

Elma Clara “Terri” (Tollefsrud) Sonstegard was born on February 17, 1924, at Branton Hospital, in Willmar, Minnesota, along with her twin sister, Ella Mae.

Elma was baptized March 16, 1924, at West Norway Lake Lutheran Church, Sunburg, MN, where she was also confirmed May 1, 1938

She attended grade school at Sunburg, MN, and Kerkhoven High School in Kerkhoven, MN, where she was chosen Queen’s attendant and reigned over Homecoming activities. She graduated in 1942 and traveled around the country.

She and Bernard Clifford Sonstegard were married September 26, 1948, at West Norway Lake Lutheran Church, Sundburg, MN. The couple moved to Alexandria, MN, and became members of First Lutheran Church where Terri was very involved. They were blessed with four children: Gregg, Nancy, Scott, Shelli-Kae.

Terri died on Sunday, May 16, 2021, surrounded by her family. She is survived by her four children: Gregg (Mary) Sonstegard, Nancy (Stephen) Rolfsrud, Scott (Andrea) Sonstegard, Shelli-Kae (Sean) Foster; 11 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bernard “Buzz”; parents: Gilbert & Mina; brother, Glenmore; twin sister, Ella Mae Halverson.



Oslo, Norway

Celebrating The Life Of
Terri Sonstegard
February 17, 1924 † May 16, 2021

Funeral Service

First Lutheran Church
Alexandria, Minnesota
Saturday, May 22, 2021, 11:00 AM

Officiant

Pastor Kari van Wakeren

Musical Selections By

Randy Morken
Pat Kalina
Maddie Foster
Steve Larson

Casket Bearers

Meghan Stadskev	Kaela Bachelder
Griffin Sonstegard	Ford Rolfsrud
Briggs Rolfsrud	Breck Rolfsrud
Hailey Sonstegard	Carson Sonstegard
Manford Foster	Kagan Foster
J.J. Foster	

Burial

Kinkead Cemetery
Alexandria, Minnesota

Arrangements

Anderson Funeral Home - Alexandria, Minnesota

Remembering the Life
of
Terri Sonstegard



1924—2021

Terri's Story

Written by Terri in 2010

Elma Tollefsrud Sonstegard

I was born on February 17, 1924, along with my twin sister, Ella Mae. I had an older brother, Glenmore and my parents were Gilbert and Mina (Vold) Tollefsrud.



After graduation from Kerkhoven High School in 1942, I worked at Gordhamer's Market in Belgrade, MN. Then I traveled west to Puget Sound Navy Yard at Bremerton, WA, to join my twin sister, Ella Mae. I was employed as a cashier. I visited both Victoria and Vancouver, Canada, and often boarded the ferry to and from Seattle.



The other cities where I became employed were Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and Minneapolis working as a secretary, salesclerk and cashier. I was given the nickname "Terri" while living in Chicago and it has always been with me.

I married Bernard "Buzz" Sonstegard on September 26, 1948. We have always lived in Alexandria, MN, and are members of First Lutheran Church. After my marriage, I was employed at



Douglas County Courthouse doing office works and at the Douglas County Hospital as Dietary Aide. I also volunteered at First Lutheran Church and my children's schools and was an active member of the Alexandria Golf Club for over 50 years.

We have four children: Gregg, Nancy, Scott and Shelli-Kae. My mother, Mina, stayed with me for several years before entering a nursing home.

My love of travel sent me to Mexico; New York City; San Francisco; Havana, Cuba, Banff and Lake Louise, Canada; Washington D.C., and Virginia. Also, to the World's Fair in Knoxville, TN. Twice to Disney World in Orlando, FL, and Hawaii. We also made a few trips to Las Vegas and Laughlin. Buzz and I had a great time on a



Caribbean Cruise on the SNN Norway. We also had the opportunity to travel to Norway with Ella Mae and her husband, Dick, and visited our grandparents' homestead at Oslo, Norway. We were also in Sweden and Denmark.

My husband, Buzz retired in the Spring of 1985 from being an Instructor/Coordinator at Alexandria Technical College and Ag Instructor for District 206 for 37 years. We spent a part of every winter in the Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ, area since his retirement.

Buzz and I built a home on Lake Le Homme Dieu, next door to our cottage. This was my favorite place to be, on my deck at our home, overlooking the beautiful lake. In 2012 I moved to Grand Arbor in Alexandria, and my twin sister lived with me there for a few years.

