

# **VOICE OF THE VILLAS**

**July 16, 2023**



***IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE***

**MELBA NARSTED ELMER**

**June 21, 1921**

**July 12, 2023**



Our dear neighbor and beloved friend, Melba, started her long life on Nebish Island and Flint Michigan, one of four children born to Henry and Margaret Ellen Narsted (Jenkins). Melba met her future husband, Albert (Al) Elmer when she was an usherette at the Capitol Movie House in Flint, and the rest became a lasting love story.

After serving in the European theatre during WWII as a 2nd lieutenant, and a distinguished combat veteran, earning medals of honor for severe injuries, Al, with his new bride working at his side, began a successful career as an architect and builder in Michigan. Cathy joined the family in 1951, and they later home and business to the East Coast of Florida, then moving to the West Coast where they eventually settled in Venice, as one of the very first residents in the newly established Chestnut Creek Villa community in 1985.

In their earlier years, both Melba and Al became avid and accomplished tennis players, rising to the ranks of Class "A", playing in pro am tournaments, with Al once winning against well known tennis great Pancho Gonzalez.

It was a great life, and both Al and Elmer became active in many church activities, had the joy of welcoming a granddaughter, and in her later years, two great-granddaughters joined the Elmer family.

Al passed away in 2008, and Elmer's daughter, Cathy Peterson, joined our Villa community in 2015 to care for Melba, making sure she was happy and safe. Her beloved dog, Maggie, became a constant and comforting companion to Melba in her later years.

Cathy thanks everyone for their kindness and sympathy and said that she would invite Villa neighbors to a gathering at the Elmer home in November to celebrate her Mother's rich, dignified and long life, sharing and welcoming memories gained over almost four decades with the community she had loved dearly.

