



Elsie Maylott

OCT 7, 1938 - JUN 21, 2025



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 6



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It hardly seems possible that someone so big in life can no longer be here. Our mom Elsie Maylott passed away peacefully at the age of 86 on Saturday June 21. She wouldn't want a lot of fuss from her family and friends – if you know you know. She was a no-nonsense lady – until you got through to the mushy center. She was the most generous person and loved spending time with her family and friends.

Born and raised in Washington DC, she was a life-long Washingtonian. Raised by her parents Alfred and Agnes, she spent her school years in DC and spent the summers visiting her 51 first cousins and extended family on the ranches and farms near Frazer, Montana where she milked cows, worked the farms, went fishing, and rode horses with her extended family.

She was active through high school and loved to sing and play tennis. After she graduated from Roosevelt High School she attended the University of Cincinnati where she lived with her Aunt Elsie and her namesake. After graduating she moved back to DC with her parents and began a long and fulfilling career at the Library of Congress where she researched copyright claims for books, art and other materials. She met husband Richard at a Sailing class in DC, and after they were married and started their family with twins Kathy and Maggie, they moved to Sterling, Virginia and built a home in Richland Acres, where they were able to settle, and add an additional daughter to the crew (Lisa) and a few animals as well. Initially dogs and cats, and then the occasional chickens, ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, sheep and ponies.

She chose to work the early shift at the LOC so she could be home to start the activity runs by 4:00. Catching her carpool by 5:15 AM and arriving to work by 6:30 was the norm for Elsie. Home by 3:30 and then on to horseback riding lessons and gymnastic classes. Elsie's suburban made the rounds – she would do whatever was needed to support her 3 daughters and then likewise, her grand-children. There



Obituary

Elsie Maylott

OCT 7, 1938 - JUN 21, 2025

wasn't an event or show or meet she didn't try to make if she was in town. She was always active and involved in her 3 daughters' activities. IT started with 4-H club and carried over to gymnastics, track, and horses with various activities in-between. As a 4-H leader with her co-hort Barbara Sidwar, she fostered a love of animal husbandry (horse and dog clubs of course) with a concentration on community service and made sure the kids gave back to their community by picking up litter, recycling, picking up newspapers and trash from their communities and many other 'dirty jobs' to instill a commitment of service in Loudoun County and the broader community. Between coordinating the 4-H Fair and running the food service events and the annual horse show, their acts of service didn't go unnoticed and they were honored with a 4-H Fair dedication in 1995. In addition, she and Richard helped setup and run a successful gymnastics training facility to support daughter Maggie's goals of running a business. Leesburg Gymnastics provided a launch pad for a successful small business and a love of gymnastics in Loudoun County that created hundreds of friendships that last to this day.

She had a tight community of work friends at the Library and retired after 30+ years to tackle her next career adventure – setting up and running a dog training business with her husband Richard and their business partners to form “A Click Above”. Her true passion for this started with her first Shetland sheepdog (Sparky) and her first border collie (Noel) and it forged into a love of dog training and agility that would last her entire life. After buying a larger property and moving to Leesburg, they built the dog training facility from the ground up and it stands today as a one-of-a-kind training facility unparalleled in Loudoun County. She spent countless weekends traveling to agility trials with her “A Click Above” and “Flying Dogs” extended communities – a group of people who became like family to her. During the week she taught sold-out classes from puppy to advanced competition classes and everything in between. The friends she made during this period of her career were life changing. They have supported each other through the highs and lows and fostered a love of dog training with positivity and inclusion that you don't see in many other sports. We are forever grateful for their love and support, and late night coffee runs this group provided to our mom which made her golden years so



Obituary

Elsie Maylott

OCT 7, 1938 - JUN 21, 2025

enjoyable and truly joyous.

She is survived by her beloved family, Kathryn (James) LaViolette, Margaret Mansfield (Leon) Lisa Maylott (Peter) and her grandchildren, Emma, Eliza, Lillian, Gary, Pippa and Fiona and her pups Pipit and Ripper, who will miss her dearly.



Tribute Wall

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MB

Marilyn Buford posted:

I've struggled in writing this because Elsie was such an important person in my life and there is so much – too much – to write here. I met Elsie in 2005, I think, after I adopted a rescue beagle and a friend suggested I explore doing agility with her. Shelley had a limited recall, at best, and I didn't want her to be lost from me, so I looked for indoor/fenced training and found A Click Above online. I was lucky enough to get into an introductory class there and so very lucky to have Elsie as our teacher. Little did I know that we had landed at the premiere training facility in the Mid-Atlantic, nor that being Elsie's student would change my life in so many wonderful ways. Elsie was very patient with me, making me feel so welcome and not at all awkward even though I didn't have a clue. Once when I came out of our class turn shaking my head, Elsie asked me what I was unhappy about because Shelley had done what I asked of her. I said that I wasn't unhappy with her, but with myself for sending her off course. Elsie took me by the shoulders, looked me straight in the eye and told me that I was never to let my dog see my disappointment no matter how things went because building and protecting my dog's confidence was the most important thing happening out there. I have always remembered that. When Shelley and I began competing, we were the zoomie queens – and Elsie was always there encouraging, teaching and coaching us. Shelley would lie down waiting for our turn in the ring and roll over for a belly rub. Elsie gave her the nickname Shelley Belly, and I loved it. When my little Dancer came along, we worked very hard, but it became clear that the competition ring was too much for her and sometimes class was too. Elsie helped me to understand that even though we could not see the demons that Dancer did, that they were very real to her. Elsie was so generous and always had room for us in her class so Dancer and I could work together at vanquishing her demons. In all of my time working with Elsie, she never ever said "that's good – for a beagle" – nor did anyone ever say that to me at ACA -- which was a testament to her kindness and leadership and the kindness of the community she imagined and helped build. During my cancer treatment, Elsie would regularly check in with me. Those check-ins helped me stay connected in important ways. The One Mind Dog folks came to ACA the week after my last chemo treatment. There was no way I could have done any of the physical part of the workshop at that point -- Elsie gifted me an auditing spot so I could come and learn and be part of things. When Mom came to visit me, Elsie made her feel so welcomed and they talked for hours like long lost friends. It was as if Elsie was reassuring Mom that she, and the agility community she had given me, would take good care of me. When I neared retirement and was getting ready to move back home to Texas, Elsie asked who I was going to train with in Texas and I said that I didn't know. When she and Diann came back from a big trial a couple of weeks later, they told me that they had picked out our teacher in Texas, that things were all set, and I just needed to make contact. They gave me to Renee King – a wonderful teacher and now treasured friend, and in the process, gave me a whole wonderful Texas agility family to add to my Mid-Atlantic agility family. Elsie showed me her generous heart and gracious love throughout the years I knew her. I loved her and am proud to have had her for a teacher and a friend.

July 28 at 5:55 PM



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SM

Shirley Murphy posted:

I didn't know Elsie very well, but I have trained at her facility for years. When I was agility chair for my National specialty, she was so kind to let me borrow her automatic timers, which were pretty new at that time. She wouldn't take a dime for them, so I made a donation to border collie rescue. My condolences to her family.

July 10 at 7:18 AM

SD

Suzi Dodson posted:

I had the pleasure of being her student many times and always appreciated her 'can do' attitude no matter the task at hand. She was the first to instill a belief in myself when training my first Siberian for agility. Her legacy will live on. She is greatly missed.

July 8 at 3:12 PM



Joann Townsend posted:

I met Elsie in sometime in 2000. At the time I had a 7 year old daughter, Mikayla who wanted to take Agility Classes to compete her English Springer Spaniel Ace. I reached out to Elsie to ask if they allowed dog friendly kids in class there. She said, "Absolutely please bring her by". At the time there were not too many kids training in agility so it was hard to find a place where she could take classes. I was grateful that Elsie would work with her. Mikayla trained with Elsie, for many years and other instructors at ACA. Elsie did not let her get away with anything! They did butt heads at times, but both of them were strong willed. I too began taking classes at ACA, it is hard to believe it has been nearly 26 years. Elsie was one of a kind and yes the "Eye Roll" was certainly her trademark :-). I am all so grateful to her for opening ACA where I spent so much time over the years, and made some wonderful life long friends. My heart goes out to family and friends. Cherish all of her memories and laughs as I am sure that is the way she would have wanted it.

July 8 at 6:19 AM



Tribute Wall

Elsie Maylott

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LA

Laurie Anderson posted:

So much has already been said about Elsie, I'd be repeating the accolades, but... She was truly a force to be reckoned with, and gave so much to her family, friends, colleagues, 4-H, Gymnastics, Dullest Gateway dog training club, and her vision of "A Click Above" and its agility training facility - right in her own backyard. We joked, as she was outfitting the facility, that "the person who dies with the most agility equipment wins!" and Elsie far surpassed that - she started a legacy that touched hundreds, maybe thousands, of people and their dogs. Elsie could be a tough nut. Her "eye roll" was legendary when she disapproved of something, and she wasn't afraid to insist that the "Elsie way" was the way things would be done. But beneath the tough and sometimes sarcastic exterior, she had a nurturing side and a heart of gold that her friends and family knew well. She took countless people under her wing, quietly supporting them in ways that no one really saw. I was a recipient of her generosity many times, especially when I was going through a seemingly never-ending divorce. She leaves a huge contingency of family and friends that will miss her presence, her wry sense of humor, her support and love; and yes, even her "eye roll". I'm proud to say I'm one of those. See you on the other side, my friend.

July 8 at 3:41 AM

CB

Claudia Bates posted:

Elsie was such an amazing person who truly cared for her friends, family, and students. I'm so lucky to have had Elsie in my life. She was a dear friend, mentor, and business partner. She has been my sounding board for 28 years, always making time to talk about anything I needed to talk about. She is missed.

July 7 at 5:13 PM

AL

Ardis Lukens posted:

Elsie seemed to always have time for everyone. She was kind and good and I feel that she challenged us to be better, do better. I knew Elsie through dog agility. Her heart was always open. She loved her children and grandchildren. She was so very proud of her family.

July 7 at 4:30 PM

MB

Mary Ellen Barry posted:

Elsie was like a mother to me and always took the time to really make sure I was okay. She used to make me feel special, but she made everyone feel that way. She was truly an amazing woman and I will miss her sorely.

July 7 at 11:22 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Elsie by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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