

*"The day the power of love overrules the love of power,
the world will know peace."*

— Mahatma Gandhi

TRUE **N**ORTH

A passion in life which leads
to **extraordinary** things.

"Love is like the North Star. In a changing world, it's always constant."

— Gordon B. Hinckley

In Loving Memory



Lynn Morris Elling
February 18, 1921 - February 14, 2016

A Loving Tribute to our Dad

Lynn Morris Elling died peacefully February 14, four days before his 95th birthday.

Lynn was preceded in death by his wife and soulmate of more than 68 years, Donna Ann Moen. Lynn is survived by his five children: Cindy Sheffield, Sandy Curry (Rick), Mike Elling (Dawn) Rick Elling (Ruth) and Tod Elling (JoAnne) along with ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Dad's family was always at his core and he loved large family gatherings especially at his favorite place in the world.....Big Sandy Lake. Lynn and the children even wrote a song about Big Sandy Lake.



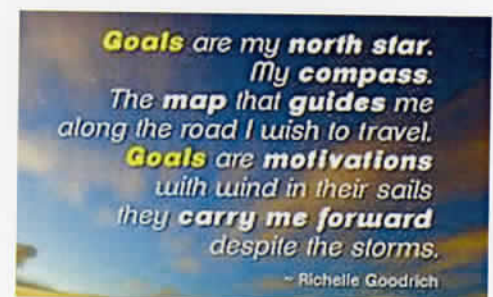
Lynn Elling's journey in seeking true peace in the world started following the horrors of war that he personally witnessed in Tarawa while serving in the Navy. These personal experiences made him re-think his priorities in his quest to abolish war and nurture the seeds of peace, harmony, and international understanding. Seeking world peace became his "driving dream" and he wanted to create a safer, peaceful, healthy world for his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all of mankind. He was proud of his United States Citizenship and he also was proud to call himself a World Citizen. Dad loved astronomy, the night sky, the bright stars and constellations, and especially the North Star. As a former Naval Officer, he would often tell us to find our own "True North." He emphasized that we all needed to have a purpose and driving dream in life and work passionately to achieve our dreams. He told us he could visualize his driving dream and he spent years seeking peace and justice throughout the world. He loved telling the story from Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathi about "I will be a Hummingbird." He saw himself as a little hummingbird trying to make a difference in this world for all of mankind.

Dad was the kind of person who visualized the big picture, with his end goal in sight. At times, he didn't care for certain rules, social norms or steps that he should follow to achieve that goal. He saw things differently, and he often thought outside the box. Some people saw him as unrealistic in his thinking, but others saw genius, because it is often people like Lynn Elling that push the human race forward and actually do change the world.



Dad, we love you, we miss you, and know that your spirit will always be with us. We will never forget the life lessons that you and mom taught us, the actions you both showed us and your stories and memories that will live on for generations to come. As Gandhi once said, "If you want real peace in the world, start with the children." Your legacy of kindness, love and world peace will live on in each of us and help change the world.....With lots of love from your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Written by Sandy Curry on behalf of the entire Elling family.





The Story of the Hummingbird as told by 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai from Kenya resonated with Lynn Elling after a private interview with this celebrated Laureate at a Peace Prize Festival in Minnesota.

This story called "I Will Be a Hummingbird" is about a raging forest fire out of control. All the animals stand there helpless, powerless, and overwhelmed not knowing what to do to help put out the fire. They notice a small hummingbird and he says "I'm going to do something about that fire!" He flies out to a nearby stream takes drops of water in his beak and drops it on the fire and goes back and forth from the water to the fire trying to put it out. All the animals make fun of him and tell him he is too small and too insignificant to make a difference and they try and discourage him from trying at all. The hummingbird continues and says to the animals "I am doing the best that I can and I am trying to make a difference." Lynn Elling saw himself as this little hummingbird and hoped that he too would make a positive difference no matter how small it was. He loved this story of the little hummingbird and his message was to everyone....."Be like the hummingbird and do the best that you can do to make a positive difference in creating a healthy, peaceful world for all of mankind."



Lynn's Driving Dream

If you would like more information about Lynn's peace work, look up a million copies at www.amillioncopies.info. If you would like to make a charitable donation in Lynn's honor, go to World Citizen at www.peacesites.org or donate to the Memorial Peace Gardens at the First Universalist Church at 3400 Dupont Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

Thanks to the Service Participants

Jerrold Wendland, Church pianist
 Reverend Justin Schroeder, Senior Minister
 Cindy Sheffield, Daughter
 Sandy Curry (daughter) writer, designer, program planner
 Dick Bernard, friend of Lynn and family and fellow peacemaker
 JoAnne Elling, Lynn's daughter-in-law
 Ruth Elling, Lynn's daughter-in-law
 Larry Long and Joe Savage



A Special Thank you to the Memorial Service Reception Team and everyone who helped us remember and celebrate Lynn's life.

Thank you to Ruhel Islam, Gandhi Mahal Indian Restaurant, 3009 27th Avenue South, Mpls., MN 55406, 612-729-5222 for donating some Indian Yogurt (Mangolassi) and Indian appetizer and the Dragon City Café, 4301 East Lake Street, Mpls., MN 55406, 612-721-6626 for donating the fortune cookies.

Thanks to family friend Colleen Faber for so lovingly creating and sewing together dad's old shirts to make a World Citizen Teddy Bear and Lila Schafer for helping Sandy design the program.

4th Annual Symposium on World Peace through Law



Lynn and Donna - September 21, 2011
Donna passed away June 1, 2012
Lynn passed away February 14, 2016

**May 1, 2016
Gandhi Mahal Restaurant
3009 27th Ave S, Minneapolis MN**

**Do visit the websites of these organizations:
GlobalSolutionsMN.org (GlobalSolutionsMN.org)
Veterans for Peace Ch 27 (<http://www.vfpchapter27.org/>)
World Citizen (PeaceSites.org)
(Gandhi Mahal is a Peace Site.)**

A Million Copies Initiative (amillioncopies.info)

Above organizations part of MN Alliance of Peacemakers (mapm.org)

World Law Day

World Law Day was a creation of Lynn Elling, Martha Platt, Dr. Asher White and others. The first event was May 1, 1964. **World** Law Day was an adaptation of **Law Day**, proclaimed by President Eisenhower in 1958, and enacted into U.S. Law in 1961. Law Day was the U.S. "cold war" response to the martial tradition of May 1, May Day, in the Soviet bloc.

The premise of World Law Day was peace through World Law, rather than constant war or threat of war.

Large annual dinners on World Law Day went on for many years in Minnesota and perhaps other places. At some point for one or another unremembered reason, the tradition ended, but Lynn never forgot.

In 2012, after the death of Donna, Lynn asked that World Law Day dinner be reinstated May 1, 2013 at Gandhi Mahal, he and Donna's favorite restaurant.

At the time he was planning a major trip to Vietnam with his son, Tod, who had been adopted from Vietnam orphanage in the 1970s. Tod and Lynn arrived home only a couple of days before the 2013 event.

2016 is the 4th annual World Law Day, and the 52nd anniversary of the first World Law Day in 1964.

SUMMARY TIMELINE : LYNN AND DONNA ELLING - ACTIONS FOR PEACE:

View Lynn Elling interview May 14, 2014 at <http://amillioncopies.info/>
(click "read more here" under Lynn Elling.)

1939 - Lynn Elling graduates from Washburn HS, Minneapolis MN

1943 - Business degree from University of Minnesota

1943-45, early 1950s - Naval Officer in WWII & Korea

1943 - Lynn and Donna Elling marry Nov. 25, 1943.

1954 & 1963 - Lynn and Donna Elling visit Hiroshima

1958 - President Eisenhower proclaims May 1 as **Law Day**

1961 - April 7, Law Day becomes U.S. Law

1963 - Idea of Mundialization ("World Citizenship") raised and promoted by many French, Canadian and Japanese cities. **Ellings and Platts attend meeting in Japan where Tokyo Mayor and Diet declare Tokyo 220th World City.**

1964 - Martha Platt, Dr. Asher White and Lynn Elling organize first **World Law Day** dinner in Mpls May 1, 1964.

1965 - U.S. Declaration of World Citizenship - Pres. Lyndon Johnson (link to story: see 1976, below)

1967 - Stanley Platt and Lynn Elling meet with Mpls Mayor Arthur Naftalin about Minneapolis as World Citizenship city (**see reverse of this sheet**).

1968 - March 5 - Minneapolis/Hennepin County pass Declaration of World Citizenship, the first U.S. city to do so; **May 1, 1968, Law Day** - Public Declaration of Minneapolis/Hennepin County as World Citizenship Cities. At least 28 mayors attend. Former MN Gov. Elmer L. Andersen speaker; UN Flag raised with U.S. Flag at to-be Henn Plaza (then south side of Minneapolis City Hall). Mpls Star cartoon illustration on World Law. (Link at 1976, below)

1971 - March 26 - Minnesota World Citizenship Declaration (link with story, see 1976)

1972 - World Citizen incorporated in the State of Minnesota; Elling is founder.

1976 - May 1 MN Declaration of INTERdependence

<http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/2014/04/07/> (includes links to prev. declarations '65, '68 and '71)

1982 - First Peace Sites established in New Jersey; Elling sees model and replicates very successfully in Minnesota and elsewhere. <http://www.peacesites.org/sites/about>)

1988 - First Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Augsburg College; until 2012, rotated annually between five midwest Norwegian Lutheran Colleges; now centered in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

First of many Minnesota Peace Site dedications at Longfellow International Fine Arts School in Minneapolis

1994 - May 1, Mall of America 94th MN area Peace Site

1995 - World Citizen, founded by Lynn Elling, charter member of MN Alliance of Peacemakers.

1995 - May 1, Mall of America celebrates 50th anniversary of beginning of UN.

1996 - Lynn Elling co-founded with Michael Roan the Nobel Peace Prize Festival at Augsburg (now part of Nobel Peace Prize Forum); an annual Event at Augsburg ever since. Since 2012, Forum integrated into, and integral part of, the Forum (not public, for school groups specifically).

<http://nobelpeaceprizeforum.org/festival-history/>; Concordia Language Village becomes an International Peace Site

Since 1996 - Primary energy has been invested in the Nobel Peace Prize Festival, and in Peace Education through World Citizen <http://www.peacesites.org/>.

2012, June 12- Donna Elling passes away, 68 years, Lynn Elling's spouse.

2013, May 1 - Renewal of World Law Day with **1st Annual Lynn and Donna Elling Symposium on World Peace Through Law** with 40 participants and Guest Speaker **David Brink**, former President of American Bar Association.

2014, May 1 - 2nd Annual Lynn Elling World Law Day (50th anniversary of 1st in 1964), Young people's panel, moderated by Ehtasham Anwar of Pakistan.

2015, May 1 - 3rd Annual, Annelee Woodstrom.

2016, Feb 14, 2016 - Lynn Elling dies at age 94, four days before 95th birthday.

2016, May 1 - **4th Annual World Law Day, J. Drake Hamilton on Climate Change**

WORLD CITIZENSHIP DECLARATION BY MINNEAPOLIS, HENN. COUNTY

By Lynn Elling

The original concept of "mundialization" came to my attention at the WAWF conference in Japan in 1963. Members of the Japanese delegation told us that over 267 of their cities had adopted strong resolutions on world citizenship. Then in 1967 at Oslo, Norway, our Japanese friends again urged everyone to get their



city and county governments to pass such declarations in favor of limited international government to keep the peace under a system of law and order. The program, we learned, has had amazing success in Canada.

When I returned to Minneapolis, I discussed the idea with Stanley Platt. He drafted a resolution which we submitted to Mayor Arthur Naftalin. The City Council, with a strong recommendation from the mayor, unanimously adopted the resolution. The people of the community, through their elected representatives, were on record as favoring world law and world citizenship.

Early in 1968, we submitted a similar resolution to the Hennepin County Board. The board and the council unanimously adopted a joint resolution on world citizenship last March.

I then started working with Bob Janes, chairman of the Hennepin board and the Municipal Buildings Committee, on the idea of putting up two flagpoles on each side of the City Hall--Courthouse. After several meetings, this purpose was accomplished, and on May 1, former Gov. Elmer L. Andersen presented two United Nations flags to the local government to fly alongside the United States flag.

We decided to print the declaration of world citizenship on parchment paper, using UN colors, and signatures of endorsement are being sought from prominent Minnesotans.

At the May 1 ceremony, mayors and other officials from 28 state communities participated and agreed to fly a UN flag in front of their own city halls on May 1 and other suitable occasions. In the photograph above, Gov. Andersen and Mayor Naftalin and the mayors of other communities are shown with one of the Minneapolis UN flags.

UWF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY - at the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel, May 31-June 2. The state chapter will be represented by Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Elling, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson Okie, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Platt, Mrs. L. S. Duboff, Howard Y. Williams, and York Langton. If you also can attend, please call Mr. Williams at 644-9273 and he will send full particulars.