



Elaine M. Conley

November 5, 1939 - December 13, 2025

Elaine Marie Conley, age 86, of Royal Oak, passed away on December 13, 2025.

Elaine was born in Detroit, Michigan, on November 5, 1939, to Walter and Sophie Cyrkiel. She grew up in Hamtramck and graduated from Hamtramck High School. Elaine went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University, majoring in Early Elementary Education and minoring in Art. Additionally, Elaine pursued coursework at Wayne State University, Oakland University, and the University of Michigan. After Elaine's graduation from Western Michigan University, she obtained a job with the Wyandotte school district as an elementary school teacher. Elaine's other professional endeavors included Director of K-12 Educational Services, and Director of Applied Economics, for Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan. She ended her professional career teaching in the Detroit school district where she worked until her late 60s.

Elaine had a deep appreciation for art and creativity. She was an accomplished artist who loved drawing and maintained a beautiful collection of oil paintings. She was especially fond of Pewabic Pottery, both as a devoted collector and as a student, taking classes there to create her own pieces. Her artistic spirit also extended outdoors, where she found joy and peace in gardening.

An avid traveler, Elaine loved exploring both the United States and destinations abroad. Among all her adventures, Paris held a special place in her heart and remained her favorite city.

Elaine treasured time spent with friends, particularly enjoying games of bridge and pinochle, as well as long lunches with friends that were filled with laughter and conversation. She was also deeply devoted to her beloved dog, Tiko, who preceded her in death and remained forever in her heart.

Elaine will be celebrated for her creativity, curiosity, love of beauty, and the quiet joy she found in the people and passions she cherished.

Elaine will be remembered as the beloved wife of the late Dr. Richard David Conley. Loving mother of R. Creighton Conley (Julia) and the late Kelly Anne Conley. Proud grandmother of Iain Creighton Conley. Dear sister of Carole (James Howell) Tardie. Dear friend to Gloria Jean Verdi and Carole M. Wickless.

If you wish to make a memorial contribution in memory of Elaine, please consider a contribution to Michigan Humane: www.michiganhumane.org.