



## Elaine D. Mathias

August 11, 1950 - May 9, 2025

Elaine D. Mathias, age 74 of Mattoon, IL peacefully passed away Friday, May 9, 2025, at Mattoon Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

A funeral service in her honor will be held at 11:00 AM, Thursday, May 15, 2025, at First Baptist Church, 1804 S. 9th Street, Mattoon, IL 61938; Reverend Dennis Strawn will officiate. A committal service will immediately follow in Rest Haven Cemetery. The visitation for friends and family will be held from 9:00 AM until the time of service at the church.

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938, is in charge of services.

Elaine was born on August 11, 1950, in Mattoon, IL to the late Albert D. and Lois C. (Crum) Bohlen. She married Gary Mathias on October 2, 1971, at the First Baptist Church in Mattoon, IL. She is survived by her beloved husband of fifty-three years, Gary, who resides in Mattoon, IL; precious daughter, Mindy Elaine Mathias and husband James Manipud of Sacramento, CA; precious son, Matt Bohlen Mathias and wife DeAnna Mathias of Terre Haute, IN; special legacy grandsons, Lincoln and Harrison Mathias of Terre Haute, IN; sisters, Georgia Ryan and husband Harold of Greenup, IL, and Lisa Bohlen-Admire of Morrisville, NC. She is preceded in death by her sister, Kathleen Dauterive.

Elaine graduated from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL where she earned her master's degree in special education. Her passion for education led her to a fulfilling career as a Pre Vocational Coordinator at Eastern Illinois

Area Special Education (EIASE), impacting countless lives with her dedication before her retirement in 2011.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Elaine was an active and vibrant member of the Mattoon community. She was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Mattoon, where she not only worshipped but also served as a Deaconess and volunteered her time at Vacation Bible School. Her commitment to her faith and church was unwavering and inspired many. Elaine's love for social gatherings and community service was evident through her involvement with the Junior Women's Club and The Red Hat Society. Her role as the Queen of Teatime and her presence at the Red Hatter's Hat and Chat meetings will be deeply missed, as she always brought joy and laughter to those around her.

As a water lover, Elaine made waves as an Aqua Aerobics Instructor at the Mattoon Area Family YMCA. Her energy and encouraging spirit made her classes a popular and uplifting environment for her fellow mermaids.

Elaine's dedication to her children and grandchildren was evident through her hands-on involvement in their education and extracurricular activities. She was a familiar face and a supportive presence as a Room Mother and Girl Scout Leader. She served as President of both the Gifted Program PTA and the Band Boosters at Mattoon High School.

Elaine's legacy is one of love, service, and education. She touched the lives of many, from her students who she guided with patience and wisdom, to her friends and family whom she loved with all her heart. Her spirit, characterized by her infectious smile and unwavering positivity, will continue to live on in the memories of those who had the privilege to know her.

Memorials in her honor may be made to the Mattoon Area Family YMCA, 221 N. 16th Street, Mattoon, IL 61938 or the First Baptist Church of Mattoon.

Please visit [www.mitchell-jerdan.com](http://www.mitchell-jerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](https://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) to light a virtual in her honor or share a memory with the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Resthaven Memorial Gardens

1701 Dewitt Avenue  
Mattoon, IL 61938

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 15. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
1804 S 9th Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

## Service

MAY 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
1804 S 9th Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

# Tribute Wall

AW

“ *Elaine. So many positive memories of you working with our brother Billy Westjohn at Armstrong. You were amazing. RIP dear lady*

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**alicia westjohn** - July 27, 2025 at 07:22 PM

RS

“ *Rick and I are so sorry for your families loss! We send our deepest sympathies to the entire family ! She always had a kind word when we would see her at church! Prayers to your family during these coming weeks! 🙏*

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**Rick & Debbie Seaman** - June 13, 2025 at 11:24 AM

MS

“ *Special thank you to he laid for keeping the class of 1968 luncheon on the move and going. We will think of you at each and every luncheon that we have much love and condolences to Gary, Matt and Mindy and other family members. Special flowers were sent from the class of 1968.*



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**Michelle Skinlo** - May 23, 2025 at 02:06 PM

JB

“ My name is Jim Bossert and I worked at TLC with Elaine for years. The picture I included is a flamingo that you put in the garden that Elaine gave me when we both retired on the same day along with our friend Marilyn I have used it every year in my garden Since I’ve retired 14 years ago Elaine was a wonderful person and had a wonderful sense of humor. God bless you, Elaine and my condolences. Go out to Gary and the family.



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**James Bossert** - May 16, 2025 at 03:50 PM

MS

“ Melissa, Spencer in Sacramento purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Elaine D. Mathias.



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**Melissa, Spencer in Sacramento** - May 13, 2025 at 03:59 PM

BW

“ Betty W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elaine D. Mathias.

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**Betty W.** - May 13, 2025 at 01:21 PM



“ 122 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home** - May 13, 2025 at 11:42 AM

MM

“ *I've known Elaine for years. We were in women's club together and she is the one that inspired me to go to water aerobics at the YMCA. Our daughters danced together at the Academy. Rest in peace.*

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**Mary Martin** - May 13, 2025 at 07:52 AM

CG

“ *Gary, Mindy and Matt:  
Please accept my condolences. So sorry for your loss, Elaine was a wonderful, loving woman. I don't know if Mindy or Matt remember me but I remember you as being great students and the apple of your Mom's eye! She will be at the gates of Heaven to greet you when the time comes.*

*With Sympathy,  
Chris Gebben*

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**Chris Gebben** - May 13, 2025 at 07:21 AM

SP

“ Elaine’s kindness will always be a fond memory of mine. Chris and Matt were besties in grade school and Elaine always made Chris feel very welcome in her home. Sincere sympathies are sent.

Sheri Richardson Paul - May 13, 2025 at 06:50 AM

TF

“ The Clesi Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elaine D. Mathias.

The Clesi Family - May 12, 2025 at 03:53 PM

TF

“ The Clesi Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Elaine D. Mathias.



The Clesi Family - May 12, 2025 at 03:53 PM

YF

“ Your Ruan family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elaine D. Mathias.



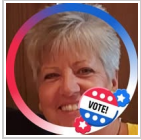
Your Ruan family - May 12, 2025 at 01:07 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Elaine D. Mathias.*



May 12, 2025 at 12:35 PM



“ *I remember Elaine as my student teacher either at Bennett or Lowell not sure which. I remember going to her and Gary's apartment to visit her. (Of course times were different then. I'm sure student teachers would not be allowed to have a student in their home today.) Years later when I came to First Baptist Church, there she was with her mother and sisters. We've worshipped together for 40 years. What a kind soul. She will be missed.*

**Susan Doty** - May 12, 2025 at 12:27 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Elaine D. Mathias.*

May 12, 2025 at 12:01 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Elaine D. Mathias.*



May 12, 2025 at 12:01 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Elaine D. Mathias.*



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May 12, 2025 at 09:46 AM



“ *Elaine was a special person inside and out! She had a heart of gold and loved everyone...  
💖 Sending prayers to the family... ❤️ 🙏 🕊*



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**Tonya Tinsman-David** - May 12, 2025 at 08:58 AM