



Arlene Carol Elston

September 6, 1944 - January 20, 2025

Arlene Carol McMurray Elston, 80, of Owasso, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 20, 2025. She was born on September 6, 1944, in Lafayette, Indiana, to Bernard and Saxon McMurray.

Arlene was a compassionate and giving woman whose life was marked by her generosity and kindness. She always found a way to help others, whether through a heartfelt card, a prayer, or simply by being present when someone needed a friend. Arlene had a special gift for making people feel loved and heard, and her presence brightened the lives of all who knew her. She cherished the art of storytelling, often reminiscing about fond memories, and loved passing down these stories to her family and friends. Her legacy of love, warmth, and compassion will live on in the hearts of all fortunate to have known her.

Arlene is survived by her two daughters, Amy Lee Elston (Shane Cunningham) and Sara Elizabeth Williams (Nathan Williams); and her grandchildren, Caroline Saxon Williams and Rhett Elston Williams. She is also survived by her siblings: Mary Anne McMurray, Peggy McMurray, Benny McMurray, Barbara Opdenhoff, Fred McMurray, Kay McMurray, Marcia Selph, Pat McMurray, Joan Hoover, and Irene Labue.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rob Elston; her parents, Bernard and Saxon McMurray; and her siblings, Janet and Billy McMurray.

An adoration rosary in honor of Arlene's life will be held at Saint Thérèse Catholic Church (1007 N 19th St, Collinsville, OK) on Sunday, January 26,

2025, at 7pm.

A Memorial Mass in honor of Arlene's life will be held at Saint Thérèse Catholic Church on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 10am.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Porta Caeli House in Arlene's memory.

Arlene's family is deeply grateful for the love and support they have received during this difficult time.

Cemetery Details

St. Therese Catholic Church Cemetery

1007 113th E. Ave
Collinsville, OK 74021

Previous Events

Rosary

JAN 26. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Therese Catholic Church
1007 North 113th East Avenue
Collinsville, OK 74021

Funeral Mass

JAN 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Therese Catholic Church
1007 North 113th East Avenue
Collinsville, OK 74021

Memorial Fund

JAN 27 (CT)

Porta Caeli House
2440 North Harvard Ave
Tulsa, OK 74115

Tribute Wall

SJ

“ *Thank you Arlene
For making a impact in my life in the short time knowing her she
was influential and gave great advice she was a great friend to
many always ready to lend a hand. I'm thankful for knowing her.*

scott jarman - February 02, 2025 at 04:50 PM



“ Growing up in a large family—being the 12th of 13 children—Arlene played a unique and essential role in my life. Our mom was busy with the day-to-day tasks of raising so many of us, so the older siblings helped keep us younger ones on track. It was Arlene who instilled in me a love of reading, music and art. She would make little job charts for my sister and I, and we'd get rewarded with small treats for completing our tasks. Arlene's nurturing spirit was one of her many gifts. She was there for us in the ways we needed, from teaching us our prayers, to singing to us, ensuring we brushed our teeth and helping with homework. She was a constant, steady presence in our lives. I remember when Arlene left for college, and later moved to New Orleans to work at Reed Fans. She laid out some of her trinkets—little treasures she no longer wanted—and my sisters and I took turns picking out what we wanted.

As we grew older, we were fortunate enough to visit her in Metairie, Louisiana. Her apartment there felt like a little slice of heaven, and every visit was a treat. Arlene's strong Catholic faith was always a big part of her life. When we visited, she would take us to her church, where she sang louder than anyone else! Most people may not know that Arlene had tried to become an airline stewardess when she graduated from college. I remember when she flew to an interview with Delta Airlines and came back with little travel packs and wing pins for my sister Irene and I—small tokens of the big dreams she had. She may not have become a stewardess, but that sense of adventure stayed with her.

Though we missed her when she moved to Oklahoma, Irene and I were lucky enough to visit her there. I'll never forget that first plane trip to see her. I was around 10 or 12 years old, and it felt like the greatest adventure of my life.

Arlene met the love of her life, Rob, when I was in high school. I remember visiting her in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and meeting Rob for the first time. He even took me for a ride on his motorcycle, which I thought was the coolest thing. A few months later, Arlene brought Rob to Louisiana for Christmas, and they were married on December 31st.

A couple of years after Arlene and Rob were married, they were

blessed with the birth of their daughter, Amy. Though we were far apart, we stayed connected through letters—each one filled with stories about Amy and, a few years later, her sister, Sara. It was clear in every letter how proud Arlene was of both of them. Her love for her daughters was immeasurable, and her joy in watching them grow into the amazing women they are today was evident in all her words.

Arlene's desire to give—whether it was her time, her love, or her heart—was a part of who she was. She never stopped caring for others, and even in the face of her own challenges, she continued to be a source of strength and inspiration for so many around her. It's a testament to the kind of person Arlene was that she was able to impact the lives of those around her in ways that will continue to resonate for years to come. We will miss her!



Joan Hoover - January 31, 2025 at 09:46 AM

JP

“*Thank you for the honor of allowing Emerald Hospice to take care of Arlene. She was a precious lady.*

Joel Powell- Chaplain



Joel Powell - January 25, 2025 at 01:09 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Arlene Carol Elston.*



January 23, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ *Fred M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Arlene Carol Elston.*

Fred M. - January 23, 2025 at 05:51 PM



“ *Arlene was always encouraging and kind to my grandsons. Cayson 8 and Carter 5. She cared about them learning their Catholic Faith and gave them beautiful books about God and the Church for Christmas..They were so excited watching her read their Thank you card. They would pray for her every night and they miss her...she blessed my life and they would always ask where she was to make sure she was there at Mass...now she will be there but in a much more special way...
Arlene you are loved..*

Connie Ringer - January 22, 2025 at 06:59 PM



“ *William E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Arlene Carol Elston.*

William E. - January 22, 2025 at 02:57 PM

BO

“ Arlene was always one to stop and visit. She often shared memories I didn't remember. Plus she was one to listen and not judge.
Barbara Jean.

Barbara Opdenhoff - January 22, 2025 at 12:48 PM

GE

“ Arlene blessed my life! I am grateful beyond words for the love and support she always gave me. She was so encouraging, and such a sweet friend to everyone. May God bless her Family and friends and give them Peace.

Genevieve - January 22, 2025 at 10:54 AM

MA

“ Marcia purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Arlene Carol Elston.



Marcia - January 22, 2025 at 10:39 AM

KM

“ Such a great loss to all who've known Arlene whether across the years and miles or spur-of-the-moment conversations with strangers she's befriended... Always friendly, always caring, always "real"--- none like her! Walking alongside her in her Catholic school navy skirt and white blouse, eager to share what she'd learned that day. Playing Red Rover and Hide and Seek, taking turns along the sidewalk in my red wagon. Dreaming and planning for life and even that young, wisely wanting God's will. Watching her joy in finding the right companion for her, becoming a proud and loving mother and grandmother. Overcoming obstacles and victorious. My heart aches in losing you but I comfort myself knowing you've now heard the words we strive for: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Kathryn Martin - January 22, 2025 at 10:08 AM

IL



Irene Labue - January 28, 2025 at 07:08 PM

TS

“ Was such a wonderful loving woman. I will miss her dearly.

Teresa Scullawl - January 22, 2025 at 09:57 AM

DH

“ Arlene
You were a bright light in our lives.
We will miss you so much. Knowing you are in a better place is the only thing that matters. Thank you for your love and honesty. God has received a beautiful soul.

David Hoffman - January 22, 2025 at 09:52 AM

BF

“ *My condolences. I will miss Aunt Arlene.
Praying for the repose of her soul in
Louisiana.*



Bridget Farace - January 22, 2025 at 09:46 AM