In Memoriam

Elsie Stahl Mykrantz

Elsie Stahl Mykrantz, Wooster, Ohio, 97, passed away April 12, 2026, at Burbank Parke Care Center following a period of declining health.

She was born on June 14, 1928, in Newcomerstown, Ohio, to the late Teodor and Whilhemina (Kizler) Stahl. She graduated from Newcomerstown High School in 1946 as valedictorian. She attended Wittenberg University and then transferred to Ohio State University (OSU). She earned a degree in home economics education and was a member of the Omicron Nu and Phi Upsilon Omicron honor societies.

Elsie moved to Wayne County in 1950 when she was hired as the home economics agent with OSU Extension. She met her future husband, Tom Mykrantz, at the Wayne County Fair. They married in 1952 and made their home on a farm west of Wooster, where they raised their daughters along with Registered Jersey cattle.

Following her marriage, Elsie left OSU extension but continued a career in education, first as a home economist for the Ohio Power Company and then as a home economics teacher at Wooster High School and Edgewood Middle School. Upon her retirement from teaching in 1986, she began working at Jo-Ann Fabrics in Wooster. She enjoyed meeting up with former students and seeing what they were working on.

Mykrantz maintained a connection to 4-H and OSU through her participation in 4-H clothing project evaluations each summer. She created the "Construction Award" for the most outstanding project that year. The prize—a quality pair of sewing shears—was given anonymously. For many years, even her family was not aware that Elsie sponsored the award.

She was a member of the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association and Farm Bureau and a charter member of the Northwest 19 Farm Council. She was a founding member of the Wayne County Home Economics Association (now Family and Consumer Sciences) and belonged to the Oak Chapel United Methodist Church, where she was active with the Susanna Circle. She also volunteered for People-to-People Ministries and Habitat for Humanity for several years.

While a proud alumna of OSU, Elsie was even more proud that her daughters and grandchildren followed in her footsteps to study for at least one of their degrees at OSU. She enjoyed nothing more than a day returning to campus and visiting her grandchildren at school.

Elsie is survived by three daughters, Julie (Dr. Malcolm) Finney of Marshallville, Susan Mykrkantz of Wooster and Jane (Robert) Fruth of Tiffin; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and her beloved dog, Sophie.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom, in 2017; an infant son, Ted; sister Helen Buck and her husband, Dr. Donald Buck; brother-in-law Harry Mykrantz and his wife, Ann; and three nephews.

Donations may be made to People-to-People Ministries, 454 East Bowman Street, Wooster, OH 44691, or the Staff Education Fund at Burbank Parke Care Center, 14976 Burbank Road, Burbank, OH 44214.

Thelma Hope Curtis

Thelma Hope Curtis, Columbus, Pa., 87, passed away May 1, 2026, at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa.

She was born in Walker, W. Va., on August 6, 1938, a daughter of the late George and Garnet Hart Knost. After graduation, she met the love of her life, Leslie Curtis, a Registered Jersey breeder, and moved to Columbus to begin her family and a life that positively impacted the Columbus and Warren communities.

The Curtis family operated Elmview Jerseys, a Registered Jersey farm in Columbus. Thelma was a dedicated manager of the Elmview Dairy Store, where she became a familiar and welcoming presence for generations of customers. She was also a secretary and worked part-time for Ritz Chocolate and Candy at one point.

Deeply committed to her community, Thelma served as a judge of elections and was an active member of the Parent Teacher Association. She devoted countless hours to mentoring youth as a Girl Scout leader and 4-H sewing club leader. She sat on the board of the Warren County Fair for 33 years. She played an integral role in organizing events, helped found the queen pageant and assisted with running the food booth.

Thelma found great joy in life's simple pleasures: playing cards, camping, crafting homemade cards and decorating cakes. She was especially known for her delicious Christmas cookies, which became a cherished tradition among family and friends. Sundays were reserved for church and gathering around the table for family dinners.

Above all, she dearly loved her family and treasured time spent with them. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the light of her life. She also shared a special bond with her beloved dog, Beau. She made every holiday feel special, opening her home and bringing the family together with love, food and traditions that will live on in family and friends. She shaped those around her by always putting family first.

She was a longtime member of the Erie Church of Christ. Her strong faith was at the center of her life, shaping the kindness and generosity she showed everyone she met.

Thelma is survived by five children, Pam (Bill) Kalika, Larry (Sharyn) Curtis, Chris (Maggie) Curtis, Robin Weis and Rodney (Kim) Curtis; 11 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leslie, her brothers, Richard and Darrell Knost, and a granddaughter.

Memorials may be made to Erie Church of Christ, 2317 W. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16506.