



Elgin H. Summerfelt

January 22, 1949 - July 31, 2020

Elgin H. Summerfelt died suddenly at age 71 on July 31, 2020 at his home in Shirley, MA.

Beloved husband of Lorraine S. Summerfelt, née Sroka, and brother of Ann Summerfelt of Pennsylvania, he was born in Champaign, Illinois on January 22, 1949 to Len and Mary Humrichouse Summerfelt.

Elgin earned a B.S. in Psychology and Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Purdue University. His counseling career spanned more than 40 years, beginning with an internship at the University of Iowa, where he counseled students and staff, and continuing through the current year as primary consultant at Finding Your Life, LLC, where he advised clients about careers and retirement. As Associate Director of Career Services/Counseling Psychology at Drake University from 1977-85, he designed and programmed a database application for employer job specifications that matched graduate students and alumni. He served as Associate Director of Career Services at Bentley College from 1985-95, where he co-founded the Greater Boston MBA Placement Consortium. From 1998-2003, he was an outplacement consultant for DBM (Drake Beam Morin), where he earned "Super Star Consultant" ranking for placing in the top 5 percent nationally for outstanding service to customers. At Career Source from 2010-2017, he provided job search advice at a One Stop Career Center through Middlesex Community College. During his life Elgin seized every opportunity to share his expertise and compassion. Even while hospitalized earlier this year, he provided mini-coaching about self-care for the doctors and nurses who cared for him.

Elgin is survived by Lorraine, his loving wife of 34 years, his daughter Kristine and his son Ryan, his virtual daughter Rhonda Litzenberg, and his virtual son Zakai ben-Chaim, and 3 grandchildren. In his younger years he loved sailing and fenced. A skilled raconteur who loved jazz, gardening, and single malt scotches, he was also known for making a wonderful El-gin and tonic. Elgin was an active member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton, for over 30 years, serving his beloved church in a variety of ways,

including serving on the vestry, Pastoral Search Committee, and as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Elgin's service as Master of Ceremonies of a variety of church events is legendary. Elgin was a committed member of Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo, and currently served on the Secretariat of MEC.

During his life, Elgin's wisdom and generosity of spirit enriched the lives of many, and he leaves behind an exceptionally wide circle of friends and clients.

The funeral and interment of ashes will be on Saturday, August 8, at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Church of the Good Shepherd, 164 Newtown Rd, Acton, MA, 01720. Please wear a mask and bring your own seating for socially distanced seating circles. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all guests must register to attend at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4cafad2da46-funeral>. The service will also be livestreamed on the church Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Church-of-the-Good-Shepherd-Acton-Episcopal-201769349872921/>.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Church of the Good Shepherd, 164 Newtown Rd, Acton, MA, 01720.

The Anderson Funeral Home, (978) 772-2355, is assisting the family with arrangements. For additional information, or to leave an online condolence, please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com. Condolences may also be sent to Lorraine c/o Church of the Good Shepherd.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG 8. 9:30 AM (ET)

Church of the Good Shepherd
164 Newton Rd.
Acton, MA

Tribute Wall

EM

“ I'm so sorry to hear that the world has lost Elgin Summerfelt. I met Elgin in 2017, when I took a career workshop he gave in Cambridge. I was so impressed with his knowledge, his warmth, and his marvelous wit that I signed up for an individual counseling session with him. I was going through a difficult patch, trying to transition back into my lifelong career after taking a two-year sabbatical in an entirely different field. He was very kind and supportive, and gave me excellent advice on how to get my career back on track. I followed it, and it worked perfectly. I wish I had been more diligent in looking him up to thank him. I will always have the memory of what a wonderful man he was, and how much he helped me, as I'm sure he helped thousands of other job seekers in his long career. Rest in peace and joy, Elgin!

- Elizabeth Michaud, Stow, Mass.

Elizabeth Michaud - October 22, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ A memory: Elgin's wonderful laugh! Many a Thursday evening we would go to the Crossroads restaurant in Acton and what would we hear? "Ah, Elgin's at the bar!" There was no mistaking his guffaw! Such a wonderful person! Lorraine, may you find comfort in knowing how much Elgin was loved. Sonia and Bruce Stevenson

Sonia Stevenson - August 08, 2020 at 09:23 PM

TF

I recently hired Elgin as my Career Coach at the end of May 2020 we only had a couple sessions and several emails. He made such an impact in my life. His credentials preferences and personality were the perfect fit for me. When he wasn't returning my emails and text messages I became concerned. When I went on the website I read of his passing. I'm devastated and shocked. I'm so thankful I got to know him his personality was one of a kind. I'm so sorry for your loss. I'm praying for his family and friends. It was a privilege to work with him and know him in our short time working together.

Tracy Fascia - August 29, 2020 at 10:11 PM

DB

“ I am very sorry we have lost Elgin. I greatly enjoyed working with him in a career services organization for seven years, during which we shared lots of zany humor and discussion of a wide range of topics matching Elgin's wide expanse of interests and knowledge. He was the nicest guy, very warm and compassionate, lots of fun and someone with a real depth of knowledge that contributed tremendously to our organization and his clients. The combination of his engaging personality and considerable talents made him truly fascinating to be around.

David Buck - August 07, 2020 at 02:26 PM



“ Dear cousin Lorraine,
Stan and I were shocked and saddened to hear of Elgin's passing. We pray The Lord gives you a peace that only He can give, that passes all understanding. Elgin was truly a faithful husband and friend, and loved you unconditionally. Love is eternal, and you two will always share the love you had together, into eternity. When asked about a memory, both Stan and I and our kids remembered the beautiful words of both love and wit, and Aunt Rita's funeral. We all commented that it was truly one of the most beautiful tributes we had ever heard. He loved Aunt Rita, and she loved him. It was fitting he gave her eulogy. Elgin had a gift with words and always had a kind smile. We share in your loss, and will always be here for you, though it may be a distance, we are with you in thoughts and prayers. Elgin will be missed, but he leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter and friendship that will live on through you and his family. We will miss his family Christmas letters...again showing his wit and humor yet loving sentiments of a past year well-lived. His funeral on Saturday will attest to a LIFE well lived. We will be watching, via Facebook, and know that we will be sending you our love and prayers. We will keep in touch.

Melissa Shea Sroka - August 06, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Elgin's death. His humor and compassion added so much to our lives at Career Source — he was always ready with a laugh or a kind word. My heart goes out to his family for their loss.

Laurie Holman

Laurie Holman - August 06, 2020 at 12:38 PM



“ To my dearest sister- Lorraine. My heart goes out to you as we all mourn the loss of Elgin. As promised, I am sending you the lovely poem "The "DASH" which has given me solace, inspiration and strength all these year. Knowing that your beloved Elgin truly lived his "DASH" to the fullest; touching so many with his joyous laughter, kind deeds, spirituality, and caring, I hope it will do the same for you.<https://smct.org.au/blog/the-dash-by-linda-ellis>

ineZ

ineZ heath - August 06, 2020 at 11:40 AM

MH

“ We are beyond dismayed to hear of Elgin's death. Ralph and I have many happy memories of the home he and Lorraine shared in Acton, including Elgin at the grill, making perfect burgers and Lorraine making perfectly delicious anything in the kitchen for all of us to enjoy. I can picture him leaning back in his seat, smoking his pipe, and gazing indulgently at Lorraine's latest pronouncements. There was a lot of love in that look, and it was returned in full. The world needs as many of those sorts of relationships as there can be. We will all feel the loss.
Marcie and Ralph Hirsch

marcie hirsch - August 06, 2020 at 11:04 AM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jane Lothian - August 06, 2020 at 10:48 AM

JL

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Jane Lothian - August 06, 2020 at 09:02 AM

JL

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jane Lothian - August 06, 2020 at 09:00 AM

MK

“ *Elgin was a bright light at Career Source! He could converse with or counsel anyone...We truly enjoyed working with him. Our sincere sympathy to Lorraine and his family.*

Sincerely,

Myrna Kesselman and Larry Elle

Myrna Kesselman - August 06, 2020 at 08:58 AM

JL

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Jane Lothian - August 05, 2020 at 07:34 PM

“ When Lorraine, my dearest of college friends,, returned from her sojourn in the mid-west developing experience and advancing her career, Elgin came, too. There he was with his twinkling eyes and big cheeky grin. What a pair they made! I was ecstatic for my friend.

Over the years, Elgin became like another brother (I had three). We could be goofy, outrageous, argumentative... Of course, once Elgin put on one of his many playlists all the shenanigans ceased. The music, after all, needed attention and was to be appreciated above all else. Lean back, close your eyes and absorb the artistry flowing into your ears. And there Elgin would be with a smile of satisfaction on his face.

His generosity of spirit, his natural and easy response to just about everyone was probably his most endearing personality trait.

My mother looked forward to every interaction she ever had with him --- long conversations delving into theology and spirituality, recently read books, politics, or just everyday family and community activity topics. Once their heads moved close together, Lorraine and I just busied ourselves with other things. This is why I asked him to prepare and present the eulogy at my mother's memorial service in 2006. He did so without hesitation, summoning up the essence of who my mother was from her amazing intellect and her independent spirit to her Irish heritage and passionate love of her "descendants" as she called her grand and great grand children when she couldn't remember their names. And, of course, the send-off, my mother's wake, will live in the annals of family history thanks to Elgin Summerfelt, as he took over overseeing the beverages served to our guests. The favored libation was one "Fisherman's Punch" that packed quite a wallop, indeed. The eating of food, the singing of tunes, the drinking of what we fondly called the "grog" went on late into the evening. During all the hugs and good byes, Lorraine managed to take charge of the car keys and drove her dear, happy, singing man home. Every member of the family who participated in that once-in-a-lifetime event still speaks of it, of Elgin, and the comfort and humor he brought to that January day when Mary Hammond O'Brien Houk, age 97 was waked "in a very proper fashion" by good friends and her descendants.

Now there is, again, a void in the family circle, but Elgin, we will see that your Joie de vivre and generosity live on in memory and in deed. Godspeed, dear brother.

Sara Houk - August 05, 2020 at 05:12 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White* was purchased for the family of Elgin H. Summerfelt.



August 05, 2020 at 04:44 PM



“ *Elgin and Lorraine have been close friends since the 80s. When my husband died in 2009, it was Elgin I chose to give David's eulogy. We shared much joy together as two couples and Elgin and Lorraine have stood by me as a good friends ever since. Sadly, the pain of loss is greater the better the relationship. My heart goes out to you, Lorraine. I know how much it hurts. Sending much love.*

Roberta Taylor

Roberta Taylor - August 05, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ *Cheeseboard Complete* was purchased for the family of Elgin H. Summerfelt.



August 05, 2020 at 11:21 AM

KK

“ I am completely in shock only learning of this today. Elgin and I were in recent contact when I readily jumped in to help him with a new business referral. He was a constant and a cherished friend.

As one of the most compassionate and empathetic people I've come across, Elgin saw me at some of my worst times and yet he always rooted for me. One one such occasion, he literally helped turned my life around by helping me see a different mindset and launched me on a 3+ year fitness journey that was also somewhat sparked by the commitment and success of one his own.

We have truly lost one of the brightest stars in this world though know he is in a good place knowing what I did of his faith. However, I and I know countless others (including his family) will deeply feel this loss.

Please except my deepest condolences. This has truly shaken me to my core and I am going to miss him, his smile, wit and advice greatly.

K Kiehn

KK - August 05, 2020 at 10:55 AM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jane Lothian - August 04, 2020 at 09:51 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jane Lothian - August 04, 2020 at 09:48 PM

DH

Wow! A blast from the past! Elgin reveled in being a Fiji. A lot of memories!

Diane Harrington - August 05, 2020 at 07:16 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Jane Lothian - August 04, 2020 at 09:46 PM