



Eleanor (Larson) Bonafonte

August 4, 1923 - March 24, 2025

Eleanor Bonafonte, 101, formerly of Point O' Woods, South Lyme and New Britain, CT, died peacefully on March 24, 2025 at St. Mary Home in West Hartford, CT. Eleanor was born on August 4, 1923 in New Britain, the daughter of John E. Larson and Eugenia (Fredrickson) Larson. She was the widow of Bruno Bonafonte who died in 1991. A 1941 graduate of New Britain High School, she lived in New Britain for 73 years before moving to Point O' Woods in South Lyme, CT in 1996.

Her spiritual life was of great importance to her and she happily served her Lord at First Lutheran Church of the Reformation, New Britain, as a weekday and Sunday school teacher, eucharistic minister, choir member, Miriam Unit leader, Alter Guild secretary, two term President of the Church Council (and first woman to hold that post in the history of the Church). She continued her service after moving to the shore at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Old Saybrook, serving in many similar roles.

An avid volunteer, she felt the need to serve and began doing so in her teens. She served as a nurse's aide at New Britain General Hospital and as an Auxiliary Police officer during World War II, where she met her future husband, Bruno. She continued to volunteer at NBGH, The Hospital for Special Care and Newington Children's Hospital for decades following.

After moving to Point O' Woods, she continued her active volunteerism at High Hopes Therapeutic Riding School, Literary Volunteers of America, New Life Prison Ministry and many other local charities. She was a member and

supporter of many organizations. She loved music, the arts, swimming, walking, baking, yard work and animals and had a particular love for the special place that is Point O' Woods where she was a proud member and former president of their Women's Club.

She is survived by special family who she loved dearly. Her daughter, Jean and stepdaughter Joyce (Peter), her grandchildren Mark (Janine), Kevin (Brooke) Steven (Catie) and Kristin (Joe) along with 8 great-grandchildren, her nieces Elaine and Sharon, her nephews, Robert and Greg, and their children. Also, her many cousins and relatives in Sweden who are remembered for their kindness and connection over the years. Eleanor was pre-deceased by a brother, Teddy Larson, and sisters Madeline Haakerud and Doris Moberg. The family would like to thank all those who helped in Eleanor's care and showed her kindness over the past year as she reached the end of her life – she never complained and always was ready to greet each new day.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday April 26 at 11:00 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 56 Great Hammock Road, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers can be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church at the address above or High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, 36 Town Woods Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
56 Great Hammock Rd.
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Tribute Wall

LL

“ Aunt Eleanor — for more than a century! — was a picture of strength, wisdom, kindness, and faith lived with conviction. She always told it like it was, through joy and struggle, and always delighted in the joys and company of the people she loved. Some of my earliest childhood memories are from the Christmas parties she and Uncle Bruno hosted where we would dunk brown bread in korv water and sneak endless cookies down to the basement. As we grew older and she was the last living relative of her generation on Dad’s side of the family, she became our surrogate grandmother and loved to hear about the milestones of our lives and our kids’ personalities and adventures. It has been a true gift to be part of this incredible woman’s family and we are all blessed to have had her in our lives for so long. Love you, Aunty El!



Laura Moberg Lavoie - April 05, 2025 at 03:04 PM

JP

“ I always looked up to and adored Aunt El, from when we were little kids reveling in her hospitality and ability to bring a magical Swedish Christmas to all of us, to when I was living in Connecticut away from my family and hanging out at Point O'Woods under her welcoming wing. When I moved across the world, she checked in on me, with her hilarious attempts to use FaceTime and her iPad, sometimes in the middle of my night. Keeping Aunt El in my heart always, my daughter is named after her, and I pray we can carry on her legacy of strength, compassion, generosity, and humor that captivated and uplifted everyone she ever encountered. Aunt El will be sorely missed and dearly remembered.



Jennifer Moberg Pforte - April 04, 2025 at 10:50 PM

JB

“ I have always remembered Aunt Eleanor fondly, from family reunions. She was a wonderful caring woman.

Jackie Bonafonte - April 03, 2025 at 04:25 PM

SH

“ *My fondest memories were the times spent at Point O Woods, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. I loved her Christmas Tree Cookies and I make them every year. I'm sure Aunt Elinor, Uncle Bruno and my mom and dad are playing cards (Uncle Bruno knew who had what cards in their hands). I miss all the times family spent together and want to express my sympathy to Jean, Joyce, Steven and your families! I miss you all and love you!*



Sharon - April 03, 2025 at 01:46 PM