 10, 1923 in Bridgeport, Connecticut to Walter L. Thayer, Jr. and Elsie Mildred (nee Lakeman) Thayer. The third daughter of five children, Elsie has American ancestry tracing back to Braintree, Massachusetts from 1640.

She attended Bassick High School in Bridgeport and shortly after school, enlisted into the US Navy in 1942. She was stationed at the Great Lakes Naval Base as a Yeoman 1st Class where she met her husband-to-be Paul. Other places that Navy life took them include: San Diego California; London, England; Hanover, New Hampshire; and Norfolk, Virginia. They lived in Annandale, Virginia for over 50 years.

Elsie served the Lord as secretary of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in Arlington VA for 25 years. She served as secretary for the Congregation's Voters membership and was the first woman voter in the congregation. She also was active with the LWML (Cotta Guild) and the Sunday School.

Following membership at St. John's Lutheran in Alexandria, Virginia, Elsie returned to Our Savior but remained in contact with St. John's by knitting items for their annual Christmas bazaars as well as Christmas stockings for the Our Savior kindergarten classes.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, CDR Paul F. Bodling, Jr., her sons Paul III (Linda), Kurt (Ann), and James (Lori), nieces Joanne Tardy,

Barbara O'Hare, Erika Bodling, Kathy Elliot and Monica Abelli; nephews Edward Bodling and Paul Macy; grandchildren Jesse Cunningham, Aaron Bodling, Emily Brock, Kristin Bodling, , and Jill Bodling, and 5 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her siblings Doris Rose Macy, Eula Mae Balog Holmquist, Barbara Jeanne Palmer, and Phillips Loring Thayer.

Visitation will occur Friday evening Sept 21, 2018 at the Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive Alexandria VA 22315. Service will take place on Saturday Sept 22, 2018 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 825 South Taylor Street Arlington VA 22204. Interment will be at a later date.

Memorial donations can be sent to the Our Savior Lutheran School Endowment Fund. For further information call the church/school office at 703-892-4846.

Tribute Wall



“ *Elsie Louise Thayer Bodling*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Elsie Louise Thayer Bodling*

Sweet Tenderness - September 20, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Pierre Augusta Renoir - says it best for me. . . . The pain passes, but the beauty remains. Erika Bodling*

Leaves and Beauty - September 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Elsie Louise Thayer Bodling*

Beautiful in Blue - September 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM