



Paula Zaiontz

August 31, 1953 - May 1, 2026

Paula Gale Zaiontz, 72, went to be with her Lord and Savior Friday, May 1, 2026.

Paula was born August 31st, 1953 to Paul Quinten and Martha Jean Garrett and was raised alongside her siblings, Dale and Sandra, in San Antonio, Texas. She also spent part of her youth in Corpus Christi, where she earned the title of city bowling champion. She attended King High School and proudly served as first chair clarinet. She later returned to San Antonio, where she would build a life centered on faith, family, and service to others.

A devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, Paula, found her greatest joy in her family. The arrival of her daughter Stacey marked the beginning of a lifelong dream, and with the birth of Kelley a few years later, that dream was complete. Her daughters remained the center of her world and the source of her deepest pride and happiness.

Paula's life was rooted in her faith. From an early age, she was active in church youth programs, a commitment that continued throughout her life. She served as organist at Grace Baptist Temple.

After being set up on a blind date, Paula met Dan, and their relationship grew into a lifelong partnership. They were married in 1974 at Kirby Baptist Church, where her cousin served as pastor and officiated the ceremony.

Over the years, Paula remained deeply involved in church life. At Shearer Hills Baptist Church, she dedicated herself to children's ministry, later continuing that work at Thousand Oaks Baptist Church, where she served as a Sunday School teacher and as Director of Vacation Bible School. She took great pride in growing the VBS program to more than 400 children each summer.

When Shearer Hills Baptist church relocated, Paula and her family returned and helped support the transition. In 2001, she resumed her work in children's Sunday School and nursery care, faithfully serving for a total of 34 years in children's ministry.

Paula also played a vital role alongside her husband in his service as a deacon, offering care and support to widows and widowers in their church community. She built meaningful friendships, provided comfort, and established daily "wellness check" calls and messages to ensure they were never alone.

Her service in the baptistry brought her special joy, as she assisted with baptisms and witnessed many of the children she had taught come forward in faith. Over the years, she saw nearly 100 children take this important step, a testament to her lasting influence.

Outside of church, Paula loved fishing. What began as childhood outings with her father grew into a lifelong passion. She enjoyed bass fishing on local lakes and later embraced saltwater fishing, sharing these experiences with her daughters and, eventually, her grandchildren.

Her commitment to serving others extended beyond the church. Paula was active in PTA at Long's Creek Elementary and later at Madison High School.

Paula also cherished traveling with her family, especially cruises to the Caribbean and Alaska. In 2024, she and Dan were able to take a family cruise to Alaska to celebrate 50 years of marriage. She lovingly preserved those memories and many other special occasions by creating Shutterfly books for her family to enjoy for years to come.

One of the greatest blessings of her life was seeing her daughter Stacey marry a kind and caring husband, Brandon. The arrival of her grandchildren, Brayden and Lindsey, brought her immeasurable joy. She treasured every moment spent with them and delighted in watching them grow. She enjoyed countless hours watching her grandchildren at soccer games, gymnastics, and band concerts.

Paula was preceded in death by her father, Paul Quinten Garrett; her mother, Martha Jean Garrett; and her brothers, Dale and Randy Garrett.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Dan; her daughters, Stacey (Brandon) Peterson and Kelley Zaiontz; and her beloved grandchildren, Brayden and Lindsey Peterson. She is also survived by her sister, Sandra (Kirk) McClellan.

Her nieces and nephews include Michelle Ybanez, Michael (Kimberly) Garrett, Keri (David) Zimmerman, and Tyler (Melissa) McClellan. She is further survived by her great-nieces and great-nephews: Trey Ybanez, Quinten Zimmerman, Addison McClellan, Levi Ybanez, Eli Zimmerman, Austin McClellan, Phoebe Zimmerman, and Cassidy Garrett, along with numerous extended family members, dear friends, and neighbors.

Honorary pallbearers are Kirk McClellan, Michael Garrett, Tyler McClellan, David Zimmerman, Russell Norlie, Trey Ybanez, Quinten Zimmerman, Brayden Peterson, and Michael Zaiontz.

Paula will be remembered for her unwavering faith, her servant's heart, and her deep love for her family and community. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Celebration of Life

MAY 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

Shearer Hills Baptist Church
12615 San Pedro Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78216

Tribute Wall

BE

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Becky - May 08 at 02:52 PM

LC

“ To our dear San Antonio family. We remain at a loss for words and are heartbroken. Danny, Stacey, Kelley, and family.....we are so sorry we cannot be there in person to comfort, support and share so many wonderful memories of Paula. We are always there in spirit. Much love from Scott & Lorie Campbell and family.

Lorie Campbell - May 07 at 12:35 PM

CA

“ Campbell Family & Margaret Ann purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Paula Zaiontz.



Campbell Family & Margaret Ann - May 07 at 12:26 PM

CA

“ Campbell Family & Margaret Ann planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paula Zaiontz.

Campbell Family & Margaret Ann - May 07 at 12:26 PM

FB

“ Families of Barb, Bobby, Bonnie, Beverly purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Paula Zaiontz.



Families of Barb, Bobby, Bonnie, Beverly - May 07 at 09:40 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Paula Zaiontz.



May 06 at 08:08 PM

JT

“ Jo Ann Trombley purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of Paula Zaiontz.



Jo Ann Trombley - May 06 at 07:55 PM

YF

“ Your UC Public Works Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Paula Zaiontz.



Your UC Public Works Family - May 06 at 04:38 PM

PP

“ Parks Partners and the UC Pumpkin Patch purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Paula Zaiontz.



Parks Partners and the UC Pumpkin Patch - May 06 at 03:36 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Paula Zaiontz.



May 06 at 12:32 PM

JH

“ I loved you wife and Mom. She will be so missed!

joanna horan - May 05 at 04:42 PM