



## Violet M. DeGabain

May 22, 1932 - November 16, 2024

Violet DeGabain (née Hindman), aged 92, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 16, surrounded by her loving family. A woman of deep faith, Violet's spiritual journey began in her teenage years and laid the foundation for her life as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She was the heart of her family, which included her husband, Elvin DeGabain, and their five daughters.

Together, Violet and Elvin embraced their calling to welcome and mentor newcomers at their church community.

Born in Denver on May 22, 1932, Violet spent her early years on Corona Street. Just before high school, her family moved to Northern Colorado. They moved often, meaning she attended several high schools, including Keenesburg, Wiggins, Waverly, and Wellington. During her time in these different high schools, she was a cheerleader, participated in the glee and drama clubs, and was a member of the student council. During her junior year she crafted a cedar chest in shop class.

Just before her senior year, the family relocated to Wellington, where her parents purchased a hotel. It was here that she caught the eye of Elvin, who, along with his friend Rex, decided to approach the new girl in town. When Elvin asked Violet to go to "the show" she suggested church instead, and their

first date was a Sunday evening church service, leading to a lifelong partnership rooted in faith and love. Violet and Elvin married on August 17, 1950, when she was just eighteen and he nineteen. They began their life together in an apartment in Cheyenne, WY, and later bought their first home in Wellington for \$3,000, a significant achievement for the young couple.

As the matriarch of her family, Violet cherished her role as a mother to five daughters:

- Bonnie, born in Cheyenne in 1952
- Sharon, born in Fort Collins in 1953
- Virginia, born in Fort Collins in 1954
- Dorene, born in Colorado Springs in 1958
- Linda, born in Boulder in 1962

In 1959, the family moved to Boulder, where they purchased a house on ten acres. Violet's home became a hub of love and hospitality, fostering lifelong friendships through their involvement in the First Assembly of God. Violet worked at the CU Bookstore as a receptionist and retired from there when she and Elvin moved to Bellvue.

In 1984, Violet and Elvin built their dream home near the Poudre Canyon, where she discovered her voice in ministry. She became a leader of the Women's Group and a beloved mentor in various church programs.

Violet had a passion for gardening, scrapbooking, entertaining, and traveling, often enjoying vintage car shows with Elvin. A talented writer, she penned many short stories throughout her life.

Family was Violet's greatest joy. She was the mother of the bride five times, and created cherished Christmas memories that drew family members together. She delighted in reading to her nine grandchildren and three step-

grandchildren, sharing her love of God and literature. As great-grandchildren arrived, she left a legacy of faith and love that continues to resonate through her family.

In 2008, following a severe infection, Violet began the long goodbye as Alzheimer's disease took hold. Despite her struggles, her spirit remained unyielding—she continued to express love and gratitude, remembering all the words to her cherished hymns, and saying, “thank you, Jesus,” even when other words failed her.

Violet is survived by her devoted husband Elvin DeGabain and her daughters: Bonnie DeGabain, Sharon Strong (Bruce), Virginia Kalmer (Ralph), Dorene Beaver (Dave), and Linda Pasquin. She also leaves behind her grandchildren: Matthew Strong (Ashley), Becky Turner, Aaron Kalmer (Liz), Dana Naudain (Jared), David Beaver (Brittany), Brandon Rollin (Mollee), Jordan Pasquin (Ayanna), and Reed Pasquin (Conan); she also had three step grandsons Mike (Shelli) and family, Mark, and Chris (Lindsay) and family, along with great-grandchildren Payton Strong, Elaina Strong, Kiley Strong, Josiah Strong, Jayden Larson, Jaxon Larson, Piper Turner, Brenna Beaver, Audrey Beaver, Cora Beaver, Nylah Naudain, Stella Naudain, Murray Pasquin, and Finley Rollin. She was preceded in death by her parents, Avis and Lloyd Hindman.

A funeral service will be held 10am, Monday, November 25, 2024 at Timberline Church, South Auditorium, 2908 S. Timberline Rd., Ft. Collins. Private interment will be held at Mountain View Memorial Park, Boulder, CO.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in memory of Violet to support her great-granddaughter, Cora, and others with CF.

<https://give.cff.org/rockymountain/donate?rbref=homepage>

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

NOV **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Timberline Church  
2908 S. Timberline Rd.  
Fort Collins, CO 80525

# Tribute Wall

LK

“ We were blessed to know Violet and Elvin (and their children) growing up in Boulder, Colorado. They attended the Assembly of God church where we attended and were always such a blessing. Violet was a wonderful woman of God and had a warm, contagious smile. She made everyone around her feel loved and appreciated. We pray that God's wonderful comfort will surround her family and friends at this time of loss and that special memories of her will bring a deep sense of peace in the days ahead. We will see you in heaven someday, Violet, along with a multitude of family and friends who have gone before us. Lonnie and Belva (Redlinger) Kelly

Lonnie and Belva Kelly - November 22, 2024 at 07:03 PM

DH

“ My family has been wonderfully blessed by Elvin and Vi for many years. So thankful to have known Vi as a friend, church leader and nurturer to many! Praying every family member will always be greatly comforted by the wonderful memories they have of her... Darell Hailey

Darell Hailey - November 21, 2024 at 09:38 AM

SS

Thank you Darell

Sharon Strong - November 21, 2024 at 10:19 AM

HF

“ Auntie Violet was kind and loving to all of us. Our memories with her and about her will live in our hearts forever.

Hepler family - November 20, 2024 at 09:05 PM

SS

*Thank you!*

Sharon Strong - November 21, 2024 at 10:19 AM

LN

“ *Thank you for allowing us to care for Violet these last few years. She was a true gem and we know she is singing loud with the angels.*

Lemay Nurses - November 20, 2024 at 04:23 PM

SS

*Thank you, our mom was comfortable and so well cared for at Lemay. We appreciate your dedication.*

Sharon Strong - November 21, 2024 at 10:20 AM

CB

“ *Claudia Botner lit a candle in memory of Violet M. DeGabain*



Claudia Botner - November 20, 2024 at 01:01 PM

CB

“ *I will always remember good times with her as a child and an adult. Prayers to all.*

Claudia Botner - November 20, 2024 at 01:00 PM

SS

*Thank you.*

Sharon Strong - November 21, 2024 at 10:21 AM

MO

“ *Bob and I were honored to have the DeGabins as our life long friends. We have some great memories. May God comfort you all as only God can.*

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**Mary Odell** - November 20, 2024 at 09:59 AM

SS

*Thank you.*

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**Sharon Strong** - November 21, 2024 at 10:21 AM

JM

“ *I'll always remember what a sweet person Violet was. Over the last few years I've had the privilege of seeing her great granddaughters (Elaina and Kylie) perform some beautiful gymnastics. I will always remember her kindness and beautiful smile. Peace and comfort to her family!*

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**Jamie Mathis** - November 19, 2024 at 10:03 PM

SS

*Thank you*

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**Sharon Strong** - November 21, 2024 at 10:21 AM