



## Elna G. Papich

July 4, 1916 - February 4, 2011

Elna G. Papich, age 94, of Albia formerly of Lovilia passed away surrounded by her children and grandchildren on Friday, February 4, 2011 at the Monroe County Hospital in Albia.

Elna was born July 4, 1916 to George Jr. and Anna (Mitrising) Lucas at their home east of Lovilia. She graduated Salutatorian at age 16 from Lovilia High School Class of 1932. In 1936 she married David Edward Papich at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Lovilia. To this union seven children were born. They shared 16 years of marriage, before David's passing in 1953.

Elna worked as an accountant at Godfrey's Hardware in Lovilia. She was a homemaker and assisted in the operation of the family owned business Papich Sundries in Lovilia. When Dave passed away, Elna continued operating the store for 16 years until 1969. She served as county coordinator for South Central Community Active Program, SCICAP in the Chamber of Commerce building helping others in many different aspects of life.

She was a member of St. Peter's Parish in Lovilia for many years and is currently a member at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia. She was a board member at Oakwood Nursing and Rehabilitation and served on the Retired Senior Volunteer Program Board for many years. Elna served as a volunteer in the gift shop at Monroe County Hospital.

Elna joy was feeding her family and friend's specialty dishes and breads, gardening, canning, and baking breads. Family was everything to her. Elna had very strong religious values. They prayed together as a family regularly.

Elna was widowed at age 36. She was a very strong independent woman and passed many intangible gifts to her children such as honesty, integrity, and strong religious values. Elna had a strong interest in politics at an early age. Every year on Elna's birthday, they had a party called ElnaFest. People from all of the country, as well as out of the country would come for the party. The family is planning "ElnaFest", a celebration of Elna's life on July 3rd, 2011, the family wishes to hold this celebration for those who are unable to attend Elna's services. Elna's family expresses that everyone is welcome.

Elna is survived by her children, Danny and Bette Papich of Norwalk; JoAnne Papich Feldmann of Bettendorf; Marlene and Bob Terrell of Peoria, IL; Mick Papich of Albia; Connie and Joe Sinnott of Georgetown; Mary Jo Papich of Highland Park, IL; 18 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren. Elna is also survived by one brother, David V. Lucas of Knoxville and several nieces and nephews including Philip "Nonny" Papich of Lovilia.

Elna was preceded in death by her parents, George and Anna; her husband David; one son Leonard Papich; one daughter-in-law, Lenore Flattery Papich; two granddaughters, Jennifer Terrell and Gabriella Sinnott; a brother, Eldon Lucas; and a sister Maxine Anderson.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Elna G. Papich*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Elna G. Papich*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *I will always remember Mrs Papich as a very caring person. She always was good to the children. I grew up around the corner knew her as a child growing up my prayers are with you*

**linda lopez - perkins , OK - friend** - August 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *My Dear Mother - We celebrate your 95th Birthday on July 3rd, 2011.  
Watch over us and tug on God's garment when we need His help and guidance. Stay close to us in Spirit. I am a part of you. I feel you within me.  
We are going on celebrating YOU always. Once again, there can be no other like you and once again, I thank you for my life and your Love.*

**Marlene - daughter** - June 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Papich Family at this time of their loss.

*The Massick Family & their children went to the Papich Store countless times through the years.*

*Albert & Jo Massick, Terry & Cindy Massick & Family, Linda & Mike Shinn & Family, Danny & Diane Massick & Family, Jeff Massick & Family.*

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**The Albert Massick Family** - February 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ To Mary Jo, Connie, Marlene, & Jo Anne, & to Dave, I'm sorry to hear about the passing of your mother & sister. You wrote a great obituary about a great lady! Take care! Chris

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**Chris Bingaman** - February 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Sean, Melanie, Scott & Tony S. - Very sorry to hear about your loss. While I did not know Elna personally, I can tell from reading her life story (a couple times) that she was quite the grandmother! Speaking for the whole T-Chi clan, please know our thoughts and prayers are with you and your extended families during this difficult time. Take care and best wishes on the road ahead.

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**Tom Steiner** - February 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ I am so sorry for your loss. It is hard to find the words to express... It has been my pleasure over these years to get to know each of you and reading your mother's obituary helps me to see why you are the wonderful strong women that you are. My love goes out to each of you. I wish I could be there to give you a big hug in person, but please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. Love Pat

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**Pat Edwards** - February 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Dear Mary Jo, Jo Anne, Connie, Marlene, and all of the Papich family, our deepest sympathy in your Mother's passing. After reading her obituary, it is very clear where you got your ability to face life on life's terms. She was an exceptional woman, and we are very glad that you had her guidance and love for so many years. Please know that we are holding you in our hearts during this time of letting go. Your wonderful, amazing, loving memories of her will be with you forever, and comfort you always.  
With all our love, Cher & Patrick Michael

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**Cher & Patrick Michael** - February 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ MARY JO AND FAMILY,  
SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. THE FEW TIMES I STOPPED BY I  
WAS TREATED LIKE A FAMILY MEMBER.  
REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES AND YEARS.  
I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO ALBIA.  
TAKE CARE AND GOD BLESS....NOLAN... TEX

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**NOLAN SCHWADA..TEX** - February 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AS

“*Mary Jo, my heart and prayers go out to you and your family at this very difficult time in your lives. What an amazing woman Elna was to raise 7 children by herself! And, just knowing you and your two sisters, I would say she did a better job than most two parent families! You are all kind, honest, warm and caring people and that didn't just happen on its own. It came from Elna. God Bless, Andrew.*

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**Andrew Surmani** - February 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PH

“*You don't know me personally - as I don't know you - but your mother and father's store in Lovilia holds many memories for me! My grandparents were John and Winnie Cooper and we went to Papich's store every trip we made to visit my grandparents. I can still see the store - inside and out. I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Please accept my condolences.*

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**Pam Thompson Higham** - February 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“*To the Family, Elna was my boss years ago at SCICAP and her compassion for others was immeasurable. She never met a person she didn't want to help and NEVER felt above any of the clients we served. She has been your guardian on Earth and will continue to be in Heaven. May God keep you close to his side.  
Much love  
Denise Dye*

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**Denise Dye** - February 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ To The Family - We were neighbors in Lovilia - Bud & Martha Keeton were my parents. Just wanted to express my sympathies to you. I have fond memories of playing with Mary Jo and spending evenings with her & her mom at the drug store.

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**Louise (Keeton) Anderson** - February 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Dearest Mary Jo, sisters (my dear Jo Anne, Connie and Marlene), brothers, and the entire Papich family,

*Jack and I send our love and deepest sympathy to each of you. Mom Papich was an incredible and inspirational person - truly an angel! She was like a mother to me as well, and was a role model for anyone who knew her. We celebrate her kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness and and loving ways - we celebrate her life! Know that we hold you in our thoughts and prayers, dear family!  
Love, Mary Lynn(Todd)& Jack Lightfoot*

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**Mary Lynn (Todd) Lightfoot** - February 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ TO THE PAPICH FAMILY YOU ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS MAY REST IN PEACE

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**ED&BETTY MCGINN** - February 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ WE READ TODAY IN THE DES MOINES REGISTER OF THE PASSING OF YOUR MOTHER AND WE SEND OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY. WE REMEMBER YOU FROM OUR TEACHING DAYS IN LOVILIA AND THE KINDNESS YOU SHOWN TO US. WE HOLD YOU IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

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**MARTHA AND BILL LITTLEJOHN** - February 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Mary Jo, Connie and family. Your mother was such an outstanding person. We were always glad for a celebration in your family because that meant we got to visit with her. We cannot be there to give you a hug but please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Mary Jo - I will always remember your 4-H presentation and the phrase "The difference between being pretty and pretty wonderful." You certainly are "pretty wonderful." Love from Chuck and Margaret Mordan*

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**Chuck & Margaret Mordan** - February 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ *To The Family, As long as she is remembered, she will never be gone, God will take good care of her. Lou Kershbaumer*

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**louisakershbaumer** - February 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ *It is only right and proper to offer my loving condolences to you and your family on the death of your dear mother Elna. That said, I don't know when I've read a more uplifting obituary here, and beautiful email yesterday from Mary Jo with a description of Elna's life and last moments. You each are so priveledged to have been with her and she would have it no other way. Her prayer and wish were granted. Continued blessings as you review your life together and as you reshuffle the dynamics. Continue having joy in your life along with the necessary grief. Yours in thought and prayer, Alma.*

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**Alma Lindl** - February 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Dear Grandma,

*We are going to miss you more than you could ever know. You looked so peaceful when you left us to go to Heaven. You are in a beautiful place now and we know you are our Guardian Angel. Please give hugs to Aunt Maxine & Uncle Dick, Mom & Pop, Lenore & Leonard, Eldon and all the others. How is Grandpa? It's been a long time since you've been together! Enjoy your journey and pray for us on ours. We love you forever.....*

xoxox

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**Chip & Maria Wittern** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Great Grandma Papich,

*Like my parents said, I will also miss you so much. I will miss coming to your house and playing outside while you got us popsicles and ice cream. You always made sure that no one at your house was hungry. I know that you are watching over me, no matter where I am! I'm so glad that you are able to be back with Great Grandpa David. You did an amazing job raising your children, and that will travel down through all the future generations.*

*Love forever,*

*Your Little Megan*

xoxo

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**Mia Megan Wittern** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DP

“*Mary Jo, you may not remember me, but I just wanted to send my sympathies on the loss of your mother. As I read the obituary, I couldn't help but think that you must be very like her: friendly, out-reaching, and involved. I am so sorry to hear of your mother's death.*

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**Diana Newquist Parson** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM