Eleanor "Elly" Kozlowski

March 6, 1937 - April 8, 2026



Eleanor “Elly” Kozlowski, 89, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2026.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, she was the second youngest of five children of Ray and Ermalinda Braun. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Tom, sister Colleen, and brothers “Bud,” “Skip,” and Dave. She is survived by her eight children: Sr. MaryBeth, SDSH, Chris, John, Karen, Teresa, Marie, Anne and Stephen, as well as 10 grandchildren.

At 89 years old, she leaves behind a legacy of ledgers, lists, and figures to make any accountant’s wife proud. The numbers of her life are staggering: 62 years of devoted marriage, 8 children, 42 years calling Placerville home, and no fewer than 100 days per year during retirement spent hiking, snowshoeing, or kayaking. She kept endless lists of books read and those waiting to be devoured and dissected with her book club. Yet if the exact quantity read remains a mystery, her love of reading surely fueled her sense of adventure and empathy for others.

Driven by a deep Catholic faith, Elly embraced a philosophy of service: where she saw injustice or inequality, she actively sought solutions. Throughout her life, she was involved with over half a dozen charities, both at St. Emydius parish in Lynwood, CA, and St. Patrick in Placerville, and in the wider community. She gave her time generously, happy to serve others in both grand and simple ways, all while caring for her large family.

A miracle-maker in the kitchen, one year she helped roast 47 turkeys for the St. Patrick’s Thanksgiving Community Dinner. She was a leader in the founding of the "Upper Room" Dining Hall and possessed the rare talent of making something out of nothing and anything out of ground beef. Meanwhile in her home kitchen, she produced dozens upon dozens of baked goods annually, including her ever-popular peanut butter bars.

She believed in recording details and recounting stories — like making her children tally every single strawberry picked from the garden one summer. Yet, she balanced this record-keeping discipline with a storytelling wit and a lively sense of humor. Blessed with the gift of the gab, she could make friends with strangers everywhere and loved swapping stories, even the ones you may have already heard.

A dedicated adventurer with the “Hangtown Hikers,” she trekked over 500 miles a year well into her 70s, always eager to see the waterfall at the end of the trail or whatever was around the next bend. Her travels are documented in a collection of over 300 maps, journals, and photos, a testament to her curiosity and a life filled with the delight of exploration.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

The Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart https://sacredheartsisters.com/donations/ or Snowline Hospice.

A memorial mass will be held at 10am on Saturday, June 20th at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Placerville, California, with a Rosary at 9:30am and a luncheon afterwards.

https://www.mtDemocrat.com/obituaries/eleanor-elly-kozlowski/article_9174f43d-4154-4f48-80e4-33f7808fdc71.html