

2025 Woman of Distinction

In memory and honor of her trailblazing work
in the field of Journalism and her unwavering
dedication to Girl Scouts.



Elaine Effort

Elaine Effort was born on July 21, 1950, in Detroit, Michigan to the late Evelyn and Vurnol Leaphart, a Tuskegee Airman veteran. Elaine graduated from the University of Michigan, earning a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a master of arts degree in journalism.

For 38 years she served as a reporter for the Pittsburgh news radio station KQV 1410. She co-founded the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation in 1973 and was awarded the Golden Quill for expert storytelling and accountability work. She also served as an instructor with the group's annual Frank Bolden Urban Journalism Workshop for teenagers.

One of Elaine's proudest traditions is her family's four-generation involvement in Girl Scouts where she served as a troop leader for almost 40 years.

Elaine's faith was important to her, and for years she was a member and leader of Holy Cross Episcopal Church and then at Calvary Episcopal Church.

Loving memories of Elaine will be cherished by her husband of 47 years, Dr. Edmund Effort; son Edmundson of Greensboro, NC and daughter April (and Hansy) Eugene of Milton, MA; granddaughters Hannah and Haniya Eugene; and sister Erma Leaphart of Detroit, MI.