



Meriem Elwell

March 27, 1927 - December 8, 2025

Meriem Elwell, age 98, of Holland, formerly of Grand Haven, passed away on Monday, December 8, 2025.

Meriem was born on March 17, 1927, in Grand Rapids, MI to George and Cora Munshaw. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy.

Meriem was a member of the Greatest Generation, characterized by duty, faith, a strong work ethic and the belief that sacrifice was necessary for the greater good. Upon graduation from Godwin Heights High School in 1944, she went to work full time in a defense factory while attending Grand Rapids Junior College. From there, Meriem attended Michigan State (College) University where she earned her BA degree in Education in 1950, and her MA in Counseling and Guidance in 1953.

The value of education was instilled in Meriem from an early age by her mother, a former country schoolteacher. Meriem began her teaching journey as a child, organizing neighborhood friends to play school, where she was the teacher. Her professional career as an educator spanned 37 years and included teaching English and Business training such as typing, accounting and stenography. Meriem transitioned from the classroom to a full-time guidance counselor, a position that allowed her to continue to mentor and support young people on their educational journey. She retired in 1987 after

27 years with Grand Haven Public Schools.

Meriem held a very deep and personal faith. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven, and served as a deacon, elder, and on the Steven's Ministry. After moving to Holland, Meriem became a member of First Presbyterian Church of Holland remaining active for as long as she was able. She found comfort in the words: "In Life and death, we belong to God."

Meriem is survived by her two daughters, Elizabeth Jeske, and Mary Lynne (Terence) Lapinski, 7 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

A graveside memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Meriem's family is grateful for her kind, compassionate and dedicated caregivers at Freedom Village, and the team from Gentiva Hospice who together provided excellent care and ensured her peaceful farewell.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the First Presbyterian Church in Holland in Meriem's name.

Arrangements are by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 East 16th St. Holland, MI, 49423. To leave condolences online, please visit www.langelands-terenbergh.com

Tribute Wall

CY

“ Meriem and Roy ELWELL held a special place in my heart. I met them when I was 6 at the Grand Haven Presbyterian Church. When I was in 4th grade I started attending Rosy Mound School and became best friends with their daughter Beth Jeske. We shared so many good times. Sister Em was also a fun playmate. Mr. and Mrs Elwell were so kind and caring. I loved greeting Roy in the middle of the street when he marched by in the Scottville Clown band. He was a great trumpet player. Such a fine family! I loved it when they joined First Pres of Holland and could visit with them weekly. They were a good friend to my mom, too. Rest in peace, Mrs. Elwell. Join Mr. Elwell in Heaven. Beth and family, prayers and hugs are sent your way!

cinda yonker - December 13, 2025 at 03:04 PM

JM

“ We fondly recall her active time at FPC Holland, and share our condolences with her family.
Steve & Janet Magennis

Janet Magennis - December 13, 2025 at 01:58 PM

PD

“ Ms. Elwell was my teacher in Grand Haven, I took many shorthand classes with her and business classes. She was always very professional and kind and brought out the best in her students, including me! I will remember her always!! She helped shape my life and contributed to my first “real” job as a secretary at GVSU Bookstore. RIP Ms. Elwell❤️

Penni DeWitt - December 12, 2025 at 12:24 AM

ST

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



steve - December 10, 2025 at 09:23 PM