



Kathryn "Katie" Clare Elder

December 26, 1947 - February 5, 2026

No obituary found for this tribute.

Tribute Wall

RA

“ Sincere sympathy to Lynn, Steve, Kailan and Family
I remember Katie when I was a teenager - I would go into the insurance agency with or for my parents. My memory of her was that she was friendly and very fashionable. As a Toppenish Middle School parent, I dealt with Katie again – she was always “family friendly”. Katie and I had a similar working background – I worked at Garfield, Middle School and the Administrative office as did Katie. I enjoyed working with Katie. She was very approachable, knowledgeable and had a good sense of humor. Many times Katie and I would be working beyond the regular work day. Katie once told me she didn't mind because she was a farmer's wife and farming had long hours.
I appreciated Katie's many good qualities that made being her co-worker a pleasure.
May Jehovah God give the family comfort, peace and hope.
Sincerely – Rita Ramirez Anaya

Rita Ramirez Anaya - February 19 at 02:29 AM

JR

“ Joyce R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn "Katie" Clare Elder.

Joyce R. - February 10 at 05:37 PM

DA

“ Dave and Margie Andrews purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kathryn "Katie" Clare Elder.



Dave and Margie Andrews - February 09 at 09:05 PM

DA

“*Dave and Margie Andrews planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn "Katie" Clare Elder.*

Dave and Margie Andrews - February 09 at 09:05 PM

DA

“ In 1998 I accepted the Business Manager position with the Toppenish School District after 20 years of managing the State Auditor’s Office in Yakima. My first day at the TSD Central Office I learned that the Secretary to the Business Manager was retiring and I needed to fill that position as soon as possible. Not knowing the staff I asked the superintendent, principals and office staff for recommendations. One name was on the top of every recommendation list. It was Katie Elder! After interviewing Katie I knew she was the best person for the Job! She worked with me for the next 13 years until her retirement. Katie accepted and excelled at every aspect of her job and more importantly her relationship with staff and the community. Throughout those years Katie’s job duties were far more than secretarial. In fact, secretarial duties were the smallest and least important duties she took over. Her duties included but were not limited to Capital Project accounting and reporting, Enrollment accounting and reporting, Districtwide secretary manager and trainer, but maybe her most difficult job was managing the Business Manager and keeping me organized and on task! Her title really should have been Business Managers Director and Organizer, Any Problems See Me!

Throughout the next 13 years Katie helped rebuild a district where every building was run down and needed massive repairs, and the infrastructure was falling apart to the current day where the district has state of art classrooms, central office, gymnasiums and athletic facilities. We worked very hard to keeping the cost as low and efficient as possible and still complying with all federal and state laws and get the biggest bang for cost.

During those years Katie also help nurse me through many surgeries and became a long arm of my wife! After back surgeries she and my wife would conspire together and Katie would often come in to my office and say “Hey Mister, time to get up and go for a walk and stretch you don’t need another back problem! After my first surgery I came back to work and Katie had my office remodeled and reorganized to be more efficient and logical. Another time mice had invaded the office and my desk and she was in there cleaning, disinfecting and reorganizing the office and my desk.

When Katie retired, I wonder how I could ever replace her and in Katie fashion she said "Don't you worry, I will find you the best replacement" and she did just that! After that, she came back often to fill in and assist when needed.

It is easy for me to say that I loved Katie and will miss her very much; I know she is with the Lord and eternal happiness.

Dave Andrews

Dave Andrews - February 09 at 09:00 PM

JL

Lovely!!! Rest in peace Katie!! Great accomplishments and memories!

Jody Lemere - February 10 at 05:40 AM

NF

“ I met Katie while working at the Administration Office on Franklin Avenue. Her son also coached my son in basketball, so I had seen her before at ball games. She was never shy about greeting people and making connections. Katie was incredibly sweet, personable, and a wonderful coworker. I always enjoyed talking with her and felt lucky to experience her fun side as well.

One memory that will always stay with me happened at work when someone turned on music from the 1950s and 1960s. Another coworker and I asked Katie if she knew how to dance to those songs—and she absolutely did, expertly! She danced the mashed potato, the twist, and the wave (and probably a few others!). She was so good, and we were completely surprised. We laughed and had such a great time together.

I will never forget Katie. This memory of her joy and warmth will stay with me forever.

Nora Flores

Nora Flores - February 09 at 11:19 AM

AG

“Katie was a kind, knowledgeable, and generous colleague who made a lasting impact on everyone she worked with. I first met her when I began working at the Toppenish Middle School, while she was in the district office, Secretary to the Business Manager overseeing state reporting. She was always so helpful and supportive, reaching out with care whenever there were questions about our data.

Later, I had the privilege of working with Katie in the district office as she prepared for retirement. She shared her knowledge freely and treated everyone with kindness and respect.

A few years later, we were surprised to discover that the home we purchased was right next door to Katie's. What a blessing that was. Katie and her husband, Lynn, were wonderful neighbors, and that only deepened my appreciation for the kind and thoughtful person she was.

Katie will always be remembered as a genuinely good person, and I am grateful to have known her.

A. Garza

Annabel Garza - February 06 at 11:56 AM