



## Dorothy Elsner

April 12, 1926 - January 19, 2024

Dorothy Elsner, 97, passed away peacefully on January 19, 2024. She was born on April 12, 1926 in New York City to the late Stephen Duncan and Mary Davis Ferris. She was the youngest of four children. Dorothy graduated from Mountain Lakes High School in 1943 and the University of Vermont in 1947. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. She also attended the Tobé-Coburn School for Fashion Careers in New York City and graduated in 1948.

Dorothy met the love of her life, husband James Elsner while working at G. Fox Department store in Hartford, CT. They were happily married for seventy-two years until his passing in 2022. They lived in West Hartford, Connecticut and raised their three children there.

Dorothy was a homemaker for sixteen years until returning to the work force doing administrative work at LIMRA, a life insurance and marketing company.

Dorothy is survived by her son Charles A. Elsner (wife Susan Biren), daughter Mary Moss (husband Michael), grandchildren Michael Moss Jr. (wife Laura Moss), Kimberly Moss, Robert Moss (wife Jamie Moss), Emily Elsner (husband Joseph Reiner), Kathryn Moss (fiancé David Torres), and Theodore Elsner (fiancée Kate Lottsfeldt); great-grandchildren Michael III, Gabriel, and Daniel Moss; many nieces and nephews; along with many cherished friends. She is also preceded in death by her son, James E. Elsner Jr; her daughter-

in-law Mary Anne (Monroe) Elsner, one brother Charles D. Ferris, and two sisters, Jean F. Law, and Margaret F. Duus.

Dorothy was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She enjoyed collecting antiques, many of which she displayed in her beautiful home. Dorothy was an early advocate of the benefits of a healthy diet, encouraging others to do the same. She also had a talent for needlework, creating beautifully framed pictures and pillows. She was an avid gardener and had a green thumb at nurturing plants in the yard and indoors. Clothes and fashion were a lifelong passion and in later years Dorothy could have been a poster girl for Chicco.

The family warmly welcomes you to celebrate Dorothy's wonderful life during calling hours on Friday, January 26 from 4pm-6pm or during a service on Saturday, January 27 at 10:00am, both at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave. W. Hartford, followed by a graveside interment at Fairview Cemetery.

The Elsner and Moss families would like to extend their appreciation for the wonderful care Dorothy was given over the past years at the Hebrew Center for Health in West Hartford and Legacy Ridge in Gainesville, VA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the West Hartford Food Pantry or the Dementia Society of America. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.  
West Hartford, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN 26. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Celebration of Life

JAN 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

# Tribute Wall



“ *Molloy Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dorothy Elsner*



---

**Molloy Funeral Home** - January 23, 2024 at 01:46 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dorothy Elsner.*



---

January 25, 2024 at 07:26 PM

SF

“ My wife Joanne and I (Dorothy and Jim's first Nephew!) have wonderful memories of Dorothy and Jim - both at family gatherings held at their beautiful West Hartford home, as well as in Mountain Lakes, NJ - home of Dorothy's mother and father (Mary Davis Ferris and Stephen Duncan Ferris). I was the 'ring bearer' at their Mountain Lakes, NJ wedding in October 1950 - at the age of five, along with sister Carolyn, age four. We still treasure the many photographs of their wedding we have in our family albums: dashing Jim - former fighter pilot during WW II and beautiful Dorothy resplendent in her wedding gown.

*Dorothy and Jim were shining examples of a love match made in heaven - and a perfect lifelong marriage. We never failed to admire the deep affection they had for one another during their 72 years of marriage: a 'dream team' if ever there was one!*

*Their family and many descendants are also a joy, and a testimony to the wonderful environment Dorothy and Jim provided for their children.*

*While we mourn her loss, we comfort ourselves in knowing that Dorothy and Jim are now together for eternity. May the good Lord bless them both, and all their family!*

*Stephen (Duncan) Ferris  
Naples, Florida*

---

**Stephen D Ferris** - January 25, 2024 at 06:58 PM

RO

“ The Amtrak Guest Rewards (Vicky, Ross, Adam, Jen, Jonathan, Nicola, Lauren, and Kevin) team sends its sincerest condolences on the passing of Dorothy. A donation of \$75 has been made to the West Hartford Food Bank in her honor.

---

**Ross** - January 25, 2024 at 05:04 PM

SL

“ Stephen, Debbie, Arielle Lyons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothy Elsner.

Stephen, Debbie, Arielle Lyons - January 25, 2024 at 11:25 AM

SL

“ Stephen, Debbie, Arielle Lyons purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dorothy Elsner.



Stephen, Debbie, Arielle Lyons - January 25, 2024 at 11:25 AM

MS

“ Mary Skinnon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothy Elsner.

Mary Skinnon - January 25, 2024 at 08:29 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dorothy Elsner.



January 25, 2024 at 08:29 AM

BF

“ Bob and Nancy Cunnane and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothy Elsner.

Bob and Nancy Cunnane and family - January 24, 2024 at 11:35 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dorothy Elsner.*



---

January 24, 2024 at 11:35 PM



“ *I met Dorothy working at LIMRA. She was always kind, always with a smile. My condolences to the families.*

---

**Joanne Listro** - January 24, 2024 at 02:16 PM



“ *I met Dorothy and Jim while swimming at the Hartford YWCA in the late 70s. Our mutual connection to good ol' G. Fox elicited memories and stories. They were the sweetest of folks and were so proud of their kids. I still hear their voices, recall the twinkle in their eyes, and remember their laughter and kindness of spirit. And the smile depicted in Dorothy's picture brings to mind that of Jim's as well. I was honored to know them.*

---

**steve theaker** - January 24, 2024 at 10:01 AM



“ *Chuck and family,  
My deepest sympathy on the loss of your mother.*



---

**Dan Quartin** - January 24, 2024 at 03:19 AM