



Elizabeth Franklin Orser

October 2, 1920 - June 10, 2025

Elizabeth (Liz) Franklin Orser, 104, died peacefully at her home on June 10, 2025. Born on October 2, 1920 in Jefferson City, Tennessee, to Clarence and Nancy (Hallums) Franklin, she lived a long and inspiring life. She and her three siblings (Nancy, Ben, and Martha) were raised primarily in Elizabethton, Tennessee. Graduating from Milligan College, she later joined the Marines and served as a communications officer during World War II. After the war, she attended Yale University, graduating with a Master's Degree in Nursing, and became a flight nurse during the Korean War, where she met Leon S. Orser, Jr., a pilot in the Air Force. Married in 1953, she left the service to raise their daughters, moving all over the country and Germany, until settling in Summerville in 1974.

Early in their residency in King's Grant on the Ashley, both Liz and her husband Lee were active in the community's affairs and social life. Lee served on the KGHOA Board as Secretary and Liz joined the King's Grant Garden Club where she was active in beautification of the neighborhood, raising funds for Garden Club projects, and participating in the neighborhood social activities. In honor of her 100th birthday, the Garden Club had an arbor with a bench built in her honor. It overlooks the King's Grant Park.

After her husband's death in 1977 and with her daughters grown and gone, Liz led a fiercely independent life. A dedicated political activist, she

volunteered tirelessly for numerous candidates for more than sixty years, receiving a Woman of Achievement Award in 2003 from the SC House of Representatives' Republican Women's Caucus. In her younger years, she loved playing tennis, traveling to see the world and her family, and attending the Charleston Symphony and Designer Showcase Homes. Protecting the environment was important to her and she participated in river and beach sweeps and supported the Coastal Conservation League and Audubon Society. Other groups she was active in include the Air Force Nurses Association, the Summerville Preservation Society, and Military Officers Association of America. She was generous with both her time and her money.

Besides her daughters, Judy Orser and Joyce Mann, Liz is survived by three grandchildren, Calvin Mann (Jennie), Lauren Markley (Ben), and Christopher McDonald (Olivia), ten great-grandchildren, two nieces, one nephew and their families, and her cousin, Tommy Hallums.

A visitation will be held at the James A. Dyal Funeral Home, 303 S. Main Street, Summerville, South Carolina on June 21, 2025 from 1-3 p.m. She will be buried next to her husband at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Roper St. Francis Foundation,
100 Calhoun Street, Suite 210, Charleston, SC 29401 (or go to <https://www.rsfh.com/foundation/giving/>) or to the Summerville Preservation Society, PO Box 511, Summerville, SC, 29484.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 21. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-4040
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 66 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



James A Dyal Funeral Home - June 20, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ *Pictures from Bob Miller.
Liz had so much fun riding around the neighborhood with Bob! We
will miss Mrs.Liz very much!*



Lisa Wease - June 20, 2025 at 10:45 AM

VO

“ Ms. Orser was truly an icon within our neighborhood. Her life story is worthy of books & the big screen. My family feels honored to have known her and shared a few chats. Prayers & condolences to her loving family. -The O'Sullivan

Veronica O'Sullivan - June 19, 2025 at 06:14 PM



“ I knew Liz for years. I remember driving by her house and asking her why she was on the roof cleaning it off... at 100 years old. My brother Calvin and I helped her with yard and house issues over the years, if nothing more than to keep her off the roof!
Liz was a special person, and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. I am a better person because I was in her orbit.
I will miss her dearly.

Patrick Driscoll - June 18, 2025 at 02:48 PM

AF

That is so nice and as she would do Helping g out a neighbor, no matter what. .

Anne Fisher - June 18, 2025 at 08:16 PM

TH

“ Dear Judy and Joyce: It was such a pleasure and great honor to meet Dad's cousin "Toots" and both of you when you visited several years ago in Edmonds, WA. Dad and Toots shared birthday months and would always call one another. He always talked with great fondness living with Toots and her family when he was growing up. Even I remember visiting the family home in Elizabethton, TN. when I was a child and catching lightening bugs! Her life story is quite amazing and we share with you the sad loss of your extraordinary mother. Tommy Hallums and daughters Nancy Lou Becker and Lisa Hunsinger

Tom Hallums - June 18, 2025 at 12:02 PM

DF

“ We will miss seeing you cleaning your curb on a weekly basis. We loved to stop and visit with you. You never let anyone help you, because you were so independent. And I always enjoyed listening to your stories about your past. Your mind and memory were remarkable.
We love you.



Darleen Faulk - June 15, 2025 at 04:16 PM

MJ

“ Liz Orser was a staple in the fabric of the Kings Grant neighborhood and Summerville Republican politics. A veteran of the Marines and US Air Force, she was the epitome of patriotism. She was an amazing lady and will be missed.
RIP Ms. Liz. Gail and Myron Johnson

Myron Johnson - June 14, 2025 at 09:01 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Franklin Orser.



June 14, 2025 at 01:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Elizabeth Franklin Orser.

June 14, 2025 at 01:29 PM