



Marybeth O'Connell

September 30, 1957 - June 27, 2025

With hearts full of love and gratitude, we celebrate the life of Marybeth O'Connell, who passed away peacefully on June 27, 2025, in San Antonio, Texas.

Born on September 30, 1957, in Middletown, Connecticut, to John F. Bergan and Mary Lynch Bergan, Marybeth was one of 11 siblings. She is survived by her daughter Emma O'Connell, son-in-law Richard Ayala, son John Mackenzie O'Connell; seven brothers and sisters, Peter Bergan (Arlene), William Bergan (Gail), Margie Kent, Susan Conciatori (Michael), Richard Bergan (Maria), Robert Bergan (Anne), and Chris Bergan (Laura). She was predeceased by her beloved husband Raymond J. O'Connell (December 29, 2016); parents John F. Bergan and Mary Lynch Bergan; her brothers Stephen Bergan, and Michael Bergan; and her sister Patricia Connelly.

Marybeth spent nearly 40 years as a devoted pediatric nurse, a true calling that reflected her boundless kindness, empathy, and joy. She was often described as an angel sent from God — a fierce advocate and a comforting presence to the many children and families she served. Her legacy in the world of healing and compassion is immeasurable.

She shared 29 beautiful years of marriage with her wonderful husband, Ray, and was the proud and loving mother of Mac and Emma, and mother-in-law to

Richard Ayala. She was a joyful and generous soul to many, always quick with a warm hug, a home-cooked meal, or a hilarious story. She loved her family fiercely, which always included her dogs.

A lifelong creative, Marybeth filled her home with handmade pottery, delicious culinary experiments that delighted all who gathered around her table, and lots of love for all whom she welcomed into her home. She had a keen eye for design, and a signature flair — including her iconic purple hair — that lit up every room she entered. Marybeth was truly full of life: generous, loving, strong, fiercely independent, boisterous, and always ready to laugh.

She was a dear friend to many throughout her life, always ready to lend a hand to a friend. She will be deeply missed, but her legacy carries on through her family, friends, and all who had the joy of meeting her.

To honor her extraordinary life, a Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2025 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm with the Rosary to be recited at 6:00 pm at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, July 11, 2025 at 10:00 am at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church with Rite of Committal to follow at Holy Cross Cemetery. Marybeth was always colorful and bright. To honor her, our family invites you to wear your favorite colors in celebration of a life lived with joy, love, and generosity.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 10. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive
San Antonio, TX 78230

Funeral Mass

JUL 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
700 Dewhurst Rd
San Antonio, TX 78213-3416
(210) 342-5271

Rite of Committal

JUL 11. 11:30 AM (CT)

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery
17501 Nacogdoches Rd
San Antonio, TX 78266

Tribute Wall

DC

“ *Mary Beth how can I express feelings when I truly don't know how to feel. The loss of your charismatic way to show your love even though sometimes hilariously abrupt, I will miss with all my heart! Where am I going to eat Prime Rib now?? Geez so many wonderful memories that I can only hope will carry me through your absence. Thank you for your unwavering friendship. Cheers to you like we just did not too long ago in Dallas; I will cherish that trip forever.. keep a warm seat for me up there!*

Dawn Campbell - July 10, 2025 at 03:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marybeth O'Connell.*



July 10, 2025 at 11:05 AM



“ Marybeth,

Every time I think of you, which happens many moments during the day, I see your passion and huge beautiful heart. I hear your loud infectious laugh. I see your head nodding up and down and your intense eyes during our fiery debates. I see you zooming around the unit and the house busy, busy, busy. When I first started working with you I thought to myself, "Well, stay out of her path or get run over!" I remember going to your house with Vera and making dozens of tamales! You taught me the importance of advocating for the little ones who did not have a voice. You will never be forgotten be forgotten. I look forward to being in your company again. I look forward to laughing and sharing a meal with you. I look forward to rescuing every stray dog we see. Those are the thoughts that I have of you. Now play nice with everyone in heaven. I love you and miss you my friend.

LaVerne Hernandez - July 10, 2025 at 09:39 AM

JV

“*Mary Beth came into our lives when my son was only 6 months, I prayed that my son would get good nurses to help me care for him, and HE answered my prayers Mary Beth was not only my son's nurse but also like a best friend , a cook, a counselor, she was like a grandma to my son she truly loved him and he loved her, she left an impression on everyone she met her heart was so big I thank God for her coming into our lives God knew I needed somebody like her she was definitely a ride or die kind of person we shared so Many laughs ,even a few crys she was family to me my heart is so saddened and deeply misses her but I will forever hold on to the memories we shared until the day God takes me home where I can reunite and see her once more thank you Mary Beth I've learned so much from you, thank you for the love you poured out to us all thank you*



Jackie Vasquez - July 10, 2025 at 12:53 AM



“*Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Marybeth O'Connell.*



July 09, 2025 at 08:36 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marybeth O'Connell.*



July 09, 2025 at 01:46 PM



“ *Peter Bergan Family, purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Marybeth O'Connell.*



Peter Bergan Family, - July 08, 2025 at 03:35 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Marybeth O'Connell.*



July 08, 2025 at 03:05 PM



“ *We offer our deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and classmates of Marybeth, alumna of Mercy High School '76. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We are very sorry for your loss and will always remember Marybeth in our Circle of Mercy.*

In Memoriam: <https://conta.cc/44vNqPd>

Mercy High School - July 07, 2025 at 12:50 PM

MR

Mary Beth will be missed in the nursing profession and the many lives she touched. We were blessed to have her as a great neighbor for over 25 years your presence will be missed. Congratulations on a successful life on earth and ultimate reward reunited with Ray and now home with our Heavenly Father.

Mary Carmen and Ceasar Rodriguez - July 10, 2025 at 01:26 PM

JP

“ James Power purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Marybeth O'Connell.



James Power - July 07, 2025 at 10:13 AM

FC

“ From Mark Carrion purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Marybeth O'Connell.



From Mark Carrion - July 04, 2025 at 02:02 PM

ES

“ Eddie Sandoval purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Marybeth O'Connell.



Eddie Sandoval - July 04, 2025 at 11:10 AM

MK

“ On behalf of the entire Mercy High School Class of 1976, we extend our deepest condolences. We will always remember Mary Beth’s bright laughter, warm spirit, and the kindness she shared so effortlessly with everyone around her.

Though she may no longer walk beside us, her memory continues to bring light to our hearts.

Forever part of our story.

Marie Kalita - July 03, 2025 at 08:50 PM

AH

“ Emma, Richard and Mac, we are so sorry for your loss. I believe we met all of you in Nov/Dec of 1989. We struck up a friendship on your very first day in the neighborhood. Mary Beth and I watched each others kiddos grow up into great adults. She was my nurse anytime I needed one. We will miss your Spanish and how you were so full of life. You will be missed and we know you are in place we all hope to be. Say Hi to Ray, you will always be in my prayers and thoughts. I miss you chica even though we didn’t visit often every time we did it was as if no time had passed. We love sweet lady, Greg and Anna

Anna M Harwell - July 02, 2025 at 10:29 PM

TP

“ The Armendariz Family from El Paso purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Marybeth O’Connell.



The Armendariz Family from El Paso - July 02, 2025 at 07:44 PM

MT

“ Mary Beth, you were a true friend to me, since the first day I met you 20 years ago at PIMC. I was always so excited when we'd have put lucks because, I knew, you always brought delicious food. I will never forget your kindness, your jokes and your laugh. I'll miss you dearly. ❤️
Marcella



Marcella A Trevino - July 02, 2025 at 06:41 PM

OH

Sister Marybeth you will always be in my heart ❤️ every time I went to your house to clean you made my day you blessed me with something for me and Robert you were like a sister to me always happy and a good wife and mother to your kids it still feels like a dream but one day we will meet again I know I will miss you dearly my sister in heaven 🙏😭

olga Herrera - July 02, 2025 at 10:42 PM