

Mary Germaine St. John



Mary Germaine St. John, 89, passed away Friday, July 26, 2024, in Laramie.

Germaine was born November 21, 1934, to Leon and Maryellen (nee Dinneen) Jezewski in Sheridan, Wyoming. Germaine attended Holy Name Catholic School in the first grade, and in the summer of 1941 the family moved to Laramie, Wyoming, where Germaine's father assumed the position of mechanical superintendent of the "Daily Bulletin," Laramie's morning newspaper. She didn't know it then, but she had found her life-long home.

During her early years, Germaine displayed extreme talent in the ice-skating world. At that time there were three outdoor rinks at Undine Park and Germaine spent most of her time skating. She was a soloist for the University of Wyoming Hockey Club and was a star performer in the many Ice Follies held in Laramie in the 1940s and 1950s. She won several competitions.

Germaine graduated from Laramie High School (presently the Civic Center) in 1952. During her early years she started employment at age of 12 at the F. W. Woolworth Company (presently the Curiosity Shoppe). She had a real knack for numbers and worked in the store office through most of her junior

high and high school years. After high school graduation in 1952, she dreamed of attending Colorado Women's College in Denver, but it was necessary for her to continue employment to secure funding for tuition. In November of her senior year, she began employment with Northern Gas Company. She advanced very rapidly with the company and remained with the organization until 1967. During that time, she met and married her husband, Oren Dale St. John. After Dale completed his University of Wyoming education, Germaine resigned from Northern Gas Company and entered the University of Wyoming majoring in business administration. During that time, she served as a secretary to the attorneys in the Wyoming Legislature for two terms and also worked part-time as secretary for the law firm of Pence and Millett.

In the late 1960s Germaine began a fulfilling career with First Interstate Bank (then associated with First Interstate Bancorporation in Los Angeles, California). She remained employed for many years, advancing to Vice President of Operations. During her career in the banking industry, she was very actively involved in the community. She served on the Board of Ark Industries, Safe Project, Wyoming Heart Association, Eppson Center Foundation Board, Traffic Commission, and as a City of Laramie Ambassador with the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1977 she entered the political scene and was elected to the City Council. In 1979 she was appointed Mayor of Laramie and served in that capacity for two years. She chose early retirement from First Interstate Bank and she and her husband spent time traveling and volunteering extensively. In 1980, the Governor appointed her to represent Wyoming on the People-to-People Goodwill tour to China, and later she also enjoyed traveling to Italy, Israel, and several cruises into Hungary, Switzerland and throughout the United States. Germaine continued to work part-time as the Vice President of Operations for the Wyoming/Colorado Excursion Train which ran from Laramie to Lake Owen, as well as a tax aide for Pam Dunnuck, CPA and the AARP Tax Aide program. Both she and Dale were very active in the Laramie

Plains Museum and in 2005 Germaine founded The Unexpected Company Senior Theatre, and to date that group of very talented Laramie thespians age 50 and older have become a Laramie entertainment hallmark. She was also extensively involved in volunteering with the Iverson Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and the Eppson Senior Center of Laramie.

Germaine was very active in St. Paul's Newman Center where she served in many ministries. In 2010 Germaine moved with her husband to New Mexico. Upon his death shortly after the move, and after 52 years of marriage, Germaine returned to Laramie to contribute her efforts to the community she always called home.

The COVID-19 era provided an unanticipated blessing to Germaine by introducing her to an organization called Senior Planet that, by the power of Zoom, kept her connected to a group of like-minded people from all over the country, kept her spirits high, helped her learn a little computer tech, and created a new support system that blossomed into cherished friends.

Her closing act was filled with continued joyous service to many civic organizations including the Wyoming Women's History House, as well as family travels reconnecting with the Cowboy State she adored.

She is survived by her son, Gregory Dale St. John of Los Lunas, New Mexico, ex-wife Nancy Eileen (Vautrinot) Saint John, and grandsons Geoffrey Tyler, Jarryd Morgan and Joshua Philip.

Funeral Liturgy will be Thursday, 15 August 2024, 10:00 am at St. Paul's Newman Center, with Father Rob Spaulding officiating. A vigil will be held Wednesday, 14 August 2024, 6:30 pm at St. Paul's.

A celebration of life reception will be held at the Laramie Plains Museum Alice Hardie Stevens Center following the Liturgy. Inurnment will be at Greenhill Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the Wyoming Women's History House, Laramie Plains Museum, Eppson Center for Seniors, or St.

Paul's Newman Center.